



Taft Alumni Newsletter

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Winter 2021

Taft Enrollment

As reported in by Brian Nadig in a January issue of Nadig Newspapers, Taft's enrollment could peak at 4,400 in two years. The freshman class of 1,100 students includes at least 40 graduates from each of the following elementary schools: Bridge, Smyser, Garvy, Prussing, Dever, Dirksen, Beaubien, Canty, Hitch, Ebinger and Oriole Park.

Taft principal Mark Grishaber said, "Real estate marketers are putting pictures of Taft...in their listings." He added that he's heard about investors who "flip" houses seeking properties in Taft's attendance area because it is a strong selling point and raises the value.

Chicago students can apply to a variety of schools outside their neighborhood, but school system officials say that Taft could have the highest saturation of all neighborhood high schools in the city, meaning that it attracts the largest percentage of students from the total number of high school-age children living within its attendance area.

Students from outside Taft's attendance or preference boundaries can apply to enroll in its International Baccalaureate Diploma or U.S. Naval Junior ROTC programs. Additional enrollees in Taft's Seventh and Eighth Grade Academic Center, a gifted program, come from outside the attendance area, and have the option of remaining at Taft for high school.

Taft's Illinois Tree Trail

By Wayne H. Schimpff

When I first heard Principal Mark Grishaber mention this project at our recent TAA board meeting, my mind flashed back to the challenge my Taft biology teacher, Mrs. Irma Grosser, issued to my freshman biology class when studying local plant ecosystems. She said there was a prairie crabapple growing in front of Taft, but there were no prairie plants growing under it. So, my mom and I drove out on Devon Avenue to some of the remaining prairie soon to be bulldozed for construction. We dug up some squares of prairie sod, loaded them into the trunk and drove them back to Taft where we planted them under the prairie

crabapple. But, looking like common weeds, they were soon mowed down by maintenance.

Today, Mr. Grishaber has ignited the idea that Taft students could once again use the trees of Taft's campus for study and research. They have a unique learning opportunity that can be led by their ECO Club and actively supported by teachers in related subject areas. Species inventory and location mapping of existing trees is already being done as weather permits. ECO club members have accepted the challenge of identifying the existing trees and using them in class activities as learning stations. Additional species native to Illinois, or other trees like Mrs. Taft's Japanese trees of the Washington Tidal Basin fame, can be added as beautification focal points throughout Taft's campus and Norwood Park adjacent to Taft.

Taft's Illinois Tree Trail opens up leadership development opportunities by challenging Taft students to become trail guide leaders for students coming to Taft from feeder schools to learn the stories Taft trees can tell. Taft students learning from their tree trail experiences can further pursue their interests by signing up to work in other tree communities located in our nation's National Parks through the Student Conservation Corps or by connecting with a university conservation summer camp program. They have the potential to become global teen leaders by connecting with other students doing tree projects in their own communities through Caretakers of the Environment International, a teen sharing program of environmental activities. You can support the growth of your Taft campuses' Illinois Tree Trail program through donating the cost of a tree.

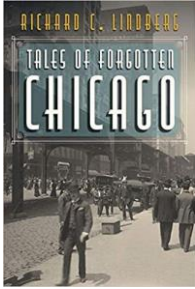
Wayne H. Schimpff, Class of January 1959 and Taft Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, has earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois University. He has worked with the Cook County Forest Preserves, Openlands Project, North Park Village, the Boy Scouts, Chicago Wilderness, the US Commission for UNESCO and the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, IL. He was Illinois Department of Natural Resources' first chief naturalist. A founding board member of Caretakers of the Environment, an international all-volunteer program for high school students and teachers, he has helped numerous organizations begin preservation programs from the Indiana

Dunes to the Waukegan harbor area. Wayne has always striven to teach young people about working with and protecting the environment.

Thank you to your wonderful principal who gave a tour of the building. I really enjoy reading about my former classmates. Where have all the years gone?

Sandy (Swanson) Hipp, June 1960

Alumni Activities



“Tales of Forgotten Chicago” by **Rich Lindberg** (1971) released in July 2020, tells twenty-one fascinating, little-known stories about the Windy City and its people. Spanning the Civil War through the 1960’s, stories encompass crime and punishment, Gilded Age mansions, the birth of Wrigley Field and Chicagoans from the first policewoman to politicians.

June ’53 alumnus **Daniel Rice** has just had a chapter included in an Oxford University Press book on the theologian/social philosopher Reinhold Niebuhr. Rice previously published two books on Niebuhr: “Reinhold Niebuhr and John Dewey, an American Odyssey” (1993) and “Reinhold Niebuhr and His Circle of Influence” (2013). He also edited the book “Reinhold Niebuhr Revisited: Engagements with an American Original” (2009). Dan and his wife Judy, a 1955 Fenger H.S. graduate, are nearing completion of a manuscript on the relationship of the brothers William and Henry James.

