



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVI No. 2

Summer 1997

## WELCOME TAFT CLASS OF 1997

Congratulations to the graduating class of 1997! You are now part of a special group of men and women known as alumni of Taft High School.

The purpose of the Taft Alumni Association is to provide means for Taft alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, provide service to the school and most importantly to preserve its history. We publish a newsletter four times a year to let you know what other alumni are doing, keep you informed of activities affecting the Taft community and to invite you to special events at Taft.

As you continue your education, work a full-time job, or get married, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name or address and what you have been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion five or ten years from now.

An application form to join the Association is on the last page of this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10 - which covers two years of membership. Considering the rising costs of printing and postage of these newsletters, that's a pretty nice bargain! Best of luck to you. Hold your head high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

## WHY PAY DUES?

The Taft Alumni Association is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who continue to hold a special attachment to Taft, even years after graduation. The membership dues are used to cover costs of maintaining alumni records, publishing quarterly newsletters and coordinating reunion plans. We endeavor to furnish an annual scholarship to a deserving senior financed through special donations. Through membership dues, fund raisers and donations, we occasionally sponsor productions at Taft to encourage continuing interest in the drama department. Some more recent efforts are "Mame" (1991), "Play On" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (1992), and "The Dining Room" (1993). A special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus and specially written play was performed by Taft students in 1994. Also, we have provided funds for buying hats and

overlays for the marching band and a laser printer for the journalism department.

It is an advantage to have your name listed in our alumni file, so it will be available for a class reunion when one of your class members (or even you!) decide to probe such a possibility. With Alumni Association guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange.

Membership dues to become a member of the Taft Alumni Association is \$10, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumni, so why do I need a "membership card"?

As "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in the area. It is a fact that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which few other high schools can compare. We got our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. Non-paying Taftites reading this are invited and encouraged to join the 3,500 supporting Eagles. We've held this cost down for quite a while now, and hope to continue to provide the best service for the lowest cost possible to allow more alumni to continue to participate.

We go forward with pride and determination. Helping where needed, the Association works closely with the PTA and Local School Council. Your financial aid will strengthen our treasury and give additional confidence to our alumni volunteers.

You were an Eagle in high school. Now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life!

## RECORD SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Based on all the scholarship applications received this year from graduating seniors, TAA Board Members had to make a tough decision. In reviewing the applications, many deserving and qualified entries were studied and evaluated. After much deliberation, it was decided to award not one, but three scholarships this year. We felt they were all worthy of the honor and would use the funds

*See Awards, page 2*

## AWARDS *Continued from page 1*

wisely. They exhibited excellent abilities to juggle their academic, social and community service skills to the highest levels. They were equally worthy to earn the award.

This year, **Heather M. Hughes, Philip C. Peter and Magdalin C. Peter** each were awarded full Taft Alumni Association Scholarships at the Senior Assembly on June 4, 1997 in the Taft auditorium by TAA President, Kay Kuciak. Heather's goal is to teach deaf children as a high school history teacher. Philip will major in engineering/medicine and his sister, Magdalin plans to become a chemical engineer. We congratulate them all and wish them the best in their continuing education. We hope they will keep in touch and let us know how things go down the line.

## NJROTC CITY WIDE PARADE

The first public presentation of the newly formed Taft Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps occurred May 8, 1997 during the annual Chicago City Wide NJROTC Parade/Pass-In-Review held near Buckingham Fountain in downtown Chicago. Under the leadership of **Jon R. Christenson, CDR, USN (Retired)**, they practiced for this honor of annual inspection. Although they did not receive grade points for this initial review, they looked really good.

In addition to this parade, our NJROTC unit marched in the Norwood Park Memorial Day Parade as the Color Guard, along with our President, Kay Kuciak.

## WANTED ! 1958 GRADUATES

We have some interest in planning a 40th year reunion for the class of 1958. If you want to become involved, please contact **Barbara Stewart** at (773)775-7428 right away!

Standing left to right: **Judy (Stendahl) Theisen** (June, 1957); **Sue (Goetz) Aldous** (June, 1957); **Lynn Knudtsen** (June, 1957); **Judy (Nelson) Ferguson** (June, 1957); **Nancy (Swanson) Vanselow** (June, 1957); **Marilyn (Lane) Kellerman** (January, 1957); **Nancie (Sedor) White** (June, 1957). Seated Left to right: **Janet (Zei) Behnke** (June, 1957); **Judy (Olson) Subach** (January, 1957) **Lois (Schmidt) Reiger** (January, 1957) and **Pat (Schumacher) Plath** (June, 1957).



## CLASS REUNIONS

### CLASS OF JANUARY 1946

Date: November 3-6, 1997  
Place: Carnival Cruise Ship  
Contact: **Barbara Loeschen** -  
1822 Coquina Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34231

### CLASS OF JANUARY/JUNE, 1948

Date: Plans for 1998  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Frank Heyer**- 773/631-4701

### CLASS OF JANUARY/JUNE, 1953

Date: May 16, 1998  
Place: Marriott O'Hare  
Contact: **Fran Hughes** - 847/698-5475

### CLASS OF 1977

Date: October 18, 1997  
Place: Rosemont Convention Center  
Contact: Reunions, LTD - 847/229-1123

### NORWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL - CLASSES 1927-1950

Date: September 12, 1997 - Noon Buffet  
Place: Lone Tree Restaurant, Niles, IL  
Contact: **Nina (Christensen) Hansen (1937)**  
773/282-3910

## WE'RE GOING TO DISNEY WORLD !

A group of Taft High Alumni got together at the Boardwalk Hotel in Disney World, Orlando, Florida last October, and what a great time we had. All members of the Alpha Gammas - we even had one member who was a Pink Lady for a short time - we're not telling who it was. We are planning on doing this again in a couple of years and hope that those that missed the fun this time can join us next time.

