



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2

Spring 2022

## Taft Football Booster Club

*Reported by Brian Nadig, Nadig Newspapers, March 6, 2022*

“Friday Night Lights” became a reality at Taft High School when its new outdoor sports complex opened in 2019, and school officials and the Taft Football Booster Club are hoping to enhance the experience with additional spectator seating and a concession stand.

“We are trying to make it the premier place for football on the Northwest Side of Chicago,” said booster club president Michelangelo Scalera.

The club’s mission includes promoting the team’s accomplishments, fundraising, networking with former players and supporting current players. The club recently hosted a banquet in which members of Taft’s 1972 Public League Championship team announced a new annual scholarship in memory of their teammate, Phil Vierneisel, who played at the University of Illinois.

The club is hoping to secure sponsors for the school’s multi-purpose sports field, as fans may see banners at next season’s games honoring the donors, Scalera said.

Taft principal Mark Grishaber said that he has been talking to many of the school’s alumni, seeking their assistance in funding infrastructure improvements inside the school and at the sports complex. Two years ago, 1966 Taft graduate Len Wislow, who also played at Illinois, donated \$300,000 to help pay for lights for the sports complex.

The 2022 wish list includes the addition of low-rise spectator stands for 400 to 500 people along the visitor sidelines. The main stands, which include a press box, accommodate about 1,400 people, and are located on the east end of the field.

The project will cost about \$80,000, and the goal is to have the additional seating installed by this fall, Grishaber said.

Another proposal calls for a concession stand, but the funding for its construction will take longer to secure, Grishaber said.

The construction bid came in at \$400,000, which Grishaber said seemed high given that it consists mainly of cinder block and a sink and is the size of a standard garage. He said that he plans to explore less expensive alternatives.

“Our priority will be to get more bleachers this year,” Grishaber said.

In recent years Taft has upgraded several of its sports facilities in an effort to be more competitive for the top students in the area. In the past, school administrators said that the school would lose some local students to another school because of their sports programs.

“We offer every sport in CPS and more, 34 sports and counting, all levels, frosh, soph, varsity and JV, over 70 teams,” Grishaber said.

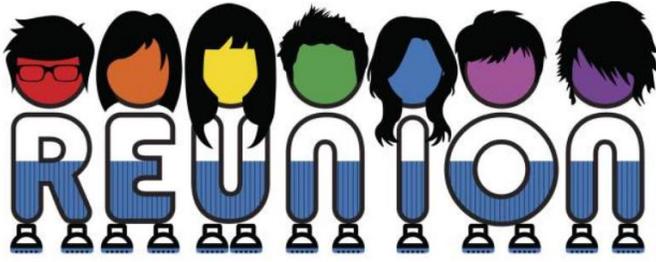
## Taft Alumni Football Jersey

This year, Taft would like to find a sea of blue and silver in the stands at each sporting event. Toward that goal, a fabulous jersey is being offered to alumni through All Seasons Screen Printing & Embroidery. The jersey is 100% polyester and fully sublimated, meaning you won’t feel the logo or number like you would on a traditional jersey. It is being offered in a men’s cut and a ladies cut.



The jersey will say “ALUMNI” on the back and display the year of your graduation front and back. Sizes S-XL are \$55, add \$2.50 for each size over XL (2XL, 3XL, 4XL).

To order, contact Sean Zalenka at [sean@allseasonspe.com](mailto:sean@allseasonspe.com) or call (773) 736-1213. If delivery is required, Sean will provide you with the cost, plus tax.



### Chicago All-Class Picnic

**Date:** Saturday August 20, 2022, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Schiller Woods Grove #4  
**Contact:** Facebook Page: Taft High School Alumni

### So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

**Date:** Saturday September 10, 2022, Noon – 4:00 pm  
**Place:** "House of Savage", 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA  
**Detail:** \$10 includes Rosati's Chicago Pizza, non-alcoholic drinks. Bring a dish to share and BYOB.  
**Contact:** Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworld@hotmail.com)

### Arizona All-Class Picnic

**Date:** October 2022 (TBD)  
**Place:** South Lake Park, 1101 S. San Miguel Dr., Goodyear, AZ, intersection of S. San Miguel Dr. and W. Santa Irene Dr.  
**Contact:** Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com), Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com)  
**Donation:** \$4 per person (for ramada rental)  
**Detail:** Bring lawn chairs, a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA baseball cap raffle. Families welcome. Carpooling encouraged.

