



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXVI, No. 2

SPRING ISSUE

A Fabulous Taft Night Out 2020!

A big Thank You to everyone that came out to enjoy Taft Night Out at Biaggio on March 6th, as well to all that bought raffle tickets, donated, sponsored or bid online! In all, approximately \$35,000 was raised, up from \$26,000 last year. Almost 200 guests enjoyed a fun night of dining, dancing, mingling and raising money for Taft. Over 100 more participated online. Watch for news and pictures about how Taft Night Out proceeds are being put to great use across the school community.

Some additional event highlights:

- 28 sponsors contributed \$5,550
- The Silent Auction and Wine & Dine raised over \$15,000. Top sellers included graduation seats, a Bulls skybox game donated by the Taft Football Family Booster Club and a party at Topgolf.
- The Hawks Night on the Town Raffle sold out again and attendees enjoyed the Lottery Board raffle and a fun new Happy Hour ring toss game. All combined brought in almost \$5,000! Thank you to Marti Corcoran of Coldwell Banker, Pontarelli Limousine, the Murphy family, and Kristi Roque of Baird & Warner.

A special thanks to all the volunteers that made putting on such a fun and successful event possible!

Finally, thank you to all of the teachers, families and local businesses that donated auction items and sponsored Taft Night Out. Please be sure to consider these businesses when you are looking for products and services in the neighborhood and be sure to thank them for supporting Taft High School!

Please continue to use taftnightout@gmail.com if you have any Taft Night Out related questions.

We'll see you at Taft Night Out 2021!

Taft Night Out 2020 Planning Committee and PTSA

Alumnus is "In the Zone"

Terrance Wallace, pastor and 1995 Taft graduate, is the subject of a new film, "In the Zone," that tells his life story.

Wallace spent ten years in New Zealand, where he created the internationally praised InZone Project, providing opportunities for minority youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to live in a nurturing residential environment with wrap-around support. In 2016, Wallace returned to Chicago to replicate the program there to combat the



Terrance Wallace with one of the New Zealand youth.

challenges that continue to plaque minority communities across the USA.

In 2014, Wallace co-founded ScanOne LTD, a biometric device that was originally developed to provide an easy way of monitoring students within the education sector. The device helps track attendance and student location that can also be applied to a variety of other sectors, including businesses and corporations.

Terrance Wallace believes that no child should be left behind, and when given the best support, any youth can achieve.

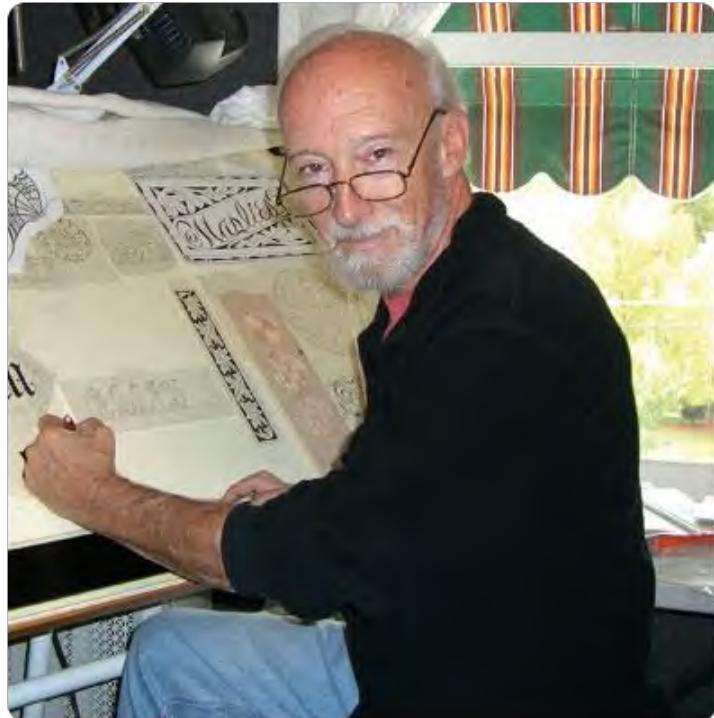
A Master Woodcarver

Wayne Barton (June 1955), is an American-born professional woodcarver who lives in Park Ridge, Illinois with his Swiss wife, Marlies. First given an interest in woodcarving at the age of five under the tutelage of his Norwegian grandfather, he has had a serious interest in, and love for carving all his life.