For now we are all looking forward to getting together at a class reunion this year (hopefully someone from the class of June, 1957 is getting one put together).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Kay,

I certainly enjoyed the Spring Taft Alumni Newsletter. Your Staff is going a great job!

Especially interesting was **Ken Kaitschuck's** letter. I don't know Chuck, but he sure revived a lot of memories with his walk around Norwood Park and Edison Park. I lived 12 years in Edison Park and 7 years in Norwood Park. Me brothers and I used to hike along the RR track to the Saturday matinees at the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. My Mother, **May Holiday** was the librarian in Edison Park until 1945.

I had a semester at Schurz the Spring of 1939 and in the Fall began attending Taft when it first opened. I remember that my folks went to Florida and I stayed behind so I wouldn't miss a day at Taft, but the seats weren't in the classrooms and all we did was stand around for roll call, then return home the first few days.

I have often wondered what my musical classmates are doing now. Although I didn't pursue a career in music, I stayed with the piano and am currently teaching it as well as the organ, and am church organist. I know that **Bill Bornhoeft** played a while with Lawrence Welk's band, but I don't know whether **Bill Schneider** continued with his violin and others who were in Chorus or Band.

We live near Eureka Springs, AR and Branson, MO, both tourist attractions. So if any of my Taft 1943 classmates visit the Ozark Mountains, please look me up.

**Betty (Holiday) Baggus** (Class of January, 1943)  
3800 CR 601  
Green Forest, AR 72638-9148

Dear Kay,

Imagine my surprise and delight (living all the way South in New Lenox) when Taft HS came down to play my H. S. daughter's football team for the first Playoff Game! I was torn on which side to sit - Taft or Lincoln-Way.

Even though Lincoln-Way ran away with it (I think the score was 49-0), I was so proud of those Taft kids. They never gave up and they lost with grace and stayed good sports throughout the game. Which I cannot say the same for some of the teams Lincoln-Way played.

I do have to say I was disappointed in the lack of turnout by parents and fans from Taft. I realize it's a long way, but the Taft side was EMPTY!! In fact, it looked like the only adults on the Taft side were the bus drivers!

Congrats Taft Football on your success this year! Keep up the good work. Parents: Get out and support your kids - you'd be proud and so would they!

**Melanie (Jozwiak) Bowman** (Class of 1979)

Dear Kay,

I always enjoy reading the Taft Alumni Newsletter. You and your staff are doing a wonderful job.

I attended Taft from January, 1940 - January, 1944. I think I am correct in saying that our class of January, 1944 was held in the Taft Auditorium. Enclosed is a copy of the Commencement Exercises showing the date and location.

**Walter Rogers'** letter (Winter, 1996) indicates that the class of 1946 was first. (I don't think so.) I wonder how many other January, 1944 grads noticed his letter??? Thanks for listening.

**Genevieve (Jewell) Hanneman** (Class of January, 1944) Redding, CA

*[Editor's note: Thanks for this copy. We will add to our archives as well as double-check the 139 names with our records. J. Bloom]*

Dear Kay,

I am responding to **Walt Rogers'** letter regarding his attendance at the 50th reunion last May. He said "no class had ever been so small and they had the honor of graduating in the Taft assembly hall."

How small was his Jan 1946 class? We graduated in January, 1944 with a class of 139 and had our commencement in the Taft assembly hall. To my knowledge, we were the first class to go through four years and graduate at Taft.

In 1940, some of the class rooms had only chairs, no desks, yet - we grew up with the school and the teachers and loved every minute of it - believe it or not!

There were many of us who graduated from Farnsworth in January, 1940 and went to Taft until January, 1944 when we graduated in Taft. Someone correct me if I am wrong.

Thank you for your wonderful Newsletter. I appreciate your forwarding it to me when we're in Florida for part of the winter. Enclosed is my check to cover your cost of mailing it the extra distance.

**Dolores Anderson Johnson** (Class of January, 1944) Elk Grove Village, IL

Dear Kay:

Caryl and I have enjoyed your Taft Alumni Newsletter immensely and are looking forward to my class

reunion (50th) in July. Enclosed are both our fees for the next two year membership and to defray newsletter cost.

**Walt Kosmen's** letter to you reminded me of another Taft dance band that followed the ModernAirs through 1947 and played basically the same type of music (a la Glen Miller) at Taft dances et al - called THE DUKES OF RHYTHM.

Although my memory is not as good as Walt's (probably because I joined the band in its last year -

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## Letters Continued from page 3.

not age of course), enclosed is a photo of THE DUKES. Gad - we looked young.