### Taft Class of January 1953 70 Year Reunion

**Date:** Saturday October 22, 2022, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Moretti's Restorante & Pizzeria in Edison Park  
**Contact:** Lois (Plechaty) Rolf (loisrolf12@aol.com) or Carl Edwards (cbedwards@att.net)

### Taft Class of 1967 55 Year Get-Together

**Date:** September 17, 2022  
**Location:** Edison Park Inn  
**Detail:** We can accommodate roughly 100 people. The package is for pizza, appetizers, and soft drinks with a cash bar for \$25.00 per person by check. RSVP by 08/27/22.  
**Contact:** Ed Krzeminski (708) 352-5232 (whitewall0@aol.com)

### Taft Class of 1968 55 Year Reunion

**Date:** September 2023 (TBD)  
**Location:** Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights IL  
**Contact:** Carolyn Sykes Toerpe (carolyn.toerpe@gmail.com) Nancy Warzecha (nancywarz@sbcglobal.net)

### Taft Class of 1972 50 Year Reunion

**Date:** September 17, 2022  
**Location:** The Nil Tap, 5734 N Elston Ave, Chicago  
**Facebook:** Taft High School class of 1972

### Taft Class of 1973 50 Year Reunion

**Date:** 2023  
**Location:** TBD  
**Facebook:** 1973 Taft Grads 50th Reunion

### Taft Class of 1987 35 Year Reunion

**Date:** Saturday July 16, 2022  
**Location:** TBD  
**Facebook:** William Howard Taft Class of 1987 Chicago  
**Contact:** Stefanie (Janec) Jahnke ([jahnke.stefanie@gmail.com](mailto:jahnke.stefanie@gmail.com)) Vince Croston (vtcroston@yahoo.com)

### Taft Class of 1992 30 Year Reunion

**Date:** Friday August 19, 2022, 4:00 pm – Midnight  
**Location:** TBD  
**Facebook:** Taft High School Alumni  
**Contact:** Keith M. Richardson (krich4ever@gmail.com)

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## Messages from Our Members

Thank you for everything you do!!!

Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco Jun '62

Always look forward to receiving this. Excellent job, every issue.

Barbara (Borowski) King Jun '62



*Bill Schalk, Phil Foss, Bob Speckmann, Lew Robert*

Nothing is better than four Eagles, Class of Jan '60, sharing a few libations, lunch, and a lot of laughs at The Shanty in Wadsworth, IL during the Christmas holiday. This has been a semi-annual event for more than 20 years. As writer and cartoonist Jules Pfeifer wrote: "Maturity is a phase, high school is forever."

Bill Schalk, Jan '60

The Fall 2021 issue of the newsletter arrived in our mailbox with a second newsletter tucked inside. It was addressed to Barb (Puccinelli) Montsvil, June '63, of Greensboro, GA. We sent it on to Barb and she responded several weeks later. Her husband, Bill, of 56 years had just passed away in December. I called her to introduce myself and extend our condolences. We had a lovely conversation in which we discovered we had both grown up in Norwood Park just a year apart. Barb and her husband met at NIU where Greg and I both attended school and from which we graduated.

Barb and Bill were married on the same day and in the same church as our dear Taft friends, Ken and Sandie (Mau) Andersen. Greg was in the wedding party for them along with Janice (Beutelspacher) Simon. Janice, Len Simon, Ken and Sandie had all graduated in January '60 with Greg. It turns out that Barb and Jan are cousins! Our homes in Georgia are on opposite sides of Atlanta. Greg and I are north of Atlanta living on Lake Lanier. Barb and Bill live south of Atlanta in a golf community.

The TAA Newsletter works in mysterious ways! We love receiving it and keeping up with childhood friends. Thanks for all of your efforts in keeping us connected.