Barton took his formal training in Brienz, Switzerland, the woodcarving center of that country. Although versed in all disciplines of carving, he specializes in chip carving and has devoted the last forty-plus years to its advancement. Single handedly, he has been the driving force of the recognition and renaissance chip carving has enjoyed in North America this past quarter century.

Barton is the author of seven bestselling books published in six countries and a video and all on chip carving. They are the most informative and instructional books and video on the subject available. He has developed the finest and the most popular chip carving knives used by more carvers than any other knives. These are the knives that have set the standard by which all others are judged. He also developed and pioneered the very popular ceramic sharpening stones in use today.

Barton is the founder of The Alpine School of Woodcarving, Ltd., the oldest establishment in North America specializing in, and dedicated to the education, training, teaching, and encouragement of chip carving. In addition, he teaches at a variety of other venues including colleges, clubs, institutions, and organizations across the United States, Canada, and in Switzerland. He is also a visiting artist/lecturer at the esteemed Chicago Art institute in Chicago, IL. His carvings are sought after by collectors and can be found in private collections around the world.



Barton's work has been recognized and honored in special exhibition at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2005, he was named woodcarver of the year by Woodcarving Illustrated. Today, he continues carving, teaching, and introducing others to this most enjoyable, decorative and easy-to-learn style of carving.

We Are All in this Together!



Dear Classmates and Friends,

I hope this note finds you all in good health!

By now, I assume most of you have put in place your own prescription to reduce your risks and exposure to this nasty virus. People are beginning to wear masks when going shopping for groceries, gas, and drug products. Even my sister-in-law from Georgia sent Wilma and I red, white, and blue masks today!

Let's put this pandemic in prospective. In 1918-19, some 50 million people worldwide, including 675,000 in the US, died of influenza. We had no antibiotics. Polio was eradicated in the 1950's. Tuberculosis, smallpox, scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, measles, mumps, and chicken pox have become a thing of the past!!

FDR said during World War II, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." We'll get thru this together!! Keep the faith!

Leo Drummer, Jan '57

Taft's Robotic Eagles

By Robert B. Johnson, Jan 1965

For over 30 years I have been participating, attending a host of STEM events. Recently I once again attended the Midwest Finals in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition (March 6, 7). I have been attending the competition since 2011. I call it Chicago's version of "March Madness" as dozens (this year 54 teams) assemble for a two-day event with robots competing. I visited teams from around the Midwest including teams from Turkey and Mexico.



This year I was pleasantly surprised to see a team from TAFT.

This was their 1st year in the competition which has been taking place for 24 years. As a rookie team the "Robotic Eagles" did quite well. Remember many of the teams (schools) have been involved in the program/competition for more 10 years and therefore the school/mentors along with the students skilled in assembling the robot. The Robotic Eagles performed well enough to be selected as a team member in the Final 8. Teams consist of 3 Robots!

Though they did not make it to the championship matches I would say they performed admirable for a rookie team. Taft received an award as Rookie Team of the Year! I'm hoping the team returns next year with an improved design.

Let me conclude and offer that these robotic matches are just as exciting as some college student bouncing, shooting baskets. The national championship matches should be broadcast on ESPN as these students competing are our future.

Go ROBOTIC EAGLES!

Reunions



NOTE: Please check with the listed contacts for any updates

11th Annual Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: TBD 11am-2pm

Place: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: Paulette English (eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

Paul Frizane (paulfrizane@yahoo.com),

Fred Wordell (ftjavo@aol.com)

Donation: \$5 per person (includes raffle ticket)

Detail: Bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA baseball cap raffle. Families welcome.