The family of **John Prochaska** (Jun ’61) and **Cynthia (Ludtka) Prochaska** (Jun ’64) was one of the “Amazing Families” featured in the January 2021 issue of *Park Ridge Living*.



Messages from our Members

Thanks for keeping us informed and in touch! I loved my years at Taft and after 65 years still am in touch with several good friends and classmates.

Patricia (Dunn) Hall, June 1955

2020 was certainly a tough year but it is always uplifting to see the highlights from our alma mater. I am glad to see it doing so well. Great statistics from Principal Grishaber. Thank you for this news. 2020 was a hard one for the Class of ’73 losing two greats—Phil Vierneisel and Maureen (Nelson) Barichelli. It was hard to see their names listed in the memorials section. I had the great experience of not only attending Taft with them but also the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where Phil continued his football career and Maureen and I completed our undergraduate studies. In later life I saw Phil at Delta Airlines events as my husband worked there as well. I kept in touch with Maureen over the years, visiting her and her husband Danny in their lovely home in Texas. Maureen was one of the smartest and funniest girls I’ve known. She never forgot anything and could talk to anyone no matter their cultural background! We had great fun on the pompon squad and crazy times skipping AP European History senior year whenever there was a sub and splitting a dozen donuts from Amy Joy. Oh, to have that metabolism again! Both Phil and Maureen will be greatly missed by many.

Pam (Borek) McDonald, 1973

I know it is hard to pick up mail and get checks cleared. Thanks for all you do!

Glenda (Hodgson) Vitek, 1969

LSC Election Follow-up

Principal Grishaber recently announced that the Office of Local School Council Relations resolved a tie vote for the teacher positions on school local school council. Teachers Bridget Doherty Trebing and Scott M. Plencner were elected. Plencner was chosen through a coin toss, Grishaber said. Candidates for LSC teacher positions are elected through a non-binding advisory staff poll.

The Taft Rock

Principal Grishaber wants to place a brick pedestal near the entrance to the new Varsity Field that will hold the “Taft Rock”. This large rock was brought back to Chicago by Grishaber from a quarry in Cincinnati, birthplace of William Howard Taft. “I would like to get it mounted on the pedestal so all future generations of Eagles can rub the rock

when entering the Varsity Field...for good luck,” Grishaber explained.

Show your Eagle Pride!

For a donation of \$100 a two-inch plate will be affixed to a Taft High School auditorium seat for posterity. Please contact Ryan Glowacz at rgglowacz@cps.edu if interested. Checks should be made out to “Taft High School” and mailed to the school at 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60631. Donors will receive a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes. The preferred format is up to three lines of 15 characters each.



Correction: Thanks to Gail Fransen (June '66) who set the record straight. The Fall 2020 newsletter reported incorrectly that her mother, TAA founding board member Irene (Ross) Fransen, was the aunt of new board member Art Kay. She was, in fact, the aunt of our former TAA president Kay (Carlson) Kuciak.

Facebook Flashback

On January 16 we asked our TAA Facebook page followers to tell us about their Taft memories. What a response!

Principal Mark Grishaber is becoming a student of Taft history. Tell us what your best memories are. Which teachers were outstanding? What did you have for lunch in the original third-floor lunchroom? Did you actually study in study hall? Let's hear from you and tell us the year you graduated.

Dave Moresi: Had many great teachers and a few duds. Jack Rapper and Sam Brunswick (P.E.) were great. Mr. Warwick algebra, Mrs. Johnson homeroom, Mr. Horton

English, Mr. McGlothlin English. Business Organization and Commercial Law was a hoot. Uncle Wally wouldn't let me in his band. June '67.

Nancy Reilly: My favorite teacher was Mr. Lyons. I had him for senior year English (76-77). He was wonderful and so easy to learn from. I remember his eyes sparkled when he smiled. My favorite lunch was a hot pretzel and fountain Coke! No one studied in study hall. We got in trouble for talking, so there was a lot of note passing. I usually brought in a book I had checked out of the library. I credit my love of reading to this.

Corinne Mogensen Baker: I had Mr. Lyons twice. Once for Honors English then again for AP English. I loved him!!!! Class of 81.

Lyn Brion: Class of '67, I loved the cheeseburgers also! Loved our cheerleading coach, Beverly Conrad. She was a mentor and helped me navigate all the bumps in the road of high school. She shaped my life.

Jan Savage: Bev Conrad still is a lovely lady! Had her at our 45th reunion!