Mary (Seitz) Drummer, June '62  
Greg Drummer January '60

Just finished reading the 2022 Winter Issue. Nice to see that those us in advanced years are still around. Must be our Midwest Chicago upbringing that keeps us going. Joanne (Dass) Black and I FaceTime every day. We met the first day of our freshman year in high school in September 1947 and have remained friends all these years. She lives in Macomb, IL, and I live in Woodland Hills (Los Angeles), CA. Our last in person visit was back in May 2019 when she visited her son Bill and his family in Mission Viejo, CA. We each live in our own home and enjoy working with our philanthropic organizations and church. There definitely is life after retirement.

Myra (Andres) Fisher Jun '51

I enjoy times visiting with grade school/high school friends—Carolyn (Feare) Rominski, Marge (Stewart) Doud, Deane (Peterson) Wick, Kathy (Rasmussen) Graw, Kathy (Karner) Hartman, and Alice (Mohrman) Kosniak. We try to get together often. Old friends are the best!

Donna (Griessmer) Catlett, Jun '63

I noticed in the most recent newsletter a reference to Barbara Heckel, Jan. 1948. It so happens I was in the same class. I asked Barbara if she would go to the senior prom with me. I felt lucky when she said yes because she was the prettiest girl in the class, and I thought she had probably

said yes to somebody else. I noticed she lives in South Carolina as do I. Small world.

Bill Fassnacht, Jan '48

Many thanks for all you do to put together the news about Taft.

Mary (Murphy) Richards, Jan '56

I was a June 1942 graduate. My name then was Gertrude Strozewski. I reside at Brookdale, an independent/assisted living facility in Hoffman Estates. Among the many amenities offered, each month Management hosts a luncheon for residents having a birthday that month. In January, I was one of the guests, and it was my 98th



. What made it a memorable day for me was a surprise visit from my niece and her husband. They traveled 400 miles to be with me. HOW GREAT IS THAT!

Trudy (Strozewski) Gander, Jun '42

To the Taft Alumni Association

Enclosed please find my check for \$130. Could you use \$30.00 for a four-year subscription so I don't have to think about it for a while and then I want to donate \$100 in memory of Frank Heyer. He worked with me for 10 years as I distributed \$1,000 each year to a graduating senior. He was a kind gentleman, and it was my privilege to work with him.

I also want to take this time to thank everyone past and present who so tirelessly volunteer and give of their time to keep the Taft Alumni Association up and running. All of us members really appreciate all the work that you do to keep it going.

Now, back to Frank. Isn't it time someone nominates him for the Taft Hall of Fame? The Hall of Fame should also honor ordinary people, not just celebrities or Titans of industry, but someone who gave so much to Taft. He was insurmountable in helping the Taft Alumni Association.

Darlene (Bruemmer) Hendricksen, Jun '62

After being a part-time resident of Maui for many years, I have been a full-time resident for three years and am enjoying its warm sunshine and beauty. I look forward to each Taft newsletter letting me know how things are going for Taft and its alumni.

Roberta (Lockerbie) Fiali, Jun '53

It's been more than 65 years since I graduated from Taft, and I still haven't forgiven myself, or gotten over a very traumatic event that happened to me, in the beginning of my senior year. I loved everything about Taft, students, teachers, sports, social activities, and especially the R.O.T.C. Taft was my sanctuary.

Going into my senior year 1956, I was a first lieutenant in the R.O.T.C., and I was informed by our military instructor that I would be promoted to lieutenant colonel--battalion commander of the entire Taft R.O.T. C. by year's end, and to receive the American Legion Medal. Hot Dog! I was stunned and happy at the same time! I had worked hard and was extremely motivated the first 3 years.

Then, in late March, I was volunteering to assist classes outside with their drill and marching activities. On this particular fateful day, as I was getting ready to go back to my regular classes, a senior officer came outside to relieve me, and I did the usual salute and turned to go back to class. As the class moved out, (just goofing around) I yelled out, "To the rear march!" which is an order to the class to reverse their march by 180 degrees, and basically come back towards me. The officer halted the class, and then ran over to me and ordered 20 pushups. I said it's not right to discipline another officer in front of cadets.



First row, left to right: Lloyd Wevang, bat. comm.; Leo Drummer, bat. ex.; David Taylor, S-1.