6th Annual All-Class California Potluck

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020, 12pm

Place: House of Savage, 2372 Recuerdo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Contacts: Mike Day (michael91942@yahoo.com);

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhellokitty@hotmail.com)

Details: \$8 includes for Rosati's Chicago Pizza, non-alcoholic drinks, paper products, utensils; please bring a dish to share. BYOB

Class of 1970 50 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Place: Old Orchard Country Club, 700 W. Rand Rd. (Rte 12), Mt. Prospect

Contact: Lynn (Halicki) Arnold

(lynn.arnold@delkoconstruction.com)

Detail: 6pm Open bar & hors d'oeuvres, 7:00 Dinner, DJ after dinner and dancing and visiting

Class of 2010 10 Year Reunion

Date: TBD

Place: TBD

Contact: Kara Lacefield (knlacefield@gmail.com)

Arizona Reunion Picnic



In March, prior to the stay-at-home orders, the 10th Annual Arizona Picnic took place at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. Enjoying a perfect spring day with their guests were Paulette (Zemaitis) English (Jun '67), Sally (Schuessler) Abbey (Jun '67), Paul Frizane (Jun '67), Jan (Wordell) Pfannensteil (Jun '59), Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper (Jun '64), Jay Forgred (Jan '57), Fred Wordell (Jun '67), Ray Rzewnicki, ('71), and Lee Pomeraning (Jun '65).



Lee Pomeraning proudly sports the TAA baseball cap he won in the raffle.

From our Members

Errata: The Winter 2020 issue printed Art Ellingsen's discharge from the Navy as December 1971. He was, in fact, discharged in October 1975 but had returned from Vietnam in 1971.

Loved Taft, the old neighborhood, Orsi's Pizza and Miss Strandberg my homeroom and English Teacher. Still can recite my linking verbs...one of these days we'll get a chance to come down there [from Wisconsin].

Roger Blocks, Jan '58

Thanks again for what you and the TAA does, you guys do a great job!!

Larry Wojcik, '69

I enjoy the newsletter so much! Thank you.

Linda Norris, Jan '62

Thanks for all the hard work in publishing the newsletter!

Lynn (Valters) Mays, Jan '63

I greatly enjoy receiving the newsletter and hearing about alumni and current students as well as faculty past and present. Many thanks for all your work in keeping the association and newsletter going!

Linda Norris, Jan '62

Thanks for your loving dedication.

Bill Saracco, Jun '60 and
Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco, Jun '62

Hey, Paulette, thanks for everything you guys do!!

Larry Wojcik, '69

Congratulations for an outstanding newsletter!!

Grace (Hoglund) Hansen, Jan '47

I love receiving the newsletter, and appreciate all the hard work you put into it. Thank you so much.

Karen (Olson) Swenson, Jun '62



You can always find us online at

www.taftalumni.org

Class Notes



1940s

Pat (Donkel) Hoover (Jun 1946), has 6 children (2 daughters deceased), 12 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, UI Champaign BS, also Rosary, Elmhurst and NIU, is retired.

Grace (Hoglund) Hansen (Jan 1947), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, North Park College AA '49, is a retired legal secretary, moved to Brookdale Senior Independent Living.

Nardelle Nordgren (Jan 1949), lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

James Jacobsen (Jun 1949), has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Peoria, IL, NIU BS; Bradley U MS; N Colorado U EdD, is a retired professor (30 years).

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.

Nancy (Mondientz) Tibbitts (Jun 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Santa Barbara, CA, NIU BS Edu, is a retired teacher.

1950s

Doug Lattner (Jun 1951), has 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, UI BS EE '55; U Chicago MBA '75, is retired from AT&T management, has an additional two great grandkids on the way.

Roger Nelson (Feb 1952), married **Susan Dokka** (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Suffolk, VA, US Merchant Marine Academy BS; Northwestern U MBA; US Navy pilot 29 years, is retired.

Lois (Plechaty) Rolf (Jan 1953), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College AA; CTC BE, is a retired teacher and business owner, says aches and pains are speaking with a loud voice.

Richard Karolczak (Jun 1953), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Harvard, IL, is a retired plant superintendent and general manager, has been happily married for 61 years.

Ernest Stolle (Aug 1954), has 2 children, lives in Des Plaines, IL, North Park College AA '57; NEIU BA '72, MA '74; US Army 2 years, is retired.

John Demes (Jun 1954), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Janesville, WI, is a retired dispatcher/deputy fire chief.