These were really great times and hopefully some

of these "DUKES" (of whom I haven't seen for 25 to 50 years) will be at the reunion or will write.

Cordially and keep up the good work.

**Walt Stecher** (Class of 1947) Tarpon Springs, FL



The Dukes (left to right): **Dick Valasic**-piano (*Shirley Huntman Taylor* preceded him), **Dick Tomlinson**-Sax, **Bob Thiel**-Trumpet, **Bob Wilson**-Sax, **Dick Rogers**-Trumpet, **Bud Finngar**-Trumpet, **Larry Giunchigliani**-Drums, **Bob Ploetz**-String Bass, **Chuck Dappert**-Sax and Leader, (Sorry, Can't remember his name)-Trombone, **Bill Mathews**-Alto Sax, **Dick Broad**-Trombone, **Walt Stecher**-Vocalist.

Dear Kay,

At the last Taft Hi graduation, June 1996, I was called out of the audience along with my former classmate, **Norma (Christensen) Thoren** (January, 1946) to present a diploma to our grandson **Irvin Louis Kaage IV**. This was done because it was 50 years in between! Norma and her husband **Kent Thoren** (June 1944) have a daughter **Laurel** (June 1969) who married my son **Irvin Louis Kaage III** (same class). It was their son that we had the honor and privilege of bestowing his diploma. I think this is something hard to be broken or duplicated. My wife **Muriel (Planz) Kaage** was a Palatine Pirate (June 1947) alas. (We all can't be Taft Eagles)

By the way, if anyone can figure out MY father's name they can pick up a FREE newspaper at Kaage's Korner.

Also a record (?) all Irvin's were born in the month of February!

**Irvin Louis Kaage, Jr.** (Class of January 1946) Edison Park (Chicago), IL

Dear Kay,

I just received a copy of the newsletter and just wanted to thank you. I always look forward to each new issue.

For the past six months I have been serving in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. Zagreb, Sarajevo, Tuzla were names of places you heard on the news and seemed so far away a year or two ago. Now, they are a frequent over night stop. I'm here with a group of five pilots, one of many reservists called to active duty. Just like to let you know that the newsletter is a great morale booster. So keep up the good work.

**Mark Kaminski**, Captain, US Army (Class of 1984)

Kay,

How are things going in Chicago? I'll send you \$\$\$ to renew my subscription when I'm all settled. I'm doing great and WOW am I glad that the Alumni Association of Taft High School exist. I show all of my friends the newsletter. Naturally I miss everything about Taft and hope to make you all proud; someday when performing on Broadway.

Love ya bunches, **Greg Marlow** (Class of 1993)

[Editor's note: Greg was TAA scholarship winner in 1993 and got his feet wet in drama with the Taft drama department. J. Bloom]

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# CLASS NOTES

Summer 1987

## 1940s

MARGOT ROSEBERG (JUNE 1941) lives in Des Plaines, IL and has 2 children.  
 RICHARD LEWIS (JANUARY 1942) lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children and is a retired printer.  
 BETTY (LEAKS) STEWART (JANUARY 1942) graduated from North Park 1945, lives in C. Ingram Falls, OH, has 3 children and 3 grandchildren and is a receptionist.  
 THOMAS (GORSKI) KRISANE (JUNE 1942) lives in Hiles, IL, has 4 children and 7 grandchildren and is a housewife.  
 ELIZABETH (HOLSHAY) BORGIS (JANUARY 1943) lives in Green Forest, AR, has 2 children and 6 grandchildren and is retired, now teaching piano and a church organist.  
 ROBERT SMITH (JANUARY 1943) graduated from Northwestern BS 1948, lives in Holiday, FL, has 2 children and is retired.  
 JAMES HORNBY (JUNE 1943) graduated from Kew-Forest Poly Inst BS 1947, PhD 1948, Clarkson CMET 1953, lives in Somerville, MA, has 4 children and is retired.  
 E. ANN (SMITH) JOYCE (JUNE 1943) lives in Dundee, IL and has 1 child.  
 WALTER HUMPHREY (JANUARY 1945) graduated from Northwestern BS 1950, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and 4 grandchildren and is a retired plant manager.  
 EVELYN (OSCARSON) CARLSTEIN (JUNE 1945) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children and is a housewife.  
 DAVID (WINK) ERNIE (JANUARY 1946) graduated from the American Conservatory of Music, lives in Lakeland, FL, has 5 children and is retired.  
 JOSEPH (RYKOWSKI) (JUNE 1946) married BRUDIE (BETH) (JUNE 1949) He graduated from SW Missouri, Wright, IL College in Champaign 1971. They have 2 children, live in Lake Zurich, IL and are in a 4-year marriage.  
 DORIS (JACK) BURG (JUNE 1946) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 3 children and 5 grandchildren and is a stay at home wife.  
 JACQUELYN (JUNE 1946) graduated from Northwestern BS 1950, has 3 children, lives in Oak Brook, IL and is a retired business executive.  
 MARGARET (JUNE 1946) lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren and is retired from USPS.

