Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXIX, No. 2 **Spring 2023**

‘Grease’ at The Pickwick Theatre

Reported by Anne Lunde in Journal & Topics, February 24, 2023.

The Pickwick Theatre’s latest deadline for being transferred to a new tenant operator on April 1 gave Matthew Hoffman, who hosts the Pickwick Theatre Classic Film series, two extra dates to schedule his shows on the mega screen in the 900-seat original Art Deco main theatre, located at 5 S. Prospect Ave.

With less than three weeks’ notice, he arranged to show the movie version of “Grease,” based on the stage musical written by Jim Jacobs and the late Warren Casey. The original 1971 stage show drew from Jacobs’ own experience as a “greaser” and hanging out with their girlfriends, the Pink Ladies, when he attended Taft High School in the class of 1960. It was revised for its Broadway debut in 1972, and when it closed in1980, held the Broadway record as the longest running musical at that time. It still ranks as the 16th longest Broadway show.

“Grease” would be revived in 1994 and 2007 and restaged after a television series auditioned cast members. International productions have been especially popular in London’s West End.

While film producer Alan Carr shifted the setting to California for the 1978 film, adding several new songs and character changes, the popularity of the film has kept new stage productions going for many years. This is the film’s 45th anniversary; there was a “Grease 2” sequel at the California school setting.

These are memorabilia from the 1983 production at Taft, the first high school production authorized after “Grease” closed its first run on Broadway. (Photos courtesy of Matthew Hoffman/Pickwick Film Classics)

In 1983, Taft High School’s drama department got permission to perform the first high school production of “Grease,” and Jacobs came to Taft to meet the cast and crew, reminisce about his own years at Garvy School and Taft, and watch a few scenes at a rehearsal. Laura Jensen Muresan, from the original Taft 1983 cast, brought memorabilia from that production and talked about Jacobs’ visit.

Laura (Jensen) Muresan, Class of ’84 and cast member in Taft’s first production of “Grease” is greeted by Pickwick Classics host Matthew Hoffman.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Park Ridge Chamber President Steve Judge (right) presented the chamber’s Lifetime Achievement Award to John Prochaska, June ’61 alumnus and TAA Vice President, who has been a leader in the Park Ridge Legion Post for 50 years and organized the Memorial Day parades for 45 years.

Chicago All-Class Picnic
Date: Saturday August 20, 2022, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Location: Schiller Woods Grove #4
Facebook Page: Taft High School Alumni

Arizona All-Class Picnic
Date: Late October 2023 (TBD)
New Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Patio, 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375
Contact: Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com), Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com)
Detail: $5 per person (includes raffle ticket), bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA baseball cap raffle. Families welcome.

So-Cal All-Class Get-Together
Date: Saturday September 9, 2023, Noon – 4:00 pm
Location: "House of Savage"**,** 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA
Details: $10 (pizza and pop), bring a dish to share and BYOB.
Contact: Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhellokitty@hotmail.com)

Taft Class of 1968 55 Year Reunion
Date: September 30, 2023
Location: Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights IL
Details: 2pm - Appetizers, socializing, cocktails (cash bar)
3pm - Group photo
4pm **–** Dinner (please select your dinner choice)
Lemon Chicken, vegetable & potato - $80/per person
Braised Short Ribs, vegetable & potato - $85/per person
Vegetarian – Quinoa with Roasted Vegetables - $80/per person
Dessert, coffee, tea, water included.
Contact: Carolyn (Sykes) Toerpe (carolyn.toerpe@gmail.com), 527 Grimes Ave, Naperville IL 60565 or Nancy Warzecha (nancywarz@sbcglobal.net), 2065 Plainfield Dr, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Reply by August 30, 2023**;** check payable to either Carolyn or Nancy.

Taft Class of 1970 50 Year Reunion
Date: Rescheduled for Saturday, July 29, 2023
Location: Gaslight Club, Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel
Contact: Lynn (Halicki) Arnold (lynn.arnold@delkoconstruction.com)
Website: https://1970taftreunion.com

Taft Class of 1973 50 Year Reunion
Date: Taft Tour Friday, September 8, 2023
Reunion Evening Saturday, September 9, 2023
Class Picnic, Sunday, September 10, 2023
Location: Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N Prospect Ave
Tickets: $90 before August 4th / $100 after
Contact: Bob Schmidt (robert.schmidt55@att.net) or Jill (Mason) Hawkes (gordonjill@aol.com)
Facebook: 1973 Taft Grads 50th Reunion

Taft Class of 1974 50 Year Reunion
Watch this space!