Gary Machon (Jun 1954), married **Donna Matheson** (Jan 1957), has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Medford, WI, BS, US Marine Corps 5 years, is a retired airline pilot.

Joan (Gaertner) McInnis (Jan 1955), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Tinton Falls, NJ, MS, is a retired computer systems analyst.

Wayne Barton (Jun 1955), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, college, US Coast Guard, Swiss Woodcarving Academy, is an artist and professional woodcarver.

John Snow (Jun 1955), has 2 children, lives in Palatine, IL, Coe College BS, is retired.

Marlowe (Petrie) Sorensen (Jun 1955), has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, BA English and History, is a retired educator, and has been a Hospice of the Valley volunteer for 17 years.

Susan (Dokka) Nelson (Jan 1956), married **Roger Nelson** (2/1/1952), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Suffolk, VA, Illinois Wesleyan BS, is a retired homemaker.

Bob Carroll (Jul 1956), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Valley Center, CA, is retired.

Dick Dencer (Jun 1956), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Burlington, IL, IIT BS Civil Engr; UI MS Public Adm, is a retired civil/traffic engineer.

Diane (Gotz) Ranieri (Jun 1956), has 1 child, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is retired.

Virginia (Blum) Schroer (Jun 1956), has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired, likes traveling to visit family in Tennessee, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Nancy (Wander) Stolfa (Jun 1956), has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Placida, FL, Blackburn College BA '60, is retired, her new hobby is quilting, having made two t-shirt quilts for her granddaughters' graduations and is doing a traditional quilt for her first great grandchild.

Diane (Klier) Dierks (Jan 1957), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Marengo, IL, is retired, and says "thank God for the great game of golf. It keeps me moving and enjoying life. Couple that with experiencing the accomplishments of grandchildren simply make life a joy".

Donna (Matheson) Machon (Jan 1957), married **Gary Machon** (Jun 1954), has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Medford, WI, is retired.

Dick Traugott (Jan 1957), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Hendersonville, NC, lake Forest College BA '62, Roosevelt U MA '64, is retired, says, "I'm still vertical".

Robert Soske (Jun 1957), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Inverness, IL, US Army 1961-63, is a business owner.

Roger Blocks (Jan 1958), married **Marjorie Eaton** (deceased) (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Three Lakes, WI, Purdue U BS Metallurgical Engr; US Army, Captain, 1962-69, is registered engineer and retired

president of Chem-AI, Inc., was involved with the Saturn V exterior controls, prelaunch, space shuttles, Wall of Fame, at The Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia.

Dennis Duszak (Jan 1958), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Batavia, IL, IIT BS MET '61, MBA '69, is a retired materials engineer.

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

Cliff Stoll (Jun 1958), has 1 child, lives in Columbus, OH, is a retired engineer.

Bonnie (Fanslow) Weiss (Jan 1959), lives in Northbrook, IL.

Carol Ann Mondel (Jan 1960), has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

1960s

Marilou (Beaver) Epifano (Jun 1960), has 1 child, lives in Palatine, IL, is retired, and loves ballroom dancing.

Marilyn (Stano) Guillemette (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired manager and buyer for Hallmark, looks forward to celebrating 56 years of marriage.

John Knutson (Jun 1960), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Iowa City, IA, Augustana College AB '64, Washington St U MS '67 PhD '69, is a retired U of Iowa professor of psychological and brain studies.

Bill Saracco (Jun 1960), married **Lynn Hibarger** (Jun 1962), has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Roswell, GA, is a retired automotive parts distributor/owner.

Robert Webb (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Macclenny, FL, Millikin U, North Park College; US Army 1965-71, is a retired third-party claims administrator.

Art Kay (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, 2 years college, is retired, and has been an instructor for the Tooling and Manufacturing Assoc. for more than 25 years.

Mary (Papciak) Samborski (Jun 1961), married **Darryl Samborski** (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, NEIU BA, is a retired teacher.

Doret (Cunis) Tookey (Jun 1961), married **Bob Tookey** (Jun 1961), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Hardeeville, SC, is retired.

Bob Tookey (Jun 1961), married **Doret Cunis** (Jun 1961), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Hardeeville, SC, is retired.

Linda Norris (Jan 1962), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Healy, AK, Northwestern U BA '66, is retired.