Lyn Brion: I sure wish she had been at our 50th. We are coming up fast on our 55th!

Donna Tenuto: Class of 1960. My favorite teacher was Helen McMurtry, Spanish teacher. A very kind, encouraging, unique individual, somewhat flamboyant in dress and teaching style. A few, unkind dummies, made fun of her not realizing how lucky it was to be in her class. Many years later, I learned just how special and certainly modest she really was. She was a singer who had performed with the Lyric Opera, did concert tours throughout the U.S. and Latin America when not teaching (1950-1965), a soloist at A Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. She had a master's degree from the U. of C. and the American Conservatory of Music. All of this and her Spanish students never knew. We never heard her sing, our loss. However, she really knew how to teach us Spanish and best of all she made it fun.

Jean Schneider Zima: Oh I absolutely loved Ms McMurtry!!! and if you memorized the lesson and said it first you got an “A”!!!

Julie Szewo Tyler: I loved the teachers Pat Daniels and Julio Tiritelli. Both those teachers inspired me to become the teacher I am today. I was in the class of 1982.

Corinne Mogensen Baker: Loved Pat Daniels!!!

Vinette Engler: Also loved Mr Tiritelli

Pat Thomas: Sloppy Joe's and mashed potatoes with gravy. I haven't thought about that in years. Mr. Paul Stewart was my home room teacher. I did not appreciate him as much as I should have at that time. I don't remember having many study halls. January 1966.

Sue Moran: His Chem class was kind of fun. A classmate even composed a song about his class,

which we sang during a little party on the last day of class.

Rich Anderson: I enjoyed a hot dog with chips and a coke. One semester I had a study hall in the first floor library. I have a vivid memory of going to the library when I heard President Kennedy had been shot! I was in the class of January 65.

Sue Moran: Martha Prikopa and Sam Wenet were wonderful art teachers. "Uncle" Wally Freedman provided me with 4 fun years of Band and Orchestra. The butter cookies were my favorites.

Jean Schneider Zima: Now Uncle Wally was fun!

Chuck Wirtanen: Class of 1968 Sloppy Joe's and mashed potatoes were a big hit. Mrs Artisuk was great. We distilled alcohol for chemistry class and brought in orange juice to mix with it a few weeks later.

Karen Krukowski: I like that lunch, too.

John Strandin: Made wine with Mrs. A. My lab partner didn't want hers. Oops. Class of 72.

Kathy Weinberger Savino: Class of 73, Mr. Lyons for English. He was the best teacher I ever had and made a difference in my life! The big butter cookies from the freshman branch lunchroom were the bomb!

Cathy McCuen Widener: Class of '75. I remember the student walk out in protest of the Vietnam War, when I was a freshman at the freshman-only building 71-72. Mrs. Goldberg, Spanish for my sophomore year 72-73 was the most memorable. She wore caftans and round wire-rimmed sunglasses with different colored lenses (that I remember, not what I did yesterday) We were the first class that had the "new addition". And I fondly remember the butter cookies that cost a nickel.

Patrick Coyne: I also remember that well! We were at the "Taft branch" and were directing everyone outside, then we all just started walking towards the main building... thanks for bringing back that memory! Mr. Weismann was my favorite, he took our whole division out to breakfast last day of school Freshman year. Class of '75!

Cathy McCuen Widener: I had Mr. Swider (a/k/a Mr. Clean) as my freshman division teacher. He used calligraphy to write our names on the front of our course books which we had for all four years. I still have it somewhere.

Patrick Coyne: Yep, remember him well, had him for gym and football coach sophomore year. Don't know if you ever had him in study hall, but if he caught you talking he would yell out "YOU", point at you then run over and give you a crack upside your head (at least I did lol !). John L Swider RIP, he was a good guy...

Cathy McCuen Widener: Not for study hall, but I remember him controlling the whole room (gym?)

during Division in the morning, by leaping on a lunch table and yelling. You could hear a pin drop. He WAS a good guy.

TaffClements Marge Ann: She only taught the swear words in Spanish 🤔

Karen Nothacker: I was lucky enough to have "lunch" assigned as my last period of the day Sophomore through Senior years - so I never really ate in the original lunchroom (Class of 1963). Also never had a study period.

Karen Krukowski: Hot pork sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy, So good. Never had a study hall, School was too crowded. Started at 8 am out by 12:20 something or 1:09 depending on the day of the week. Class of January 1965.

Penny Hoffman: Edith Strandberg was the best English teacher--a tiny person who always had control of her class--1958 grad.