Second row: Wayne Stewart, S-2; John Lesak, plat. ldr.; Donald Rievskens, sqd. ldr.; Claude Smith, co. com.

(Photo by Larry McCann)

That officer decided to prosecute that event. There I was two weeks later before a real military court martial, composed of Army officers from Korea and World War II! I was thinking, how could four little words get me into

this predicament? I did have a fellow officer from Taft represent me, but the writing was on the wall. Sadly, I was found guilty of insubordination. A 30-day suspension of rank to cadet status, and loss of the American Legion Medal.

Well, summer vacation had come and gone, and it was September, and back to school. Hot Diggity Dog! My instructor said I would lead the Taft Drill Platoon in competition, so...we won regionals and headed to the city competition and took 3rd place, the first time in the history of Taft that we placed--great team! I was later promoted to Major--battalion executive officer, but not lieutenant colonel, all because I was busted in March!

Time marches on, but I haven't let go of my disappointment.

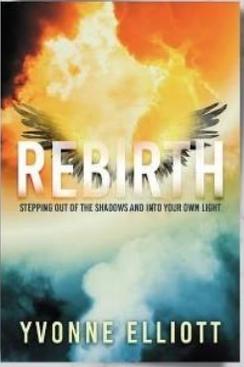
Leo Drummer, Jan '57

## Congratulations to...

- Lizabeth Harris, Class of 1998, who has published her first book under the pseudonym Yvonne Elliott.

# Happy Release Day!

## Yvonne Elliott!



**AVAILABLE NOW**

 Available at **amazon**

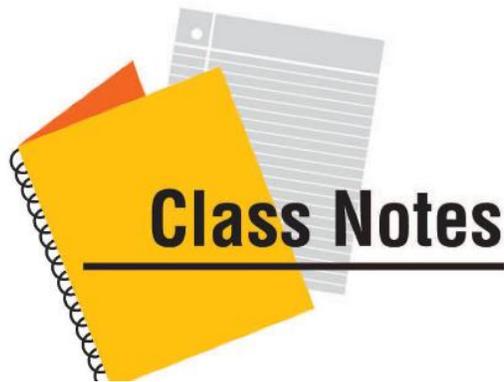






AuthorYvonneElliott.com

- Taft Chess Team which competed at the USCF National Championship tournament in Memphis, Tennessee this past weekend, earning 16th place finish IN THE NATION!
- Taft Robotic Eagles that won the MIDWEST REGIONALS and secured a spot at the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS in HOUSTON, TX. View the CBS story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/would-be-amazing-taft-high-school-robotics-team-raising-funds-for-texas-competition/>



## 1940s

**Barbara (Burgis) Zuegel** (Jan 1949) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Lake Forest, IL, Millikin U BA Ed '53, is a retired K/Primary teacher.

## 1950s

**Ronald Betz** (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Northbrook, IL, UI BS Pharm '55, Roosevelt U MPA '96, is a retired pharmacist.

**Carl Edwards** (Jan 1953) married **Alice Taylor** (Jan 1953), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright College, Milwaukee School of Eng, 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, planning the 70 year class reunion for October 2022.

**Roberta (Lockerbie) Fiali** (Jun 1953) has child, 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Kihei Maui, HI, Metropolitan Bus, McHenry Cnty Comm College, is a retired business owner.

**Daniel Rice** (Jun 1953) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Northwestern U BA '57; Drew U PhD '66; USAF Reserve 1958-63, is a retired professor of philosophy and religion at Appalachian U 1958-70 and U Wisconsin EauClaire 1970-98, has published journal articles, a monograph on Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, in addition to two books on Niebuhr and editing and contributing to another.

**Darlene (Morris) Stenstrop** (Jun 1953) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in S Barrington, IL, is a retired secretary.

**Paul Gerhardt** (Jan 1954) married **Barbara Peterson** (Jun 1956), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, U Colorado BA; US Army 3 years, is a retired association director.

**Phyllis (Ruttkey) Verbrugge** (Jan 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Wright Jr College AA, is a retired secretary for a brokerage firm.