DAVE NELSEN (JUNE 1947) married MARGY (NETT) (JUNE 1947) graduated from U of IL BS 1957, they live in Lenwood, KS, have 2 children and 3 grandchildren and is retired.  
 EDWARD (PRZYBYLSKI) PRICE (JUNE 1947) graduated from Ohio State BA 1956, lives in Seminole, FL, has 3 children and is retired.  
 WALTER STUCHER (JUNE 1947) married CARYL (ANNA) (JANUARY 1950), graduated from De Paul 1951, lives in Tarpon Springs, FL, has 4 children and 6 grandchildren and is retired.  
 BARBARA (KRIEHL) KUEHLER (JUNE 1948) lives in Cary, IL, has 5 children and is a housewife.  
 BETTY (GUTHER) LOCKI (JUNE 1948) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is retired.  
 WALLACE WILSON (JUNE 1948) lives in Wheeling, IL, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and is retired.  
 BERNARD NUGENT (JUNE 1949) lives in Hot Springs National Park, AR and is a retired land development investor.

## 1950s

CHARLES LINDEMAN (JUNE 1950) lives in Burbank, IL, has 3 children and is retired.  
 HENRY KWASINSKI (JUNE 1951) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a real estate broker.  
 DAVID AITNER (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of IL BS 1955, U of Chicago MBA 1975, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children and 10 grandchildren and is retired from Amertech.  
 THOMAS (MILLEN) (JUNE 1951) graduated from Cornell, U of Iowa BA 1955, U of MI MA 1958, U of WI PhD 1971, lives in Holland, MI, has 2 children and U of WI Professor and College President at Hope College.  
 LAWRENCE (JULIUS) (JUNE 1953) lives in Chicago and is a director of a publishing company.  
 ROBERT (JUNE 1953) CHAPMAN (JUNE 1953) graduated from Augsburg College BS, Art Ed, lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is a retired artist.  
 EDITH (J. YOUNG) HANSEN (JUNE 1953) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 3 children and 8 grandchildren and is a retired bank executive.  
 KATHY WELCH (JUNE 1953) lives in Clearwater, FL, has 3 girls and 4 grandchildren and is retired.

GLORIA (TOMBERG) STECKEL (JANUARY 1954) lives in Columbus, OH, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.  
 ALAN HALVERSON (JUNE 1954) graduated from Brigham Young BS Physics 1965, lives in Highlands Ranch, CO, has 6 children and is a computer programmer and musician/pianist & vocalist, author of book "2150 AIT".  
 CAROL (JOHNSON) HUCK (JUNE 1954) lives in Woodstock, IL, has 2 children and is retired and travels.  
 DELLIS ALLEN (JANUARY 1955) graduated from U of WISCONSIN 1960, JD 1963, lives in Elgin, IL, has 4 children and is a patent attorney and inventor.  
 ALAN AVERY (JANUARY 1955) lives in Prospect Heights, IL, has 1 child who graduated from Tuft and is an electrician.  
 PRISCILLA (FISHER) WOLZ (JANUARY 1955) married WILLIAM (JANUARY 1955) graduated from U of IL BA 1959, they have 1 child, live in Huntington Beach, CA and she is a Multiple Sclerosis peer support leader.  
 RICHARD BECKERT (JUNE 1955) graduated from Northwestern 1971, Case Western MBA 1982, lives in Oconomowoc, WI, has 1 child and 2 grandchildren and is a vice president and registered professional engineer in IL states.  
 ROBERT HEDGORN (JUNE 1955) graduated from Lawrence, U, BA 1959, U of IMA PhD 1963, lives in Janesville, WI, has 1 child and is a Professor of Political Science at U of WI, Whitewater.  
 DAVE LARSEN (JUNE 1955) graduated from Western State 1961, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren and is retired from UPS.  
 ROSALIE (DAVE'S) ZWEHLE (JUNE 1955) lives in Janesville, WI, has 3 children and 6 grandchildren and is a ceramics teacher.  
 MARY (MURPHY) RICHARDS (JANUARY 1956) lives in Pass, IL, has 3 children and 9 grandchildren and is a grocery stocker.  
 DIANE (GUY) RANIERI (JUNE 1956) graduated from Bishop's College BA, lives in Schaumburg, IL and has 1 child.  
 JAY FRIEDREICH (JANUARY 1957) graduated from Wright and AZ State, lives in Phoenix, AZ, has 1 child and owns a gas shop.  
 JOAN (OSMOLEK) MURRAY (JUNE 1957) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and 2 grandchildren and is a part time receptionist in a doctors office.  
 LAWRENCE NEWMANN (JUNE 1957) lives in Boca Raton, FL and is a Podiatrist.  
 KENT WALLACE (JUNE 1957) graduated from U Westvian BS Business 1962, lives in Dallas, TX, has 3 children and is a retired

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investor, E-Mail address Swall 38754 @ aol. Com.

MIKE BAIN (JUNE 1958) graduated from De Paul BS 1957, Northwestern 1971, Stanford 1988, lives in Chicago and is a regional credit manager.

SCOTT HIGGINS (1958) graduated from Wright 1962, lives in Hinsdale, IL, has 4 children and is in sales.

PENNY (NEEB) HOFFMAN (JUNE 1958) MARRIED ROLAND (JUNE 1958) graduated from Northwestern BS Journalism 1962, they live in Olympia, WA, have 2 children and she is a magazine editor and meeting planner.