Jim Fisher: She made me practice my printing as a Senior because she said it wasn't very good and after graduation all the applications I would have to fill out required printing (not that my handwriting was very good either). Embarrassing at the time but absolutely true. June 1959

Robert Elezian: Remember milk costing 3 cents, 4 cents for chocolate. Mrs Artisuk disposing of chemicals that could be used in making LSD. Class of January 1967

Jean Schneider Zima: I loved Mrs Artisuk!!!

Cathi Madl Dennis: Miss Leitenstorfer. I probably massacred her name, but in gym we used to do a chest exercise and sing "we must we must we must increase our bust" 😊

Jan Savage: Sonnenleiter (?)

Kathy Thiel: Class of Jan 1963. Lunchroom favorite was the greasy cheeseburgers and fries. Had a lot of favorite teachers back then.

Vinette Engler: Class of June '67, I loved the cheeseburgers ! Were they 50 cents ??? Maybe a quarter ?

Linda Ross Weiss: Class of 1973 had a walk out which I thought was city wide so girls could wear pants & in 1970 we did. Mrs Thomas for music first black teacher, she made it fun. Conrique for Spanish he was unusual. Mr Newmayer smoking in the vault during physics

Pete Ebner: I do not think we had study hall Class of Jan 1965

Gloria Ryza Winter: Class of Jan 1963. Mr Brow my English teacher was awesome!!

Bonnie Wagner: I loved the 25 cent chocolate ice cream sundae. Class of 1964.

Barbara Siwik: Class of June 1953 loved the grainy textured butterscotch sundae, sundae being a stretch of the imagination

Lale Ketcham: Class of 2001 - hot Cheetos with cheese sauce 🤪🤪 Lol

Class Notes

1940s

Barbara (Lawton)

Loeschen (Feb 1946)

married William

Loeschen (deceased)

(Jan 1944) has 2

children, 1 grandchild,

lives in Lantana, FL, Lake Forest College, is a retired

professional fashion model.

Evie (Fischer) Miller (Feb 1946) has 4 children, 4 grand-children, 1 great grandchild, lives in Saint Petersburg, FL, is a retired risk manager, was a USO entertainer 1946-48.

Robert Machon (Jun 1948) married **Marillyn Kane**

(deceased) (Jun 1948) has 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 19

great grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, MSU BA '52,

Northwestern BA '68; US Air Force, Korean War 1952-54, is

retired.

Richard Sienkiewicz (Jun 1949) has 4 children, 12

grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Altamonte

Springs, FL, NIU BS Edu, MS Edu; US Navy 1956-1958, is

retired.



1950s

Carol (Boldt) Bentsen (Jun 1951) married **Ronald Bentsen**

(Jun 1951) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is retired.

Rosemarie (Yeale) Simpson (Jun 1951) married **Tom**

Simpson (deceased) (Jun 1949) has 3 children, 2

grandchildren, lives in Lady Lake, FL, is a mother and retired homemaker.

Joan (Hachmeister) Deboer (Feb 1952) lives in Arlington

Hts, IL.

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, sold his motorcycle in 2020

when Susan said he was "too old".

Bob Eischen (Jun 1952) married **Patricia Link** (Jun 1954) has

3 children, lives in Skokie, IL, U Denver BSBA '57; US Army

and US Air Force Reserves, is a retired accountant.

Jim Tortorelli (Jun 1952) has 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 9

great grandchildren, lives in Barrington, IL, Chicago State BA

Ed '56; Loyola MA Ed '62, is retired from teaching at Lane

Tech and Maine Twp.

Ron Klezek (Jan 1953) has 1 child, lives in Palatine, IL,

National College MS; US Army 6 mo active, 5 years reserve

duty, is a retired school teacher.

Phyllis (Geisert) Umphres (Jan 1953) has 3 children, 3

stepchildren, 3 grandchildren, 4 step grandchildren, 7 great

grandchildren, lives in Chatsworth, CA, RN, is a retired nurse.

Darlene (Sweeney) Mcgrath (Jan 1954) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired telephone service rep.

Pat (Link) Eischen (Jun 1954) married **Robert Eischen** (Jun 1952) has 3 children, lives in Skokie, IL, UI BS Elem Ed, is a retired elementary teacher.

Arlene (Poehler) Hamann (Jun 1954) married **Franklin**

Hamann (deceased) (Jan 1954) has 3 children, 7

grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Grayslake, IL,

is a retired secretary.

Gregory Jaeger (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren,

lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Northwestern U BSBA; US Army

Counter Intelligence Group 1959-62, is a retired general

manager of multiple corporations.

Claire (Roszkowski) Papiewski (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 1

grandchild, lives in Elgin, IL, is retired from accounting, was

widowed December 24, 2020, serves at a hospital for

infants and children, and found other Taftites in the group.

Alan Avery (Jan 1955) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Des

Plaines, IL, is retired.