Rick Wendricks (Jan 1962), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, Drake U, is retired.

Maria (Pappas) Economos (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BA, is a retired Park Ridge elementary school teacher.

Debbie (Peinert) Hogg (Jun 1962), married **Jay Hogg** (Jan 1963), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, is retired.

Frank Macedon (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Peoria, AZ, UI BSEE, is a retired electrical engineer.

Dennis Rasmussen (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Woodbury, MN, ISU BS; College of St. Thomas MA; USCG Reserve 1964-70, is a retired teacher.

Darryl Samborski (Jun 1962), married **Mary Papciak** (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, NIU MS Curriculum/Supervision, is a retired teacher.

Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco (Jun 1962), married **William Saracco** (Jun 1960), has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Roswell, GA, is a retired realtor, loves Roswell, Georgia and the low real estate taxes.

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

Jay Hogg (Jan 1963), married **Debbie Peinert** (Jun 1962), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, UI, North Park College, is retired.

Lynn (Valters) Mays (Jan 1963), has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in New Smyrna Beach, FL, Dominican College BA; St. Xavier U Chicago MA Teaching and Leadership, is a retired elementary teacher, twin granddaughters were born in May 2019.

Barbara (Bolling) Rimington (Jan 1963), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Elmhurst, IL, Augustana College BA '67, is a retired part-time interior designer and homemaker.

Donna (Griessmer) Catlett (Jun 1963), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, IL Wesleyan U BFA, is a retired administrative assistant for municipal government.

Bob Cellia (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, 2 years college, US Army 1965-68, is a sales engineer.

Pat McKevitt (Jun 1963), lives in Saint Louis, MO.

Larry Larson (Jun 1964), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Piney Flats, TN, UI BS Eng '72, USC MS Sys Mgmt '78, Nat'l Defense Univ MA Def Res Mgmt '94; USAF 1965-73, USMC 1973-2001, is a retired Marine Corp pilot.

Al Kamradt (Jan 1965), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Cary, IL, IU BS PE; NIU MS Edu, is a retired physical education teacher, coach and department chairman at Barrington HS.

Pamela (Erbach) Kuelto (Jan 1967), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Homer Glen, IL, NIU BA History, is a church office administrator.

Vinette (Gramarossa) Engler (Jun 1967), has 3 children, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, is a special education paraprofessional.

Paul Frizane (Jun 1967), lives in Mesa, AZ, NEIU BA '76, is a retired teacher.

Virginia (Scholl) Linowiecki (Jun 1967), lives in Chicago, IL.

Robert Poteracki (Jun 1967), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, NIU MBA, is retired.
Susan (Lang) Ward (Jun 1967), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Kingwood, TX, SIU 3 years, is in marketing and sales, will celebrate 50 years of marriage in December.

Henry Nowak (1968), lives in Hot Springs, AR, DePaul U MSA '77; US Army 8 years, is a retired accountant and law enforcement officer.

Mildred (Reynolds) Zasadil (1968), has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is an insurance agent and Avon rep.

Randy Adkins (1969), has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Indine Village, NV, WIU CDI, is a construction business owner, has second homes in Sacramento CA and Ft Myers FL and is interested in getting together with others who live in these locals (email listed on TAA email directory).

Larry Wojcik (1969), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Palos Hills, IL, is retired.

1970s

Cynthia (Gallaher) Cumpian (1970), has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, U of IL Chgo BA Art/Arch '74, is a retired writer and yoga instructor.

Carlene (Wegelt) Shultz (1970), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Salem, OR, MS Psych '76, PsyD '90, is a semi-retired licensed clinical psychologist, retired from Oregon State Hospital in 2016 and incorporated her business, Dr. Carlene Shultz, P.G.

Carol (Davies) Skow (1970), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Summit, IL, is retired from public relations at AMC Corp.

Barbara (Moe) Lemaster (1971), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Naperville, IL, WIU BS Elem Edu, is retired.

Paul Madsen (1971), lives in Des Plaines, IL.

Bob Friel (1972), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is an electrician.

Lee Ann (Shellabarger) Murdoch (1972), has 2 children, lives in Racine, WI, WIU BA Sociology, is a retired rehabilitation counselor, works part time as a relocation counselor.