**Robert Bebee** (Jun 1954) married **Alice Sarau (deceased)** (Jun 1954), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, lives in Deland, FL, A/D; USAF Reserve 4 years, is a retired accountant.

**Robert Dunworth** (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Egg Harbor, WI, UI BS Acct '59; Chicago Kent College of Law JD '73, is a retired attorney.

**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.

**Barbara (Peterson) Gerhardt** (Jun 1956) married **Paul Gerhardt** (Jan 1954), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, U Colorado, is a retired real estate investor and homemaker.

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

**Virginia (Blum) Schroer** (Jun 1956) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired.

**Robert Philipp** (Jan 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Vienna, VA, UI BA '61, JD '67; US Navy and Navy Reserve 1961-89, is a retired veterans' law judge, wife Mary Ann died in December 2021.

**Claire (Johnson) Schaefer** (Jan 1957) lives in Perrysburg, OH.

**Lynnette (Dickow) Clooney** (Jun 1957) lives in Fox Lake, IL, is a retired purchasing manager.

**Herb Korff** (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Albuquerque, NM, SIU BS Bus Admin, is a retired accountant.

**Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke** (Jun 1957) has 6 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Rockford, IL, Harper College AS '77; Concordia U BA '80, is retired.

**Nancy (Thorson) Scheuler** (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, IL Wesleyan BS '61, is a retired fashion merchandiser.

**Arleen (Galla) Soteras** (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is a retired WWA wrestler, "When I wake up it's a good day".

**Mary Lynne (Marcus) Barris** (Jan 1959) lives in Redlands, CA, WIU BA, is a retired professor.

**Karen (Berg) Sandberg** (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Beaverton, OR, is retired.

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

**Sharon (Carlier) Dompke** (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright College 2 years, is a retired department manager, involved in Boy Scouts, especially Eagle Scouts.

## 1960s

**Edward Gersch** (Jan 1961) has child, lives in Suquamish, WA, IIT BSEE '66; USC MS, is a retired electrical engineer.

**Warren Schimpff** (Jan 1961) married **Jill Wagner** (Jun 1963), lives in Jeffersonville, IN, BS '65, MPH '67, MS '69, PhD Envir Health '71, is a retired chemist (1971-2000) and co-owner of Schimpff's Confectionery established in 1891.

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

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

**Darlene (Bruemmer) Hendricksen** (Jun 1962) married **Robert Hendricksen (deceased)** (Jun 1960), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, NEIU BA Ed '66, is president of R. W. Hendricksen Tree Care, likes to travel, read, garden, and sew.

**Wayne Andersen** (Jun 1963) has 6 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Harvard BA '67; UI JD '70, is a retired district federal judge, mediator and arbitrator, was inducted into the TAA Hall of Fame in 2000.

**Janet (Swanson) Cnota** (Jan 1962) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is retired, has lived in Scottsdale for 41 years.

**Dennis Rasmusson** (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Woodbury, MN, ISU BS; College of St. Thomas MA; USCG Reserve 1964-70, is a retired teacher and part-time hearse driver.

**Phyllis (Sheldon) Wharton** (Jun 1962) has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, BS Ed, MA Spec Ed, is a retired special education teacher, would love to reconnect with classmates after a period of TAA inactivity.

**Ginny (Sutton) Evert** (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

**Jeanette (Olsen) Gilbertson** (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Tampa, FL, NEIU BA '65, is a retired teacher, is active doing people and pet portraits, widowed in 2014, caregiver to a long-time girlfriend.

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

**Anne (Flexman) Warner** (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in York, PA, is a retired RN, Lives on the 17th fairway at a 55+ community.

**Eileen (Orosz) Brulle** (Jun 1963) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, BA, MBA, is a retired accounting manager.

**Donna (Griessmer) Catlett** (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, IL Wesleyan U BFA, is a retired administrative assistant for municipal government, Caleb, her 6th grandchild was born last July.

**Pat Mckevitt** (Jun 1963) lives in St Louis, MO.

**Barbara (Puccinelli) Monstvil** (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 granddogs, lives in Greensboro, GA, NIU, is retired, after relocating, her husband of 56 years died of a massive heart attack.