Ronald Gottfred (Jun 1955) has 4 children, 15 grand-

children, lives in Inverness, IL, Western St College BA '60; US

Marines 5 years, is retired from Temperature Controls

Heating and Air Conditioning distr., winters in Gulf Stream,

Florida.

Patricia (Dunn) Hall (Jun 1955) has 3 children, 2 grand-

children, lives in Huntley, IL, Bradley U AA '57, is Med-Help

program for medical assistants, phlebotomy, EKG tech.

John Beall (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2

great grandchildren, lives in Newport, NC, Clemson U BS

Math/Educ '60, is a retired personnel manager and training

coordinator, for 17 years has served as a mission volunteer

while living full time in a motor home.

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.

Don Ostrom (Jun 1956) has 3 children, lives in Minneapolis,

MN, St. Olaf College BA '60, Washington U MA '70, PhD '72,

is a retired college professor and state legislator.

Roland Carlson (Jan 1957) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives

in Maple Plain, MN, U Minn BA '62, is a retired farmer.

Jay Forbregd (Jan 1957) has 1 child, lives in Phoenix, AZ,

Wright Jr College aa, is works in sales.

Marilyn (Kating) Rowan (Jan 1957) has 3 children, 7

grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UI

BS Sci '61; Nat'l Lewis MA Educ, is a retired teacher.

Rosalie (Scimeca) Feilen (Jan 1958) has 2 children, 3

grandchildren, 1 step granddaughter, lives in Sarasota, FL, is

retired.

William Berquist (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren,

9 great grandchildren, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired.

Judith (Edfeldt) Hartman (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is retired from clerical work, her oldest granddaughter just graduated from college with BSN RN degree.

Ron Knoll (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, 1 great great niece, lives in Algonquin, IL, IIT BSEE '65, is a retired engineer, due to the pandemic, his radio career as volunteer host is on hold.

Lynn (Anderson) Lee (Jun 1958) has 1 child, lives in Three Lakes, WI, BSN, is a retired RN.

Ron Napier (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, UI BS Media Com; Loyola MS Labor Rel, is retired from United Airlines management in four states and the UK, currently a substitute teacher for the local school districts.

Denny Pickett (Jun 1958) married **Karen Jensen** (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Dekalb, IL, BS, MS, is a retired educator.

Barbara (Knudson) Newlin (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in North Chesterfield, VA, George Washington U BS Art, MS HR, is a retired art teachers and human resources director for a state agency, loves traveling and usually tries to take two cruises a year for fun.

Carol (Lubinetz) Vix (Jun 1959) lives in Chicago, IL, BS, JD, is an attorney.

1960s

Steve Mack (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Inverness, IL, Northwestern BSBA '69, MBA '70, CPA '73, is a retired CPA, serves on the boards of two human services agencies, a foundation, and Northwestern University Library Board of Governors.

Karen (Jensen) Pickett (Jan 1960) married **Dennis Pickett** (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Dekalb, IL, BS, MS, is a retired educator.

Sandy (Swanson) Hipp (Jun 1960) has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in Aurora, IL, UI BS Phys Ed '64; NIU MS Outdoor Ed '93, is a retired PE and science teacher.

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 professor at University of Iowa.

Norm Phoenix (Jun 1960) lives in Chicago, IL, Wright College AA '63; IIT BSEE '67, MSEE '72; National Louis MAT '08, is a retired electrical engineer.

Wayne Schnell (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Norridge, IL, is retired.

Evelyn (Kuehn) Kuznicki (Jan 1961) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Franklin, NC, Roosevelt U BS Bio '67, is retired.

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

Louis Vassos (Jan 1962) married **Joanne Wemstrom** (deceased) (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Northwestern BSEE, is a retired engineer.

Gloria (Kuhles) Adams (Jun 1962) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, lives in Tempe, AZ, is retired.

Arlene (Ratulowski) Harp (Jun 1962) has 2 children, lives in Depere, WI, Wright Jr College, is retired.

Lowell Johnson (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Manteno, IL, Augustana BA '66; UI MAT '68; Lake Forest MBA '85, is a retired teacher.

Pamela (Kostenko) Kramer (Jun 1962) lives in West Chicago, IL, BA, MLS, Advanced Certification, is a retired educator.

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

Phyllis Miller (Jun 1962) has 1 child, lives in Crescent City, FL, Roosevelt U BA, UI MSW, is a retired executive for the State of Illinois Dept of Public Aid.

Paula (Simonides) Weglarz (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, BA English, is a retired associate editor.

Jim Fenner (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Cumming, GA, Cal State Fullerton BA Bus Mgmt '73; USMC 1966-1970, is retired as COO at Ameriserv Distribution.