Don Stein (1972), married **Annie Bursoni** (1974), has 1 child, lives in Niles, IL, UIC BA Mgmt, DePaul U MBA Fin, is semi-retired.

Annie (Bursoni) Stein (1974), married **Don Stein** (1972), has 1 children, lives in Niles, IL, is retired.

Bob Uhlar (1974), lives in Brandon, FL, Drake U BA '78; Northwestern MS '81; Unity School of Religious Studies Mdiv '02, is a minister and head of UnityTampa.org.

Nancy (Szenda) O'Brien (1975), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Niles, IL, is in retail office work.

Barbara (Borek) Littel (1976), has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, UI BS Ornamental Horticulture, is a front office manager.

Maureen (Moore) Cross (1979), has 8 children, lives in Niles, IL, RN degree, is a registered nurse.

1990s

Goran Davidovac (1996), has 3 children, lives in Chicago, IL, Northwestern U AA '02, is a concert promotor and DJ.

2000s

Ryan Glowacz (2006), lives in Chicago, IL, BA History/Education; MS Education, Taft Assistant Principal, Athletic Director of the Taft Freshman Academy, and TAA faculty liaison.

In-Person Instruction is Suspended for Remainder of the School Year

The following information is provided by the Taft website:

Governor Pritzker announced that in-person instruction will be suspended for the rest of the school year in Illinois to further slow the spread of COVID-19.

This extended closure will not prevent us from providing your child with the quality education they deserve. Robust remote learning plans will continue through June 18, 2020—the last day of scheduled classes. Your child's school will continue providing high-quality learning options that meet your family's needs.

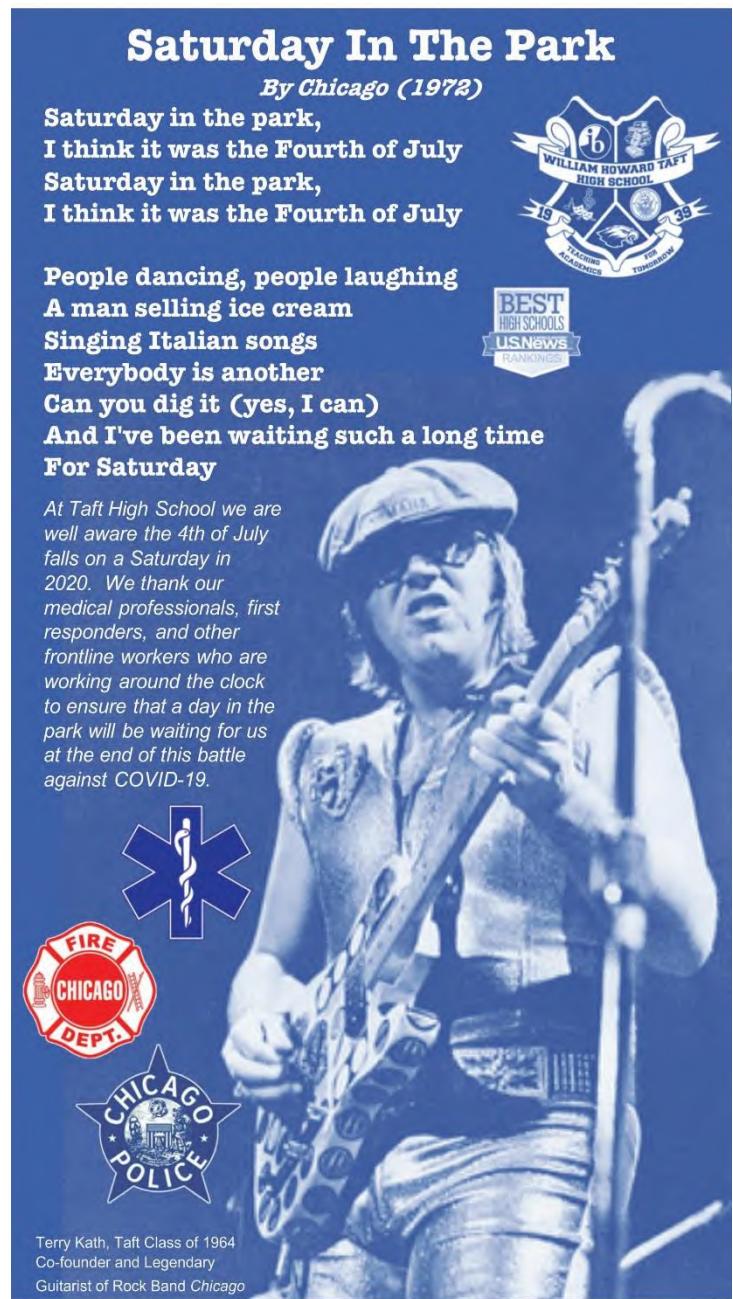
- Visit cps.edu/remotelearning for the most up-to-date information on remote learning and to access valuable learning resources.
- If your school is providing remote learning online and your child needs a device, please contact their principal.
- Please see these best practices for important information about privacy and confidentiality when engaging in virtual learning.
- Your involvement is key to ensuring your child puts forth their best effort. Please take advantage of the resources offered by your school, including remote office hours with your child's teachers.
- Please utilize Parent Portal to monitor your child's progress. Click [here](#) for more information on Parent Portal and contact your child's school with questions.