**Jo (Trefny) Pacheco** (Jun 1963) lives in Lake Havasu City, AZ, NIU BS '67, is a retired buyer for Montgomery Ward's West Coast buying office and system analyst at Rockwell Int'l.

**Jill (Wagner) Schimpff** (Jun 1963) married **Warren Schimpff** (Jan 1961), lives in Jeffersonville, IN, BS '67, MA Sec Educ '68, is a retired ESL teacher at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA, and co-owner/operator of Schimpff's Confectionery established in 1891.

**Ruth Ellen (Frame) Vanreken** (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in Indianapolis, IN, Wheaton College BS, Honorary Doctorate of Letters '19; West Suburban School of Nursing RN, is a writer, speaker, and cross cultural family consultant.

**John Anderson** (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Richmond, CA, Northwestern BSCE '69, MS Civil-Geotech Engr '71, PhD Structural Engr '74, is a civil/geotechnical engineer.

**Judy Lamarche** (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Santa Rosa Beach, FL, UW BA '68, MS Ed '70; USU PhD Psy '84; UA MBA '98, is a neuropsychologist and board of directors chair of LaMarche Mfg.

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

**Judi (Luga) Stephens** (Jun 1965) married **Dennis Stephens** (Jun 1965), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Barrington, IL, UIC BA French Ed '69, Middlebury College MA French '71, is a homemaker.

**Dennis Stephens** (Jun 1965) married **Judi Luga** (Jun 1965), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Barrington, IL, UIC BSEE '69, MSEE '71, is an electronics engineer.

**Lynne Ostfeld** (Jun 1966) lives in Chicago, IL, UI BA, MAT French, John Marshall Law School JD, is a lawyer and legal advisor to the French Consulate.

**William Ott** (Jun 1966) lives in Naperville, IL, MBA; US Air Force 4 years (SSGT) 1968-72, Vietnam, US Navy 30 years, Aviation Machinist Mate – AD2, 1978-80, (Engineering Duty Officer/Special Operations – Captain 1980-08, is retired.

**Tim Coyne** (Jun 1967) married **Mary Gaughan** (Jun 1967), lives in Milford, OH, MS Special Ed, is retired.

**Mary (Gaughan) Coyne** (Jun 1967) married **Timothy Coyne** (Jun 1967), has child, lives in Milford, OH, is retired.

**Deborah (Schwantes) Domes** (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Roselle, IL, is retired.

**Gale Fabisch** (1968) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, SIU, BS Env Engr '73; IIT Env Engr grad studies; US Naval Air 1971-76, is a retired registered professional engineer and active real estate managing broker, enjoys traveling, Austin Healey events, golf and grandchildren.

**Wayne General** (1968) lives in Phoenix, AZ, Florida Inst Tech PhD Clin Psy '80, is a forensic neuropsychologist.

**Nancy Luikaart** (1968) has child, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is a production artist.

**Susan (Heckel) Sieck** (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Shreveport, LA, is a teacher and small business owner.

**Beverly Defouw** (1969) lives in Skokie, IL, is retired.

**Barbara (Musur) Staehle** (1969) has child, lives in Downers Grove, IL, DePaul U BA Fin, is a retired tax manager.

**Paul Tibbits** (1969) has child, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, is retired.

**Doug Ulasz** (1969) lives in Bull Shoals, AR, is handles repairs for an antique store part time.

## 1970s

**Cynthia (Gallaher) Cumpian** (1970) has child, grandchild, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA Art/Arch '74, is a retired advertising writer, became a yoga instructor after retirement, has four published books of poetry.

**Cathy (Moriarty) Duffy** (1970) has child, lives in Merrionette Park, IL, NEIU BA Ed '74, is a retired secondary teacher and university staff.

**Carol (Davies) Skow** (1970) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Summit, IL, is retired.

**Jeffrey Wunderlich** (1970) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Porter, IN, DePaul U MST, CPA, BS, is a CPA.

**Lee Ann (Shellabarger) Murdoch** (1972) has 2 children, grandchild, lives in Racine, WI, WIU BA Sociology/Psychology, is retired.