Bill Green (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, UI BA Arch, Loyola JD, is a writer.

Jane (Spenny) Heide (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Kansas City, MO, is retired.

Ellamae Braun (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Carpentersville, IL.

Edmund Feldy (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Evanston, IL, IIT BSMAE '68, MME '70; U Chicago MBA '75, is retired mechanical engineer.

Donna (Langsfeld) Freeze (Jun 1963) has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Peoria, AZ, NDU graduate school, is a retired VP of a healthcare system.

Donald Hoy (Jun 1963) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, Loyola U MBA '74, is retired.

Gary Piehl (Jun 1963) has 1 child, lives in Red Wing, MN, UIC BA Bus '71; US Army 1965-67, is retired.

Sharon (Olson) Rainey (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL, SIU, is retired from customer service.

Diane (Peterson) Wilk (Jun 1963) married **Jeff Wilk** (deceased) (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Harwood Hts, IL, BA Elem Edu '67, is retired.

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

Glenn Erickson (Jun 1964) married **Judy Schmook** (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Rio Rancho, NM, AA, US Army 1968-70, is a retired police officer.

George Knickerbocker (Jun 1964) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove, IL, DePauw U BS '68; UI JD '71, is an attorney.

Donna (Lambrecht) Lewandowski (Jan 1965) lives in Palatine, IL, is retired.

Bob Christensen (Jun 1965) married **Arlane Gulbrandsen** (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Marengo, IL, BS Bus Admin.

Arlane Christensen (Jun 1965) married **Robert Christensen** (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Marengo, IL, is a retired registered nurse.

Butch Godlewski (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Louisburg, NC, US Navy 4 years, is retired, enjoys traveling.

Mary (Strandin) Goodlow (Jun 1965) has 4 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Williams Bay, WI, UI Champaign, is retired.

Patricia (Paul) Olbrisch (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Niles, IL, is self-employed.

Kathie (Yehling) Haber (Aug 1966) has 1 child, lives in Petersburg, TN, BS Secondary Ed Math '70, is a retired high school math/comp teacher, fully retired after closing the farm in 2019.

Martin Emrath (Jan 1966) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Brentwood, TN, UICC BS ME '70, UI MBA, MSME '73, is a retired sales manager.

Theresa (Klein) Davis (Jun 1966) has 4 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Hurley, WI, UI '71 BFA Art Edu, is a mother and retired art educator K-14, had a wonderful time at the June 50 Year Reunion in Chicago.

Gary Hansen (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Northbrook, IL, UI BS Aeronautical/Astronautical Engr, BS ME, is a retired engineer.

Susan (Grandt) Roden (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is retired.

Ron Stolle (Jun 1966) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Hudson, OH, NEIU BA '71; Loyola MBA '76; Washington U EdD '07; Army Reserves 1969-75, is a retired finance executive and associate professor at Kent State.

Judith Bock (Jan 1967) lives in Grayslake, IL, BA Elem Ed, MS Geog and Env Studies, GIS certification '20, is a retired educator and part time director of online geospatial programs for Elmhurst University.

Bob Elezian (Jan 1967) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Parker, CO, SIU BA Comp Sci/Math '76; US Navy Flight Engineer 1969-1973, is a retired software engineer, celebrates 50 years of marriage in March 2021.

Bob Friedlander (Jan 1967) lives in Richland, MI, SIU '71, is retired.

Ida (Webb) Carlson (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Bonita Springs, FL, is a retired journeyman meterman, and enjoys traveling.

Judy (Schmook) Erickson (Jun 1967) married **Glenn Erickson** (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Rio Rancho, NM, is retired from purchasing for an electronics company.

Steve Horn (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Florence, SC, WIU BA Bus '71, is a retired senior sales and business executive.

Thomas Lorenz (Jun 1967) has 1 child, lives in Wheeling, IL, US Army 2 years, is retired.

Mary (Kemblowski) Berg (1968) lives in Frederick, MD, UI BSN '77, Washington U MS Healthcare Admin '80, is a retired healthcare administrator, and married Jack Berg in 1972.

George Bergstrom (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Grinnell College BA '72; U Iowa MA Hospital and Health Admin '74, is a retired vice president, American Hospital Association, and serves on the board of Donate Life America.

Mary (Gorski) Casper (1968) lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.

Jack Dustin (1968) married **Linda Lease** (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, MD, is a retired physician.

Linda (Lease) Dustin (1968) married **Jack Dustin** (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, BA, MA Education, is a retired PE teacher.

Kathleen (Suba) Firnsin (1968) has 3 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Villa Park, IL, is retired.