1973 Football Reunion Fundraiser

Class of 1973 football family and guests getting a taste of their upcoming 50 Year Reunion.

Messages from our Members

One of the best presents I received for my 92nd birthday was the Taft newsletter. It's great to read about the successful, high-flying Eagles in the various professions and other careers, not to forget homemakers. Thanks for your great work keeping the newsletter going all these years. As an aside, I read Richard Sienkiewicz's letter. He was "a" catcher on the 1949 championship baseball team, not "the" catcher…I was the other one.

Marv Weber, Jun '49

Hi to everyone! Thanks for all you do to keep all Taft alumni informed on all the latest Taft happenings! Last October our class of January 1953 had our 70th Reunion as reported in the winter newsletter. We all had a great time, and the three hours went by quickly. We are still very active traveling after a three-year layoff for the Covid problem. We still spend winters in Utah where the snow is world class. After ski season we return to Long Island, NY, stopping in Chicago to visit son Jay, Sara and our two grandchildren. Sister Jan Rebscher (Jan '54) lives in Northbrook, so we see her, too. We spend time in NY playing golf and with Susan's clan boating and attending many family get togethers. Thanks again.

H. Paul Rebscher Jan '53

Thank you to all that keeps this newsletter going!
Sheryl (Schmidt) Pierce 1971

We enjoy reading the Alumni newsletter.
Conrad Stoll, Jun '61
Janet (Knoll) Stoll, Jun '62

Thank you, Board of Directors, for all you do to keep our alumni group up and running!
Janet (Anderson) Mills, Jan '53

We celebrated our 91st birthdays in July. We are all about three days apart. The three of us went from 1st to 8th grades at Farnworth School and 1 to 4 at Taft. I enjoy the newsletter so keep it coming. Thank you.
Carmella (Walsh) Patke Jun '49

June '49 classmates Carmella (Walsh) Patke, Vivian (Kulczak), and Jessie (Douglas) Usdrowski

TAA Scholarships

This year, TAA will be awarding three scholarships of $1500 each to three deserving Taft seniors. We know that a college education has become very costly and can deter students from pursuing a degree.

You can help by donating to the TAA scholarship fund. Every donation, of any amount, helps qualified and deserving Taft students reach their goals. Please consider a tax-deductible donation when renewing your TAA membership or by mailing a donation to *Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185.*

Spotlight on Kyra Vidas

TAA scholarship recipient Kyra Vidas, Class of 2014, is making a name for herself in the WNBA. While at Taft, Vidas received 23 awards playing softball and basketball. After graduating from Lake Forest College in 2018 with a degree in Business and Communication with a minor in Classical Studies, she joined the Chicago Sky, then the Atlanta Dream as Director of Basketball Operations becoming one of the youngest Directors of Operations in the WNBA. Vidas says she is "currently living my dream working for the NBA Phoenix Suns and WNBA Phoenix Mercury; the best of both worlds!"

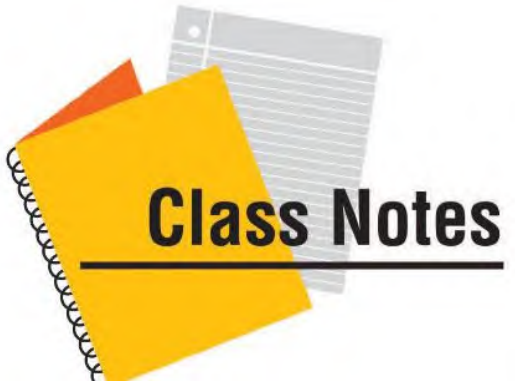
Vidas' parents are former Taft coach Kirk Vidas and Emily Vidas, often involved in Taft activities. Brothers Nicholas (Class of 2010) and George (Class of 2012) were also accomplished Taft athletes.

Harczak Photo Hunt

The Norwood Park Historical Society has been contacted by Aleks Lazic from Harczak Sausage who is looking for snapshots of their business. The shop was on Higgins near Parse's Hot Dogs. They are reaching out to people who grew up in the Taft area, maybe friends hanging out together with the shop across the street or down the block. Dig out those albums and let Aleks know if you have any photos. Contact him at 773-631-8400. Thanks!