Taft Looks to *Chicago* for Hope

As reported by Brian Nadig in the April 15, 2020 issue of Chicago's Northwest Side Press:

Taft High School is turning to rock group Chicago and its hit "Saturday in the Park" as a reminder that better days are ahead once the pandemic crisis is over. "It's a symbol of hope," Taft principal Mark Grishaber said of the band's famous song. Playing guitar on that song when it was recorded in 1972 was the late Terry Kath, who graduated from Taft in 1964 and co-founded the band 3 years later.

A flier recently designed by the school as a "thank you" to the frontline crisis workers includes lyrics from the song.



Grishaber said that the 2020 calendar makes the song and its inspirational message as relevant as ever, especially during these trying times.

"At Taft High School we are well aware the Fourth of July falls on a Saturday in 2020. We thank our medical professionals, first responders and other frontline workers who are working around the clock to ensure that a day in the park will be waiting for us at the end of the battle against COVID-19," the flier states.



The song, which was written by band member Robert Lamm, also includes the words "a man playing guitar" that is a reference to Kath, according to Keith Nelms, who has organized Chicago tribute concerts at Taft.

Nelms said that he was working in the Schaumburg club B. Ginnings, which was owned by Chicago drummer Danny Saraphine, when he met Kath in 1976. Aside from

Chicago, the club featured many national acts in the 1970s and the 1980s including ACDC, Cheap Trick, the Scorpions, Rush, Judas Priest, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Santana and Van Morrison.

"He was a good-natured guy," Nelms said. "I could feel his laughter I was so close to him. ... It rumbled through me." Nelms said that Kath learned to play several instruments while growing up, especially during weekend getaways. "His family started him with a banjo, and he used take it to Cedar Lake up in Wisconsin," he said. A display honoring Kath recently was installed at Taft and a music room is being named after him, Grishaber said. Kath played the stand-up bass in the school orchestra. "He learned his craft here 'Where The Eagles Soar,' and he always came back to visit, almost every year, to say hello to old friends and new faces. His love for Taft was expressed by him in his song, 'Alma Mater.' No other words are needed," Nelms said at a Jan. 31 dedication ceremony at Taft. Kath died in 1978 from an accidental gunshot wound, and later that year the band released the song "Alive Again," which a band member has described as a tribute to Kath's lasting influence on the music world. Chicago, which is known as a rock band with a distinctive sound built around the horns section, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016.

In Our Memories



Dorothy (Lawrenz) Duffy of Mundelein, IL, Class of June 1947, died on April 2, 2020.

Norbert George Holmes of Huntington Beach, CA, Class of June 1948, died date unknown. He was married to

Margaret (Hansen) Holmes, deceased, Class of June 1951.

Herbert Dennis Werner of St. Louis, MO, Class of January 1950, died on February 22, 2020.

Margaret (Hansen) Holmes of Huntington Beach, CA, Class of June 1951, died on March 27, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband Norbert Holmes, Class of June 1948.