Barbara (Gron) Gron-Grosse (1968) has 2 children, lives in Northbrook, IL, NIU, Northwestern, is a retired investment banker, is a professional volunteer.

Linda (Archam) Serek (1968) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Ladysmith, WI, US Army Reserves 8 yrs, is a retired customer service regional director.

Mike Franzen (1969) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in St Charles, IL, BS '74, MS '78, is a retired high school math teacher.

Christine (Wirth) Maxwell (1969) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Elgin, IL, ISU BS Ed, Concordia U Chicago MA Reading, is a retired reading specialist and special ed teacher.

Patricia (Bates) Patty (1969) married **Paul Patty** (5/21/1905) has 2 stepchildren, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, BA, is retired.

Glenda (Hodgson) Vitek (1969) has 2 children, lives in Wichita Falls, TX, Amundson Mayfair AA RN, is a comptroller.

1970s

Stan Jaworski (1970) has 2 children, lives in Hinsdale, IL, Knox College BA; NEU Boston MBA Healthcare Fin., is a retired healthcare IT consultant.

Patricia (Hammang) Miller (1970) lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired client service rep.

John Montgomery (1970) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Madison, WI, ISU BS Geo '74; UW Madison MA Urban Planning '76, MA Public Admin '77, is a retired deputy state budget director.

Nancy (Dobbertin) Blanco (1971) lives in Mesquite, NV, is a retired business analyst.

James Davis (1972) lives in Crete, IL, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine DO '86, is an orthopedic surgeon, nicknamed "Moose" with a 1964 Chevy pickup truck.

Judy (Spierowski) Kearney (1972) has 1 child, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA '75, WRIGHT AAS '96, NIU MA '10, is a retired CPA.

Wally Symcak (1972) has 1 child, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, Northwestern U BA Econ '75; CPA, is a happily retired accountant.

Peter Watson (1972) lives in Shiloh, IL, BS MIS; US Army Artillery 1977-1981, is retired from information technology.

Adrienne (Ostfeld) Bohnenkamp (1973) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Omaha, NE, U Neb Omaha BS, is retired.

Suzanne (Kulak) Guiglio (1973) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Villa Park, IL, is retired.

Pam (Borek) McDonald (1973) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Lakeville, MN, UI BS El Ed, U of St. Thomas MA CIGT, is a retired teacher/consultant and current adjunct professor.

Yvonne (Gatcheff) Ornt (1974) has 2 children, lives in Highland Park, IL, UI Champagne-Urbana BS '78, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries '85, is a retired 40-year consulting actuary.

Jamie (Moffat) Pastwa (1975) lives in Orion, MI, MA Spec Ed, is a retired special education teacher.

Gail (Krusinski) Harned (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Lexington, KY, Murray State U, is retired, winters in Naples, Florida.

Sandy (Marshall) Paik (1976) has 2 children, lives in Austin, TX, NEIU Spec Ed '80, National Louis M.Ed. Spec Ed '90, is a retired educator and flight attendant.

Phil Priest (1977) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, UI AB '81; Nat'l Lewis MAT '91, is a retired elementary teacher since 2019, working diligently on his golf game.

responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.



While we cannot visit Taft in person, the school invites us to see what's happening virtually through a number of fabulous videos covering the Freshman Academy, Taft's IB Middle Years, Diploma, Career-related Programmes, NJROTC and more. You'll find it all at tafthighschool.org.

In Our Memories



Frank Hood of Loves Park, IL, died in January 2021. He taught physical education and mathematics during the late 1970s through the 1990s. He was the basketball varsity coach at Von Steuben High School and Taft High School. He was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Chicago Public

League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. As the varsity head coach of the Taft girl's fast pitch softball team, he and the 1986 City Championship team were inducted into the William Howard High School Hall of Fame.

Lois P. (Lesser) Stein of Lincolnwood, IL, Taft supporter and wife of the late Irving M. Stein, Taft Social Studies teacher and Taft Tribune advisor, died in January 2021.

Lucille Marie (Avery) Baroch of Rio Rancho, NM, Class of June 1941, died on August 20, 2020. She is survived by her brothers George Avery, Class of June 1943, Alan Avery, Class of January 1955, sister Carole Avery, Class of June 1950 and niece Ellen Avery, Class of 1993.

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



Ralph Carl Capparelli of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1942, died on December 31, 2020. He served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1971 to 2004, and in multiple leadership positions. His seniority earned him the title of the longest serving 'Dean' of the Illinois House.

He was a proud veteran of the United

States Navy and partook in the Battle of Tinian during World War II earning him a Battle Star. He was in the first Taft Alumni Hall of Fame induction of 1989.

Janet Lee (Ryrholm) Metzler of Sycamore, IL, Class of January 1947, died on January 3, 2021.