Nostalgia or Nightmare?

Whether sporting the nifty green model or the blue, with bloomers or the "modern" version with shorts, no female alumna would look back at wearing her gym suit with fondness. (Don't forget to whiten those gym shoes, either.)



1940s

Betty (Klimek) Mack (Jan 1942) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, lives in Omaha, NE, is retired, had been married for 75 years before husband died.

1950s

Janet (Anderson) Mills (Jan 1953) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Lilburn, GA, Iowa St U BS '57, ISU El Ed Cert '69, is a retired teacher for Montgomery Co MD Public Schools.

Paul Rebscher (Jan 1953) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Moriches, NY, Beloit College 1 year; US Navy 1955-57, is a retired Flying Tiger Airline pilot.

Arlene (Rogowski) Warner (Jun 1953) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is retired.

Rich Albrecht (Jun 1953) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Glen Allen, VA, Beloit College BA; Lt. N.G. US Navy, is the retired CEO of Federated Foods.

Bette (Oliver) Kash (Jan 1954) has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Wright Jr College '56; Bradley U, is a retired wife, mother, grandmother and bank teller, still has fun seeing friends from high school.

Gregory Jaeger (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Northwestern U BSBA Bus Adm; US Army Counterintelligence Group Germany 1960-62, is a retired general manager of multiple corporations.

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

Margie (Nugent) Claeson (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Inverness, IL, IU Edu major 2 years, is the retired co-owner of a rep. business.

Alan Avery (Jan 1955) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired electrician.

Gayle (Schroeder) Meisner (Jun 1955) married **Wallie Meisner, deceased (Jan 1954)**, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, lives in Sun City, AZ, Madison General School of Nursing, is a retired RN.

Ronald Gottfred (Jun 1955) has 4 children, 15 grandchildren, 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.

Mary (Murphy) Richards (Jan 1956) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 6 great great grandchildren, lives in Pana, IL, is the retired 25-year owner/operator of Richards Alamo Service in Rosemont, IL.

Paul Neuhauser (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Franklin, TN, UI BS Bus '60, DePaul U MBA '67, US Army (Active and Reserves) 1960-1966, is a retired supervisory special agent for IRS criminal investigations, happy in Tennessee, great climate, great state.

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, celebrated 55 years of marriage.

Leon Kathan (Jun 1956) has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, lives in Sebring, FL, Triton College AA '73; FSU MSW '76; USMC 1955-62, is retired.

Roland Carlson (Jan 1957) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Maple Plain, MN, U MN BA '62, is a retired farm manager, fly fishing for trout is his avocation.

Diane (Prosser) Degrenier (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, lives in Cary, IL, college 2 years, is retired from sales, needs a new dance partner.

Judith (Edfeldt) Hartman (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is retired from clerical work.

Ron Knoll (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, lives in Algonquin, IL, IIT BSEE '65, is a retired engineer, still doing radio shows (blues) at Rhinelander WI Public Radio 91.7 FM.

William Berquist (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired.

Diane (Miller) Falk (Jan 1959) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Mays Landing, NJ, U Chicago BA Psych, MA Eng, U PA MSW, Rutgers U PhD, is a retired Professor Emerita of Social Work, volunteers for Real Partners Uganda and Friends of Jean Webster.

1960s

Carol (Ptak) Dewire (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren (boys), 1 great grandchild (boy), lives in Punta Gorda, FL, UI Navy Pier 2 years, is a retired administrative assistant, expecting her second great grandchild (a girl!).

James Nierman (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL, AA; US Army 6 years, is a retired data processing manager.

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; U Oregon Medical School post doc, is Professor Emeritus at University of Iowa.

Arthur Helt (Jun 1961) has 7 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in The Villages, FL, is a semi-retired industrial consultant.

Conrad Stoll (Jun 1961) married **Janet Knoll (Jun 1962)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Wheaton, IL, AS '63, BS '66, OD '67, is a retired optometrist.

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

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

Janet (Knoll) Stoll (Jun 1962) married **Conrad Stoll (Jun 1961)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Wheaton, IL, is a retired office manager.

Mae Beth (Frame) Williams (Jun 1962) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, lives in Columbia, MD, Wheaton College BA, is a retired teacher, office manager, and mother.

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

Susan Schmid (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Downers Grove, IL, is retired, attended Taft for three years, graduated from Maine Township HS.