Louise (Van De Merkt) Lowry of Mundelein, IL, Class of Jun2 1952, died on March 29, 2020.

Neil Edward Lein of Escondido, CA, Class of January 1954, died on January 25, 2020. He is survived by his ex-wife Toni (Geisert) Lein, Class of June 1954.

Thomas Alan Knudtson of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1957, died in February 2020. He is survived by his brother Louis Knudtson, Class of January 1956.

Richard "Dick" Brian Thornton of Manila, Philippines, Class of January 1957, died on December 19, 2014. He was a TAA Hall of Fame inductee.

Lyton Hale Andersen of Hillside, IL, Class of June 1958, died on June 9, 2019.

Barbara Stewart of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1958, died on November 30, 2019. She is survived by her sister Marjorie (Stewart) Doud, Class of June 1963.

Eugene "Gene" Klueppel, of Chicago, IL, Class of 1959, died on August 5, 2019. He was preceded in death by his wife Tonilee (Zabroske) Klueppel, Class of June 1960.

Karen Ann (Rinkach) Johnson of Cary, IL, Class of June 1962, died on April 16, 2020.

Lynda (Morper) Wiley, Class of June 1966, died on March 27, 2003.

Stephen Lang Wiley, Class of June 1966, died, date of death unknown.

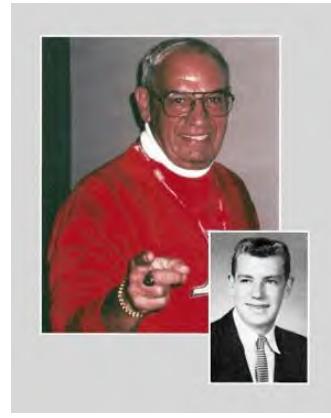
James Ronald Schroeder of Richmond, VA, Class of June 1967, died on January 11, 2020. He is survived by his sisters Gayle (Schroeder) Meisner, Class of June 1955, Carol (Schroeder) Gallagher, Class of January 1960, his brother Charles Schroeder, Class of June 1953, and his brother-in-law, Walter Meisner, Class of January 1954.

Wesley Walter Cline of Park Ridge, IL, Class of 1968, died on April 5, 2020.

Janice Lee (Abbinanti) Rucktenwald of Winter Garden, FL, Class of 1969, died on March 09, 2020.

Michael James Saia, Class of 1971, died on October 2, 2014. He is survived by his wife Susan (Morper) Saia, Class of 1970.

Remembering Dick Thornton



On the football field at Taft, under Coach Joe Kupcinet, Dick Thornton, Class of January 1957, became a legend as a defensive back for his running, passing, punting and kicking skills, named to the all-state team and honored as Chicago's most valuable prep player. At Northwestern University he played quarterback for Ara

Parseghian and earned a bachelor's degree in speech communications and journalism in 1961.

Thornton played professional football for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Toronto Argonauts in the Canadian Football League, and for the Memphis Southmen in the World Football League. In the mid-70s he became athletic director and head football coach at Southwestern College in Memphis, TN.

In 1979, Thornton earned the Delta KMA of Kroger Foods but was lured away by Coke USA Bottler Operations where he worked in the South Pacific Division in Australia and in Atlanta, GA. Based in Southeast Asia, he had been an independent contractor doing merchandising development for various Coca Cola bottling operations.

Thornton died of lung cancer in 2014 in Manilla, Philippines.

Lost Classmates



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.

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 | | | | \$ |
| <i>Total Remitted</i> | | | | \$ |
| | | | | |
| Printed Name: | | Grad Month/Year: | | |
| Address: | | | | |
| City/State/ZIP: | | Phone: () | | |
| Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 Please use a separate order form for separate addresses. | | | | |



Here's where to find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association

**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 |
| Joe Prochaska | 1961 | Vice President, Treasurer |
| Arlene (Laufer) Ware | 1960 | Secretary |
| Kevin Krieger | 1973 | Director, Webmaster |
| Paulette (Zemaitis) English | 1967 | Director, 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 to eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Target submission date for the next issue is:
June 30, 2020

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
CHICAGO IL 60631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit NO. 215
Des Plaines, IL