Ruth Martha Gehrke of Bridgman, MI, Class of June 1953, died on December 14, 2020.

Donald Walter Stanek of Myakka City, FL, Class of June 1953, died on June 28, 2020. He is survived by his wife Rose Cape, and was preceded in death by his brother Robert Stanek, Class of June 1954.

George Victor Johnson of Park Ridge, IL, Class of January 1954, died in 2020.

Paul Matthew Miller of Montclair, NJ, Class of June 1954, died on January 9, 2019.

Thomas Richard Nelles of Hoffman Estates, IL, Class of June 1960, died in 2020.

David "Diamond Dave" Alan Bernahl of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1961, died on December 12, 2020. He is survived by his daughters Lynne (Bernahl) Lindberg, Class of 1980, and Julie (Bernahl) Crawford, Class of 1986, his sons David Jr. and TJ Bernahl, and his former wife Mary (Langenegger) Bernahl, Class of June 1961. He was a member of the Taft 1960 Public League Championship Football Team.

Allan Charles Stromsta of Shorewood, IL, Class of January 1962, died on January 2, 2021. He was preceded in death by his brother Roger Stromsta, Class of January 1958.

Michael Bienik of Palatine, IL, Class of June 1963, died on March 20, 2020.

Dennis Ronald Bergt of Bonita Springs, FL, Class of June 1965, died on December 10, 2020.

Paul Julius Kallman of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1965m died in September 2020.

Robert Edward Barry of Port St. Lucie, FL, Class of 1969, died on January 20, 2021.

William Norman Gierke of Des Plaines, IL, Class of 1969, died on December 13, 2020.

Glenn Arthur Bjankini, Class of 1972, died on May 26, 2020. He is survived by his sister Carol Bjankini, Class of 1984, and by brothers Wayne Bjankini, Class of 1971, Roy Bjankini, Class of 1973, Gary Bjankini, Class of 1974, and Eric Bjankini, Class of 1975.

Steven Paul Schultz, Class of 1972, died on January 20, 2021

Walter Joseph Bedtke of Geneva, IL, Class of 1973, died on January 30, 2020.

Lynn Alyce Cutler of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on July 30, 2019.

Michael Edward Gilbert of Mundelein, IL, Class of 1973, died on June 14, 2019. He is survived by his father Edward and his mother Virginia (Mau) Gilbert, Class of January 1948, and by his sisters Catherine (Gilbert) Kozubal, Class of 1978, and Patricia Gilbert, Class of 1979.

Pamela Lee Sims, Class of 1973, died in May 2019.

Jeffery David Weickart of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of 1973, died on December 16, 2020.

Steven D. Krejci of Waupun, WI, Class of 1974, died on September 16, 2020. He is survived by his brother Mark Krejci, Class of 1973.

Kevin Quinn of Chicago, IL, Class of 1974, died in May 2020.

Laura (Schuster) Carlstedt, Class of 1978, died in October 1987.

Patrick Casey, Class of 1978, died in December 2020.

Richard Cichowski of Chicago, IL, Class of 1978, died in January 2002.

Michael Duignan of Chicago, IL, Class of 1978, died in January 2012.

Mary (Kouvelis) Goss, Class of 1978, died in February 2020.

Kevin Hartmann, Class of 1978, died in June 2010.

Margaret (McTighe) Homa of Carol Stream, IL, Class of 1978, died in September 2013.

Gregory McCallister of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of 1978, died in April 2020.

Scott Sabres of St. Charles, IL, Class of 1978, died in February 1999.

Steve Sefton, Class of 1978, died in May 2014.

Judy (Detz) Stege, Class of 1978, died in 1986.

Heidi Frieda (Ollerer) Gallagos of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Class of 1984, died on December 11, 2020.

Joseph Walter Bartel of Mt. Prospect, IL, Class of 1987, died on July 28, 2020. He is survived by his mother Karen and father Joseph H. Bartel, Class of June 1959, sisters Susan (Bartel) Albers, Class of 1981, and Sally (Bartel) Housholder, Class of 1983, brother-in-law Michael Housholder, Class of 1982.

You can always find us online at www.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				\$
<i>Total Remitted</i>				\$
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 60631-3185 Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</p>				

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

No changes since last renewal

*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?		
Other 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 Partner

*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?		
Other 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 Class Notes	
Enclosed is a check or money order for alumni membership/renewal:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 2-year single membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 2-year 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	Art Kay	1961	Director
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Wayne Schimpff	1959	Director	Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly	1978	Director
Arlene (Laufer) Ware	1960	Director	Ryan Glowacz	2006	Faculty Liaison

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

Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:
Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 or email to eaagleemail@taftalumni.org

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