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

Dlorah (Rud) Hayden (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, is retired.

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

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

Gary Andersen (Jun 1966) lives in Palatine, IL, NEIU BA '77; USMC 1968-69 with 4 combat citations, is a retired transportation manager, married his great wife at the age of 46.

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

Holly (Gundlach) Mihalovich (Jan 1967) lives in Denver, NC, is retired.

Judith Bock (Jan 1967) lives in Grayslake, IL, NEIU BA Elem Ed, MS Geo and Env Studies, GIS Certificate, certification GIS Education, is a semi-retired educator and part-time director of online geospatial programs for Elmhurst University, enjoyed latest two adventures--a 3-week RV trip to Glacier Nat'l Park and a 2-week expedition to Antarctica.

Bob Royce (Jun 1967) married **Barbara Mac (1968)**, has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Schaumburg, IL, US Army, Vietnam 1969-70, is retired from Illinois Bell/SBC/AT&T, active in disaster response, volunteered with Blitz (deceased) his comfort dog for many years.

Glenn Jensen (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 11 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Sycamore, IL, Submariner US Navy 1970-75, is a retired computer tech.

Janice (Fusick) Glure (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

Pam (Schaller) Chapman (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hampshire, IL, Wright College AA; NIU BS, MS MIS, is a retired community college professor.

Paulette (Zemaitis) English (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 4 stepchildren, 2 step grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Cottonwood, AZ, NEIU 1967-71, IU BGS '02, is retired from quality management.

Penny (Coughlin) Fluger (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Little Rock, AR, SIU BS, MS Educ, is a retired teacher.
Thomas Lorenz (Jun 1967) has 1 child, lives in Wheeling, IL, US Army 2 years, is retired.
Barbara (Mac) Royce (1968) married **Robert Royce (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Schaumburg, IL, Dominican U MS Library Science, is a retired librarian, active in the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Meals on Wheels, and Lutheran Early Response Team.
Carolyn (Sykes) Toerpe (1968) has 1 child, 5 grandchildren, lives in Naperville, IL, BA Speech Therapy, MA HS Guidance and Counseling, is a retired middle school teacher and high school counselor, is the co-chair of the upcoming 55 year reunion.
Gail (Galla) Nehrig (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Wappingers Falls, NY, BS Elem Educ, is retired, moved from the Colorado mountains to New York to be closer to the kids in NYC, but enjoys their new community.
Mary (Gorski) Casper (1968) lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.
Melody Childs (1971) lives in Sandia Park, NM, NEIU BS '75; UIU MS Microbiology '77; UNM BSN '89, is a retired RN and microbiologist.

1970s

Roger Slaboch (1971) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Sacramento, CA, Monmouth College BA Bus Admin '75; UC Davis certified credit executive, is a retired director of credit services.
Sheryl (Schmidt) Pierce (1971) lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, Wright Jr College, is a retired administrative assistant, remarks it was a great 50th reunion in September 2022.
Bob Friel (1972) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is an electrician.
Jim Nelson (1973) lives in Chicago, IL, Trinity College BA '77; UIC MS '83, is retired after 35 years as teacher and coach at Lake Park HS in Roselle.
Marti Szramek (1973) has 1 child, lives in Naples, FL, U Albany BS Soc Sci, is a retired court clerk.
Suzanne (Kulak) Guiglio (1973) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Danville, IL, is retired.
Walter Kiska (1974) has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Roselle, IL, is an OTR feeder driver for UPS.
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 consulting actuary, FSA for Hewitt Assoc., and Aon Hewitt.
Gail Uhlar-Murray (1976) has 2 children, lives in Sylmar, CA, Drake U BA Journ/Comm '81; Assoc. of Nat'l Advertisers (ANA) CE certificates, is a director of business affairs for a NY advertising agency specializing in advertising production and talent business management.
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.
Donna (Stanley) Persino (1979) married **Thomas Persino, deceased (1974)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, Associate Degree, is retired.