RON KOZEMCZAK (JUNE 1958) graduated from Coe College BS 1962, Northern MA 1967, lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is a retired PE Teacher.

MARY LYNNE (MARCUS) BARRIS (JANUARY 1959) lives in Redlands, CA and is a college instructor.

RODNEY MARKGRAF (JANUARY 1959) lives in Inverness, IL, has 2 children and 2 grandchildren and is retired.

JOYCE (WINTHER) FORD (JUNE 1959) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL and has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

## 1960s

MICHAEL KELLY (JANUARY 1960) MARRIED SHERYL (BUERGER) (JANUARY 1963) graduated from North Park BS 1964, Northern MS, they live in Algonquin, IL, have 3 children, he is a business manager for HS Dist 156 in Mc Henry and she is a supervisor bank teller.

SUSAN (MILLER) ALDRICH (JUNE 1961) graduated from Chicago Art Institute, De Paul BA, lives in Lincolnshire, IL, has 2 children and is an entrepreneur.

H. SCOTT THOMPSON (JUNE 1961) graduated from USC BS Business 1966, lives in Des Plaines, IL and has 2 children and 1 grandchild.

DOUGLAS WITT (JUNE 1961) graduated from IIT BS Mech Engr 1965, MS 1971, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, has 2 children and is an engineer.

JANICE (PROVAX) GWAZDACZ (JANUARY 1962) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and 1 grandchild and is a housewife.

DARLENE (LOREK) FUNDANISH (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of I BS 1968, lives in Sunrise, FL and is a pharmaceutical rep.

DLORAH (RUD) HAYDEN (JUNE 1963), lives in Woodstock, IL, has 7 children and 9 grandchildren and owns a Christmas Tree Farm.

JON INGRAM (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of SC, lives in Sumter, SC, has 1 child and is the manager of a paint & decorating center.

GINNY (DEVEREUX) MC CARTHY (JUNE 1963) graduated from Wright AA 1966, lives in Key West, FL, has 1 child and is a hotel reservation manager.

LEON SCHURTER (JUNE 1963) lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, has 2 children and is an attorney/ negotiator.

DIANA (RHODES) WEST (JUNE 1963) lives in Hanover, IL, has 5 children and is a homemaker.

MICHAEL WULF (JUNE 1963) graduated from Southwest Texas BS 1976, Webster MS 1988, lives in Rowlett, TX, has 2 children and is a Plano ISD transition specialist.

LINDA (SCHNEIDER) KOZIOL (JANUARY 1964) graduated from Harper College AA, Roosevelt BA Computer Sci., NIU MA Secondary Ed, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a computer education asst.

ANITA (REGILIO) RATTNER (JUNE 1964) graduated from St Charles County Comm College, 1997, lives in St Peters, MO and has 1 child.

JAMES BATOR (JUNE 1965) graduated from North Park, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a consulting cash flow broker.

NANCY (WENDT) GUNNING (1965) graduated Luther College BA 1970, lives in Park Ridge, IL and has 4 children.

JOHN HENDRICKSEN (1965) MARRIED PAMELA (STERN) (1965), he graduated from Northern Illinois BS 1969, Pamela from U of I BA 1969, they have 2 children, live in Prospect Hts, IL, John is president of Hendricksen, The Care of Trees, Pam is an administrative assitant.

DONALD MC KENZIE (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of KS BA 1970, lives in Topeka, KS, has 3 children and owns a music store.

ROBERT BADGLEY (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northern BS 1971, lives in Los Angeles, CA and is an insurance underwriter.

MARGARET MARRO (JUNE 1967) lives in Chicago and is an administrative assistant.

SALLY (SCHUESSLER) SCHMITT (JUNE 1967) graduated from IL Wesleyan 1967, Glendale Community AA 1985, AZ State BA 1990, lives in Glendale, AZ, has 2 children and is a freelance graphic designer.

SUSAN (ZELICHOWSKI) SKINNER (1968) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is a medical assistant.

KRISTIN (RUD) WINN (JUNE 1968) graduated from Northern 1973 Journalism, lives in Grand Junction, CO, has 1 child and is a director of the Chamber of Commerce.

## 1970s

PAUL BREZINSKI (1970) graduated from Bradley BS 1974, IL College of Podiatric Med DPM 1978, lives in Arlington Hts, IL and is a Podiatrist.

RICHARD NELSON (1970) graduated from USAF Academy BS 1974, AFIT MS 1984, U of NM MS 1993, lives at Wright Patterson AFB, OH and is a USAF Colonel.

GERI (MC DOWALL) MC KENZIE (1971) lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 2 children and is an interior designer whose business is in Norwood Park.

SANDRA (BAKANOWICZ) DAVIDSON (1972) lives in Mt Pleasant, MI, has 3 children and is a business assistant in a dental office.

JOAN (SCHAEFER) ZAITLEN (1975) graduated from CA State BS Chemistry 1982, lives in Agoura, CA, has 2 children and is a Chemist, QC Lab Manager.

JUDITH (LESAGE) ELLIS (1976) graduated from Triton, Surgical Tech 1995, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is a certified surgical technologist.

GAIL (UHLAR) MURRAY (1976) lives in Burbank, CA, has 1 child and is in advertising and a freestyle figure skater.