**Carl Overhuls** (1972) has 2 children, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Wright College AA; RE '76; Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy '77, is a retired real estate broker/investor of 46 years, lives in Luther Village, a retirement community.

**Linda (Vanorum) Andrews** (1973) has 2 children, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Mundelein College BA English '79 ; UIC MSW '06, is a licensed clinical social worker.

**Joe Prill** (1973) lives in Surprise, AZ, is a retired Chicago police officer - bicycle unit (18 1/2 years).

**Cindy (Clay) Crouse** (1975) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Columbia College BS '91, is semi-retired, her home was featured in the 2021 McHenry County Garden Walk.

**Dan Miller** (1976) lives in Sarasota, FL, NEIU BA Acct, is a realtor.

**Linda Kuffel** (1977) lives in Park Ridge, IL, is an executive assistant.

**Richard Bake** (1978) has 2 children, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Bus Mgmt/Econ '83.

**George Miller** (1978) has 2 children, lives in Sarasota, FL, NEIU BS Acct and Fin, is a realtor.

**Caryn Lunsford** (1979) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, masters degree, is in healthcare education.

## 1980s

**Robert Spohnholz** (1980) lives in Elmhurst, IL, NEIU '84, is retired from the printing business.

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## 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.*

## Reminder: TAA Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for the 2022 Taft Alumni Hall of Fame are now being accepted. We are looking for Taft alumni who, through a lifetime of achievement(s) and dedication, exemplify the values we hold dear and will become examples for all current and future Taft students.

Please include your best information, and if possible, consult with the nominee as you prepare it. We must have current contact details for the nominee or a family representative. Deceased alumni may be considered for induction.

The following are highlights of the standing rules for nominations:

1. Nominees should be Taft graduates, living or deceased, who exemplify the best of Taft. Nominations may be submitted by any and all alumni, by family members or by Taft High School faculty, but not directly from the potential inductee.
2. Nominations will be submitted on a standardized official nomination form that will be made available to alumni by the TAA Secretary upon request or available on the TAA website – [www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org).
3. Both present and past directors are eligible to volunteer to serve on the Hall of Fame Evaluation Committee, so long as they, themselves, have not submitted a nomination for the current induction.
4. Nominees will be judged by a point system that will consider:
  - Achievement in scholastic pursuits
  - Achievement in vocational pursuits
  - Contributions to community and country
  - Meritorious recognition of actions, services, or achievements
  - Significant philanthropic involvement
  - Any additional significant considerations
5. The top five scoring nominees will be submitted as the slate for board approval. Inductions take place every three years, thus allowing the Taft student body to be introduced to, and become familiar with, their predecessors' accomplishments at least once during their years at Taft. Submissions in the year of induction will loosely follow the school calendar.
6. Any nominee who is not selected for induction will be eligible for the next induction so long as a new nominating form is submitted with current data.

The deadline for nomination submission is June 15, 2022. Nominations may be mailed to the address found on the form or emailed to [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org).

The Induction Ceremony for Taft Alumni Hall of Fame, class of 2022 is set for this fall. Watch for the exact date, time, and location in an upcoming newsletter and on the Taft Alumni Association Facebook page.

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## Taft Ticker Tape

- At the March 8 LSC meeting, Principal Grishaber announced that there is an expected 70% jump in students registering for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Program classes in the 2022-2023 school year. Those participating in a combination of AP/IB courses may earn college credits.
- The Chicago Board of Education has approved an earlier start to the school year. Classes will begin on August 22 and end earlier than the traditional mid to late June date, putting students on par with suburban schools.
- Jennifer Trejo, Taft art and design teacher, has been selected as a finalist for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- The number of Taft Freshmen who are on track to graduate has risen to 98.1%, an increase of about 11%. Said Principal Grishaber, "This is huge for us. The only schools above us ... by less than one percent ... are Lane and Northside, and they're selective enrollment. We are a neighborhood school." He believes that this outcome is due to the separate Freshman Campus that opened at the beginning of the 2019 school year. The graduation on-track indicator is measured by the number of classes the student is passing or failing.
- When a substitute teacher or other staff member is not available, Taft teachers fill in on a rotating basis during their free periods. This has resulted in fewer occasions when students are sent to the auditorium to work on class assignments. Since the pandemic has subsided, the number of teachers out sick has decreased to nearly half of those who were out sick at the peak.
- Taft now has a 14-seat van that will be used to transport students to games and other events. It will pay for itself in roughly one year through the savings of not having to rent a bus.

# In Memoriam



[www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association](http://www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association)

[www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org)



[www.tafthighschool.org](http://www.tafthighschool.org)



**Marcia M. (Mate) Burgis** of Park Ridge, IL, died on March 24, 2022. She is survived by her husband William Burgis, Class of June 1958. She was a student teacher at Taft in the early 1960s.

**Ruth Agnes (Main) Holtzapple** of Crystal Lake, IL, Class of June 1946, died on April 3, 2022.

**Dorothy Marie (Brewer) Lambert** of Wheaton, IL, Class of January 1947, died on March 16, 2022.

**Marian Kay (Martin) Barkley** of Glenview, IL, Class of January 1950, died on March 13, 2022.

**Arlene Ann (Precht) Timmerman** of Bartlett, IL, Class of June 1952, died on December 1, 2021.

**Shirley Alice (Kuffel) Gil** of Dunedin, FL, Class of June 1956, died on June 28, 2021.

**Dianna (Sowinski) Brown** of McHenry, IL, Class of June 1956, died on March 17, 2022. She is survived by her brother George Sowinski, Class of January 1954.

**Edward David Harris** of College Station, TX, Class of June 1956, died on February 18, 2022.

**Sally Ann (Swanson) Rumps**, Class of January 1958, died in November 2011.

**Marilyn Joy (Markgraf) Levy** of Spring Grove, IL, Class of January 1962, died in November 2021. She is survived by her brothers Rodney Markgraf, Class of January 1959, Robert Markgraf, Class of January 1961, Richard Markgraf, Class of 1979, and by her sisters Rosemary (Markgraf) Baroni, Class of 1969, and Robyn Markgraf, Class of 1980.

**Sylvie Jeanne "Dee" (Cwiklik) Wrzesinski** of Merrill, WI, Class of 1968, died on February 14, 2022.

**Rev. David Christian Paul** of Helena, MT, Class of 1971, died on October 21, 2021. He was a retired missionary.

**Daniel John Drewniak** of Rolling Meadows, IL, Class of 1973, died on August 28, 2010.

**Steven Jeffrey Jancovic** of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on February 14, 2022.

**Frank Paul Banek** of Aurora, IL, Class of 1974, died on January 23, 2022.

**Steven Kiolbasa**, Class of 1978, died on February 14, 2022.

**Todd Wayne Thomsen** of Lexington, KY, Class of 1982, died on March 2, 2022

**Victor Xenos** of Tombstone, AZ, Class of 1980, died on December 16, 2021.

**John J Karellas** of Chicago, IL, Class of 1987, died on July 18, 2019. He is survived by his brother Louis Karellas, Class of 1986.

**Suzanne (Schumann) Gavars** of Barrington, IL, Class of 1987, died on February 12, 2016.

**Joseph Frederic Welk**, Class of 1987, died in December 2017.

## 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 [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org) or write to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185.

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## Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium Only	\$25.00	\$
	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	\$17.50	\$
	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	\$
<b>Shipping and Handling: Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$8.00</b>				\$
<i>Total Remitted</i>				\$
<i>Name (please print):</i>		<i>Grad Month/Year:</i>		
<i>Address:</i>				
<i>City/State/ZIP:</i>		<i>Phone: (     )</i>		
<b>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.</b>				

*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**

*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address		<b>List in Email Directory</b> <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"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>

**About Your Taft Graduate Spouse**

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
Primary Phone	Email Address		<b>List in Email Directory</b> <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"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>
Enclosed is a check or money order for:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 <b>2-year single membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <b>2-year alumni couples' membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Donation in the amount of \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>online</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>by mail</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send <b>both</b> 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
John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	Jim Kepner	1961	Director
Wayne Schimpff	1959	Second Vice President	Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director
Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly	1978	Secretary	Paul Madsen	1971	Director
Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	Editor			
Kevin Krieger	1973	Webmaster	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 [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

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