Taft Ticker Tape

- Parents were notified on Monday, March 6 about a potential threat made against the school by a student which authorities deemed 'non-credible.' An update followed on Wednesday upon news that students intended to protest over gun safety concerns. On Thursday morning, about 250 students walked out during 5th period. Classes were conducted as usual, but the video shown on some media outlets was misleading, having shown students leaving the school at the end of the day, not for the walkout. Officials with Taft say they will reinforce the screening of students before they enter the school and will listen to students about their concerns.
- Taft is among the five largest schools in Illinois with an enrollment of 4,250. The school will be hiring an admissions director to plan open houses for prospective students, promote Taft's academic program, and maintain good relationships with Taft's 20 feeder schools.
- Cadets of the NJROTC were recently given the opportunity to study various occupations and STEM related career fields in the Navy. They visited Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Mayport Naval Station, Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, and Universal Studios.

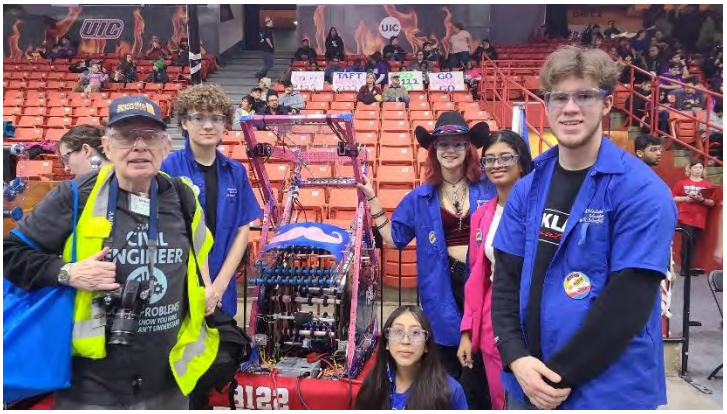
Eagleemail Failsafe

We've all experienced the dreaded words: "Due to technical difficulties…" On occasion, we've had trouble with our email address eagleemail@taftalumni.org. While we are assessing our options and solutions, we've created an alternate address for your use, should you feel a message has gone unanswered. Please feel free to use eagleemail39@gmail.com at any time.

Mechanical Mustaches

Students from seven different Chicago Public Schools, including Taft, competed in the biggest robotic competition in the Midwest. The floor of the stadium at Credit Union 1 Arena was filled with judges, refs and many students from neighboring Canada and all the way from Turkey and South Africa. TAA Hall of Famer Bob Johnson (Jan '65) reported on the exciting events:

Are you aware TAFT now has a F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team?
https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/
I spent two days observing-witnessing what I call Chicago's version of "March Madness". You can watch TV reporting:
https://wgntv.com/.../cps-students-compete-in-midwest.../
TAFT Team interviewed:
https://www.nbcchicago.com/.../students-compete.../3092021/
https://www.cbsnews.com/.../midwest-regional-first.../



When the team was formed the team was called the "ROBOTIC EAGLES", but since there were several teams using "EAGLES" they decided to rebrand as the "MECHANICAL MUSTACHES". Taft had a handlebar mustache.
The TAFT team did quite well being selected to join one of the top 8 teams in the final's competition play. There are three robots to a team.
TAFT did receive special recognition receiving the "IMAGERY AWARD".

Norwood Park Historical Society Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Noble-Seymour-Crippen Home at 5624 N. Newark Ave. is the home of the Norwood Park Historical Society, which is celebrating 50 years this year. *(Photo by Brendan Heneghan)*

Age of Progression

Bald Eagle appearance as it matures.
Image courtesy of Avian Report

A Bald Eagle's growth is not unlike that of a Taft student, from the fledgling's grades of 7 and 8 through the senior year. Scheduled to graduate on Sunday, May 28, 2023, are 978 Taft seniors, fully fledged Eagles ready to spread their wings.

Taft Trivia

Asked by Lee Nega (1969): In what year were Taft students required to pay a parking fee at the school? If you know the answer, sent it to eagleemail@taftalumni.org or to eagleemail39@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Rose Bressler of Arizona died in April 2023. She taught Physical Education in the 70s and 80s, served as girls PE department head, and coached cheerleading for many years.

Julianne Ida (Stamer) Hollander of Punta Gorda, FL, Class of January 1947, died on January 2, 2023.

Leonard James Hamachek of Rockford, IL, Class of June 1949, died on April 5, 2023.

John Charles Koepke of Mill Valley, CA, Class of June 1950, died on December 20, 2022.

Marjorie Ann (Jacobs) DeFries of Boulder, CO, Class of June 1952, died on December 31, 2022.

Neil David Frumkin of El Cahon, CA, Class of June 1956, died on March 29, 2023.