DENISE (WOTOVICH) FOSTER (1977) graduated from Case Western Reserve BS 1981, MBA 1982, lives in Cary, NC, has 3 children and is an industry analyst.

JOYCE BETTINGER (1978) graduated from Western BA Business 1982, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a service rep. For American Airlines.

GREGG GOTZ (1978) lives in Schaumburg, IL and has 1 child.

MELANIE (JOZWIAK) BOWMAN (1979) lives in New Lenox, IL and has 3 children.

MARYANNE (NORUM) JONES (1979) lives in Brookfield, IL and is a secretary.

## 1980s

SANDRA GALIARDO (1983) lives in Chicago and is a payroll processor.

ANN (MEEKS) ESTEY (1987) graduated from Robert Morris College 1988, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a product support specialist.

## 1990s

LYNN (BILKA) COLELLO (1990) lives in Chicago and is a benefits coordinator assistant.



## Letters *Continued from page 4*

Dear Kay,

Just a short note to give you some information and to tell you what a great job you are doing. I always look forward to receiving the newsletter as it brings back fond memories. First off, I think the person posing in the **Jim Smilgoff** book is **Tom Plath**. He married **Patsy Schumacher**. Both are Taft Alums. **Kathy Schumacher (Spaeth)** or **Gregg Schumacher** would be better able to help you out. If I am correct, they can fill you in on the details. Jim Smilgoff and his wife Edna were patients of mine until they passed away. They were both wonderful people.

I had such wonderful teachers at Taft that it is difficult to single out just one. **Miss Casey** got me off to a flying start in first semester freshman algebra. I can still hear **Miss Brueckman** tell me that a disorganized notebook means a disorganized mind. **Mr. Irving Stein** made history fun and interesting and finally **Mr. Postal** taught English just like the University of Illinois taught Rhetoric which made freshman English in college a piece of cake. I will always be grateful to him for that.

Finally, I have always felt it is a shame that my class of 1960 had only a 10 year reunion and nothing since. I always felt we were an historic class as we started Taft in 1956 at the beginning of rock and roll, we were the class that fellow classmate **Jim Jacobs** used in writing "Grease", we closed out the 50's decade and our 40th anniversary is in the year 2000!! I think it is time for a 40th reunion. I don't know who's responsibility it is, whether it is the class officers or just someone who takes the initiative. I am not much of an organizer, but a good soldier so if anybody is interested to take the lead and tackle this project I would surely join them and give them as much help as I can. Any takers??

**Stu Dunn** (Class of June, 1960)

SMDUNN@compuserve.com

### REMEMBERING OUR TEACHERS...

To: Taftalum@aol.com

I just received the Spring 1997 newsletter and wanted to let you know how much both my mother and I enjoyed reading it. I graduated from Taft in 1965 and my mother, Mrs. **Beatrice Burchfield**, taught math there from 1962 to 1972. Believe it or not, I am again living with her and my dad. I quit my job with the State of New Mexico a few months ago and am attending school full-time. I hope to be accepted into nursing school this fall, and all this after more than 23 years with the federal and state governments in welfare and health care administration! Mom is doing well, and we're having fun together. School is a lot of work but a blast.

Thank you for doing the newsletter. It's fun to hear what's going on even though I haven't lived in Chicago for over 18 years. God bless you.

**Jeannette Burchfield Keenan** (June, 1965)

About Teachers: **Ms. Leitenstorfer** - English

We were to read news and on Monday cut five words we did not know and learn them in class. Love of reading and interest in news early on received with her. Of note ~ I have given back to the teaching profession ~ My daughter Karen plans to return to teaching Kindergarten here in Deerfield now that her three boys, ages 7, 4 and 2-1/2 can enjoy school locally. My son is now subbing in MT with his B/S degree in English from Michigan State and hoping to be accepted in the Masters Program at the U of MT in Missoula where he lives and volunteers as ESL to Russians there.

**Judy (Herud) Nelson** (January, 1956) Deerfield, IL

Dear Kay,

The Alumni Newsletter is great. I appreciate all your work and am sorry for not getting the address correction to you sooner.

Three teachers stand out in my mind from Taft. First, **Julio Tiritilli**, teaching us to beware of the Ides of March as we studied Willy the Shake. I think I had Mr. T. for English twice but I also was a member of the Aerie Staff. I remember a Yearbook staff party at the Italian Village downtown and knowing we had to be the most important group in all of Chicago because we were with Mr. Tiritilli. In my teenage mind, he was located somewhere near the right hand of God in the grand scheme of life, even when he repeatedly had to remind me to deposit my gum in the "circular file". Tiritilli was one of the toughest teachers I had but his patience and sense of humor made his classes my favorites. He treated students with respect and you could tell he cared. When I meet with my psychotherapy patients in my present practice, I find myself using humor in much the same way Mr. T. did.

Second was **Edith Strandberg**. She was a tough demanding teacher, who I think of every time I read the work abyss "down, down, down into the abyss" or vicissitude. However, my fondest memories were of her as a homeroom - division teacher for 4 years. I was the division business manager and she insisted that I come up in front of the class each day to make announcements. She called me "Miss Suzie" for 4 years and she would invariably say something so clever and funny I'd be laughing so hard I couldn't make the announcements. She was a keen observer of interpersonal interactions in her classes and would have us recite those poems we had to memorize to someone we secretly (we thought) had a crush on. How many times has

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"Gather Ye Rosebuds" come to mind. It was the first poem we had to memorize. In Division, Jim Bach got his share of her comments about his interactions with girls, and a fellow in the last row, Jim Riggie, who had high high hair, would be teased until he'd break a smile. Strandy provided the structure we needed. I still can print as fast as we had to in our notebooks. I always know she really cared about us and our futures.

Third, was an art teacher whose picture isn't in any of my yearbooks. I think her name was Helen Unseth. I had her for art and in May of my sophomore year my father died. One afternoon before the funeral, while we were at the funeral home, she left a note in our mailbox at home. I remember being astounded that she knew where I lived. Her note simply said that if I ever needed any help, she'd be there. I was very touched by her thoughts and still am.

Sue Henriksen Krumm (Class of June, 1962)

To TAA:

I was the regular center fielder on the 1949 Chicago [Taft] High School Baseball Championship team. I was on the team for three years with Mr. James Smilgoff as my coach.

He was the finest "Baseball Mind" and, by far the best coach I ever knew. He taught us things that they don't even do in professional baseball (including the Majors). I know - I had the opportunity to play minor league professional ball for a couple of years after graduating.

I also never know he wrote a book, Winning High School Baseball. If you or anyone that writes to you knows where this book may be obtained, please let me know.

Henry "Bud" Wagner (Class of June, 1949) Bonita Springs, FL

Dear Kay,

Thanks so much for your response. I was sorry to hear about your surgery and appreciate your trying to work at the computer when you sure don't feel like it.

I was sorry to hear that there is nothing left of the ROTC stuff as I had hoped my trophy would still be there. Oh well. Regarding the teachers that are still alive from the 45-49 era, I would appreciate knowing who and if addresses are available. I'm sure my nemesis, Dr. Buchwatter is no longer alive. Her interest was in teaching German. Being from German extraction I thought I would take German. Within the first week, Dr. Buchwatter and I did not hit it off. So I transferred to Spanish. Yes, you guessed it, guess who I got for a Spanish teacher? Dr. Buchwatter! And she did not like teaching Spanish,

so I was again in trouble.

I can tell you of another tale. A teacher named Degan. Mrs. Degan, I believe. She was saying in class about when she was a little girl and the telephone man used to come around and collect the nickels from the telephone at her home. I leaned over to the student next to me and said, but they didn't have telephones then. The teacher heard me. Was I in deep trouble. I had to fill out a failure card right then. Then I had to go down to the Principal's office and see him and explain why I was failing. I explained and I'm sure he found it difficult to contain himself. I had to do all kinds of extra credit during the semester just to get by with a passing grade. I think she gave me a passing grade so she wouldn't get me again the next year.

Kay, we always enjoy reading the news and reading of our classmates. Many of those before us I remember but there sure have been a lot since that I do not know. By gosh almost 50 years!!! Scary!

Bob Hoeckelberg (Class of June, 1950)  
PBVLVR@compuserve.com

## LOST CLASSMATES

Searching for old classmates for whom you've lost touch? The Taft Alumni Association does not provide names or addresses of alumni from our records other than for legitimate class reunions. However, we will help you in your search by publishing the name(s) in this newsletter. If that party responds to us, we forward that person's name and address to you.

The suggested donation for this service is \$5.00 per name. Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association, c/o Kay Kudlak, 47 W. Lancaster Lane in Des Plaines, IL 60018.

This issue we ask help locating:

Sonja Halverson (Class of 1955) for Rosalee (Davies) Evans Zweifel (Class of June, 1955). They went to school together and were in each other's weddings. Any info. would be appreciated.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Jim Jacobs (Class of June, 1960) stopped in at Garry School last April and talked to students on memories that spawned his hit musical "Grease".

Susan Murphy-Milano (Class of 1972) has recently written an excellent book entitled Defending Our Lives: Getting Away from Domestic Violence and Staying Safe, published by Doubleday's Anchor Books.

All-star athlete extraordinaire is Brett Nishibayashi (Class of 1997) recently accepted a scholarship.

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## Names *Continues from page 8*

to play basketball at Northeastern Illinois. That is quite an accomplishment, as he is just 5'5" tall. He also is outstanding as baseball pitcher and football player. He was named the boys' Public League Academic Player of the Year. His contribution to the baseball team helped Taft reach the second round of the city playoffs, ending the season with a 27-1 record. Congratulations, Brett.

**Jill and Warren Schimpff** (Classes of 1963 and 1961, respectively) continue to run the fourth generation family business in Jeffersonville, IN. It was a bit hairy this spring with flooding of the Ohio River just upstream from them, but they managed to come through unscathed. Schimpff's Confectionery is a delightfully nostalgic trip to the past. If you're traveling down US65 near Louisville, be sure to

*Fourth generation owners Jill & Warren Schimpff with aunt, Catherine Schimpff (center).*



take the time to look them up. They love hearing from other former Taftites. Jeffersonville is just the other side of the river from Louisville, and the candy store is located in the center of the historic downtown section.

Did you happen to see Taft grads in the recent Des Plaines Theatre Guild presentation "Little Shop of Horrors". **Laura Grundy** (Class of 1991) played the lead role of Audrey and **Pericles Georgopolus** (Class of 1985) was on the sets crew.

**Tomasz Stoklosa** (Class of 1997) has been accepted to the US Air Force Academy. Appointed by US Congressman Sidney Yates (D9), he was one of 1500 accepted for the full four-year scholarship from a field of over 15,000 applicants.

## IN OUR MEMORIES

**Diane (Phillips) Ford** (Class of 1952) died on April 2, 1997 after a lengthy illness.

**Eleanor (Warner) Kohler** (Class of June, 1947) passed away in 1996.

**Edward E. Lindberg** (Class of June, 1960) died on April 20, 1997. He had worked as a maintenance technician in Venice, FL.

**Kent W. Locke** (Class of June, 1941) died on February 13, 1997 of cancer.

**Warren Nordby** (Class of June, 1941) passed away on December 29, 1996 during by-pass heart surgery.

### TAFT JACKET ORDER FORM

Quantity Ordered	Size	Price	Extended Price
_____	S (34-36)	\$30	_____
_____	M (38-40)	\$30	_____
_____	L (42-44)	\$30	_____
_____	XL (46-48)	\$30	_____
_____	XXL (50-52)	\$36	_____
_____	XXXL (54-56)	\$39	_____
			+ 6.00 Postage/Handling
			TOTAL _____

Send check to TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
c/o Kay Kuciak  
47 W. Lancaster Lane  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH/YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

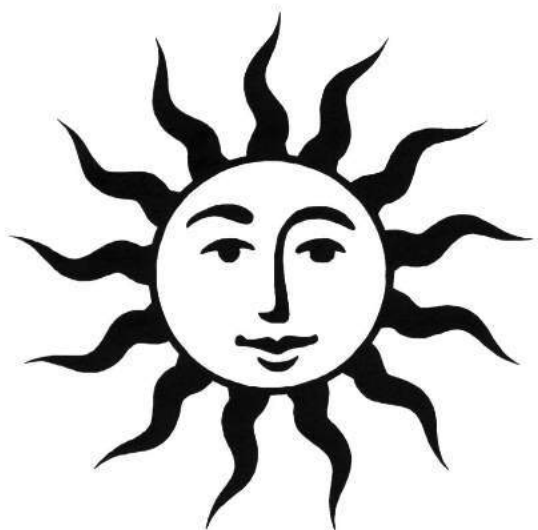
### OFFICIAL TAFT ALUMNI JACKETS

They're finally here! Use the above order form to get your jacket(s) today ~ while supplies last!

They are smart looking blue nylon wind breakers with a white flannel lining and snap front with a drawstring bottom. The emblem on the left breast area reads "TAFT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI" with an eagle in the center. Wear yours with pride. You will be surprised how many other Taft grads will pop up just by noticing you wearing your TAFT emblem.

Be sure to add \$6 for postage and handling for each order to the same address. Or you can save \$6 by picking up your order at Kay's house or at Taft with an ADVANCED NOTICE. Call 847/824-4747.

**TO THE  
MEMORIES  
OF THE GREAT  
CLASS OF  
1942**



from one who  
remembers...

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)  
Vice-president: Jeraldene Bloom (1962)  
Secretary: Shirley DeWeese (1960)  
Treasurer: Ron Olle (1985)  
Publicity: Anne Lunde (1969)  
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Robert Black (1946)  
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Tom Kuciak (1962)  
Joseph Popp (1966)  
Barb Rodriguez (1970)  
Judi Lenihan (1973)  
Michael Marras (1982)

### Newsletter Staff:

Editor - Jerry Bloom - 414/743-8449  
Historian - Kay Kuciak - 847/824-4747

## PRINCIPAL SEARCH IS ON

Effective June 20, 1997 Taft High School principal Thomas Cunningham retired after only three years at Taft. Although he had a year left on his contract, he said it was a personal decision for him. The LSC will spend the summer interviewing candidates. Meanwhile, Assistant Principal Thomas Brown will again take over the duties until a final decision for a new principal is made.

## RENEW NOW !!

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the upper left corner. Is it correct? The most important area is on the **top right** corner. This is the expiration date of your current membership status of the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close, the **TIME** is **NOW** to sit down and write out a check for \$10. Not one, but **TWO** full years of newsletters with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application form below to fill in the latest updates in your life.

Taft Alumni Newsletter is published quarterly by the Taft Alumni Association. Send all correspondence and changes of address to: TAA c/o Kay Kuciak, 47 W. Lancaster Ln., Des Plaines, IL 60018. Phone 847/824-4747 or e-mail at [Taftalum@aol.com](mailto:Taftalum@aol.com).

## TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

Name		Maiden Name		Month & Year Graduated	
Address (Home)		City		State	Zip
Address (Business)		City		State	Zip
Home Telephone No: (     )			Office Telephone No: (     )		
Name of Spouse				Year Married: 19	
Number of Children:		Ages:			
College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation					
Occupation:			Other Interests:		
Other News or Information:					
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$_____ to defray newsletter cost.					
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$10.00 for two year membership.					
Return to: Kay Kuciak 47 W. Lancaster Lane Des Plaines, IL 60018					



TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
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CHICAGO IL 60631

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