Chester Walter Kowalski of Norfolk, AR, Class of June 1956, died on February 9, 2023.

Edward Harry Mindak of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1957, died on February 14, 2011. He is survived by his sister Phyllis Mindak, Class of June 1959, and his brother Gerald Mindak, Class of June 1957. He was preceded in death by his brother Edward Mindak, Class of June 1957, and his sister Darlene (Mindak) Andres, Class of June 1963.

Darlene J. (Mindak) Andres of Hoffman Estates, IL, Class of June 1963, died on December 3, 2022. She is survived by her sister Phyllis Mindak, Class of June 1959, and her brother Gerald Mindak, Class of June 1957. She was preceded in death by her brother Edward Mindak, Class of June 1957.

Janice Susan (Guetzlaff) Bosco of Burlington, WI, Class of June 1963, died on March 31, 2022.

Sandra Lee (VanVoorhees) Brovold of St. Peter, MN, Class of June 1965, died on February 19, 2023.A1`QS1 QWASZX

Barbara May (Reid) Stepp of Columbus, OH, Class of June 1966, died on January 15, 2023. She is survived by her sister Lynn (Reid) Plummer, Class of June 1967.

Thomas William Krettler of Hoffman Estates, IL, Class of 1969, died on January 19, 2023.

Theodore "Ted" Szramek of Las Vegas, NV, Class of 1970, died on March 3, 2022. He is survived by his sister Marti Szramek, Class of 1973.

Walter Miller Jr. of South Elgin, IL, Class of 1974, died on January 17, 2023. He is survived by his sisters Christine (Miller) Tokarski, Barbara (Miller) Selzer, Class of 1976, and brother Brian Miller, Class of 1976.

Thomas Persino of DesPlaines, IL, Class of 1974, died on October 16, 2021. He is survived by his wife Donna (Stanley) Persino, Class of 1978.

Linda C. (Nelson) Berger of Katy, TX, Class of 1977, died on May 13, 2016.

Facebook: Taft Alumni Association of Chicago

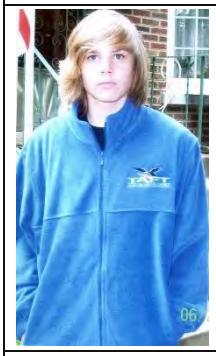
www.taftalumni.org

www.tafthighschool.org

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 Official Merchandise

Item	Size	Qty	Price Ea.	S&H Ea.	Total
Windbreaker, nylon with drawstring bottom printed with TAA logo	Large		$25.00	$ 6.00	$
	X- Large		$25.00	$ 6.00	$
	XX- Large		$25.00	$ 6.00	$
	XXX- Large		$25.00	$ 6.00	$
Baseball Cap embroidered Taft Alumni logo with eagle	One Size Fits All		$20.00	$ 3.00	$
Bumper Sticker "You Can't Hide That Eagle Pride"	----	Temporarily Out of Stock	$ 3.00	$ 1.00	$
	Medium		$10.00	$ 4.00	$
T-Shirt, gray cotton printed with TAA logo	Large		$14.00	$ 4.00	$
	X- Large		$14.00	$ 4.00	$
	XX- Large		$15.00	$ 5.00	$
	XXX- Large		$15.00	$ 6.00	$
 **Fleece Jacket** with embroidered Taft Alumni logo	Medium		$55.00	$ 8.00	$
	Large		$55.00	$ 8.00	$
	X- Large	Temporarily Out of Stock	$55.00	$ 8.00	$
	XX- Large		$55.00	$ 8.00	$
				Total Remitted	**$**

Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.

Print 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

Taft Alumni Association

Membership Application or Renewal

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 ☐ **My information has not changed** ☐ **Do not publish my information in Class Notes**

*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address	**List in Email Directory?** ☐ Yes ☐ No	
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?			

About Your Taft Graduate Spouse

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
Primary Phone	Email Address	**List in Email Directory?** ☐ Yes ☐ No	
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?			

Your Membership Choices

Send Newsletter ☐ Online ☐ By mail ☐ Both online and by mail

TAA Use Only

☐ **$15 (**2-year individual) ☐ **$20** (2-year Taft alumni couples) ☐ Donation $ _____ **Total Remitted $** _____

☐ **Mail a check** ☐ **Online bill-pay through your bank:** Note your graduation name and year in the comments

Remit 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 or eagleemail39@gmail.com

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

TAFT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION