

TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News from the Paul Fink Room

THS Historical Society/Alumni Association, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612
Website: www1.thsweb.org/alumni Phone: 785-295-3200 Email: thshs2001@yahoo.com

Vol. 38 No.2

Congratulations Haley and Angelica, 2019 THSHS Ed Love Scholars



The THS Historical Society Board of Directors met the recipients of the 2019 Ed Love Scholarship at their April meeting. They are proud to announce the names of *Ma. Angelica Faye V. Comahig* and *Haley Piper* who will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

Angelica Comahig will enroll at Washburn University in computer sciences with an emphasis on web and mobile development. She is most proud of her position as Topeka High's Webmaster, where she lead the team in assigning projects, collaborating with business partners and ensuring all projects are done properly. She interned for Savvy Coders, Dynamic Computer Solutions of Topeka and Information Technology/Topeka Public Schools. She has been interested in computers since a young age. Angelica is graduating in the top 5% of her class and has been recognized with awards for her work with computers and received the 2019 Topeka Public Schools LEAP Award.

Haley Piper is headed to Wichita State University to study Theatre Design and Technology and plans on a career in lighting design. She will graduate first in her



class of 2019. Her academic schedule was full of AP and Honors classes and she was a leader in the THS MCJROTC. Haley was awarded the Topeka Perform-

ing Arts Center's Young Artist Award in Technical Theatre and received a superior rating and a State Thespian Scholarship at the 2019 Kansas Thespian Festival. The challenging THS productions that Haley was involved in taught her "to accept people for who they are.....and has fostered in me a respect for all people."

The THSHS Scholarship is named in memory Ed Love (1939), one of the society's founders in 1985. The scholarship has been awarded yearly since 1994. The first recipient was Adam Nordstrom (1994), who is Principal with Viking Navigation LLC, a government relations consulting practice in Washington, DC. Contributions for the THSHS Scholarship are appreciated and can be sent to: Topeka Community Foundation, c/o THS Historical Society Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th, Ste 300, Topeka, KS 66614

2021 Is Fast Approaching

Mark you calendar - that is, your 2021 calendar. Topeka High school turns 150 in 2021! Activities throughout 2021 - including festivities at Homecoming - will celebrate our sesquicentennial birthday. The Topeka High 150th Committee, headed by Shayla Kincade and Nikki Ramirez-Jennings, both THS Class of 1995, needs you and invites you to join the fun of planning the yearlong celebration. Let us know if you'd like to join the fun of planning and/or send your suggestions to TopekaHigh150@gmail.com. Celebrate Topeka High School: 150 years strong! 150th website: TopekaHigh150.com, email: TopekaHigh150@gmail.com, Facebook: Topeka High 150 (like us, so you'll be in the know).

First gift for the 150th –Class of 1978 - \$1,550!!



As you can see from the picture, the THS Class of 1978 doesn't do anything halfway. They participated wholeheartedly in THS Homecoming 2018 during their 40th Reunion.

They are the first class to make a donation for the 150th of THS. Thank you, Andy Reeves, Brad Vignatelli, Christie Schweitzer Wedeking, Craig Maupin, Damaris Epinger Cooksey, David Thompson, Dean Renfro, Debbie Carr Hosty, Debbie Zerger Sarratt, Donna Zander Catalano, Eddie Gibson, Frances Eckhardt Forgione, James Lewis, Jeanne Kostanski Moree, John Fink, John Valley, John White, Joseph Gamino, Jr., Julie Hochard Conway, Kirk Morris, Larron Webb, Lawrette Rhea Williams, Lucy Miera Crumet, Mark Winkelman, Matt Carithers, Meggin Wykert DeMoss, Melanie Paris Wambsganss, Rick Bixler, Sarah Bremer Parks, Scott Myers, Sharon Chapman Kearse, Sheri Karst Curran, Stacie Remmele Wells, Susie Brooke Schell and Todd Hall. Thank you for a great start to a year of celebrating 150 years of excellent heritage and the future of THS.

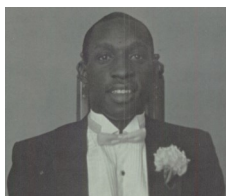
Black and Gold Report Grads in the News

- Topeka High School instructor **Salvador Cruz (1989)** was awarded the first "Positive Mental Attitude" award from Professional Martial Arts, or PMA, a gym in Topeka. PMA says Cruz deserves the award because he's always committed to mentoring and helping the kids he works with. One of Cruz's students is a black belt at PMA.
- The 1980s band Scatband was recognized in the Class of 2019 Kansas Music Hall of Fame. Congratulations to band members from left, Nancy Engelken, **Dan Blackwood (1972)**, **Charlie Harrison (1972)**, **Ric Barron (1970)**, and Jaisson Taylor.



Announcing the 2019 THS Graduate Hall of Fame

The THSHS Selection Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 THS Graduate Hall of Fame. Mark your calendar for 2 pm, Sunday, October 6th, THS Woodward Library for the induction ceremony. Those whose portraits will be added to the Hall of Fame Room are:



T.C. Broadnax (1987) has come a long way from the basketball court where he was on the squad that won the state championship team in 1986. He was elected Homecoming King his senior year. Today he is Dallas' City Manager.



There is no formal record that **David H. Overmyer** graduated from THS in 1910, but that was quite common for students in those days. He studied art in Chicago and New York, returning home to accept a faculty position with Washburn College. There are

three of his paintings adorning the Walls of Troy.

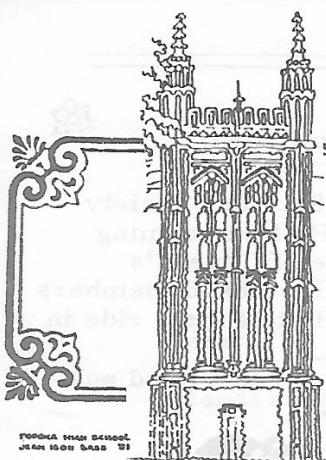


Gary Taylor (1971) was on the Debate Team all three years, President of Nationals Forensics League, World staff and editorial editor his senior year. Judicial Council Chief Justice, All Time Honor-T recipient, National Debate Tournament and National Extemporaneous Tournament. Today he is the chairman of the English Department at Florida State University.

Also to be honored as Distinguished Staff are **Mike Homan**, an Air Force veteran, who retired after 35 years as coordinator of the THS police and Donald Maddle, THS Math Teacher.

If you know someone who should be considered for Hall of Fame send their biography and 2 letters of endorsement to the THS Historical Society.

As we are looking ahead and planning for the celebration of 150 years of THS, we also want to look in the rear view mirror. Below is the first page of one of the first issues of the THSHS newsletter in December 1986. Notice that they had just celebrated 115 years of Topeka High and the Tower was created by Jean Bass (THS Art Dept. Staff for 38 years).



Topeka High School Historical Society Alumni News

December 1986

WINTER EDITION
Volume 1, Number 3



BIRTHDAY PARTY

On October 19, 1986, the Topeka High School Historical Society celebrated the 115th birthday of Topeka High School.

Festivities began with a chimes recital by your president, Ed Love, at 1:45 p.m. We then proceeded to the second floor where we dedicated the new Adam style door that the Society commissioned for the Hall of Fame (Room 200, at the top of the stairs).

Representatives of three graduating classes cut ribbons. They were Jim Wallace, 1931; Charles W. "Bill" Davis, 1934-35; and Jay Stickley, 1939. Their classes contributed financially to the door.

Mr. Ted McBride, president of the student government and son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom McBride, Topeka, and Dr. Ned Nusbaum, principal of Topeka High School, also cut ribbons.

We then met in the library (or media center) to dedicate the large painting by David Overmyer which has been restored, framed and hung over the entryway to the library. The horizontal painting is 14 feet by 6 feet.

This painting was discovered by Doug Wallace, Society vice-president, in a warehouse at the Expocentre and was given to the Society by the Shawnee County Commission.

Following the dedication of the painting, refreshments were served while a student string quartet played. Tours of the building then were conducted.

Approximately 175 people attended.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish you the happiest of holidays!!!

TEACHERS' CAFETERIA MURALS

Another fall project of the Society has been the restoration of the Overmyer murals in the faculty cafeteria of Topeka High School.

Paul Beauchamp of the Beauchamp Frame Shop and Gallery did the restoration on both the large picture in the library and the murals in the cafeteria.

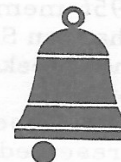
CAFETERIA CHANDELIERS

We have been looking for an example of the chandeliers which were removed from the cafeteria many years ago. They were apparently widely scattered.

We are pleased to tell you that Mr. Jack Long, prominent Topeka stockbroker, had one in his house and has donated it to the Society.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Annual Business Meeting will be held in connection with its regular monthly Board Meeting on January 12, 1987, at 12 noon in the Cavalier Room at Topeka High School.



TROY TODAY

- Trojan Theater students attended the annual Kansas Thespian Festival. The event hosted over 75 schools and 2,000 theater students. In addition to Topeka High being awarded Silver Honor Troupe status, two students received scholarships. India MacDonald received a scholarship for performance and Haley Piper received a scholarship for technical theatre. The following students were recognized in auditions and individual and competitive events: **Oliver Gregory, Samuel Mazas, Zachary Stockton, Kara McClendon, Jack Waggoner, Venita Large, Angel Shaw, Gregorio Leonardo, Taliesin Rivera, Cassandra Ludlum, Haley Piper and India MacDonald. Congratulations!**
- LEAP stands for Learning, Engaging, Adapting and Preparing. The USD 501 LEAP Award honors junior and senior students who have shown these qualities throughout their high school career. **Angelica Comahig (2019) and Tierra Jones (2019)** are 2019 LEAP Award Recipients.
- Nominations were announced for Music Theatre Wichita Jester Awards for the 2018-19 school year. During the past eight months, MTWichita judges were invited to review 115 performances from 38 Kansas schools. This year is the first year THS participated in this award program and THS garnered 8 nominations. Congratulations to the following students and staff:
Supporting Actress - Oliver Gregory
Music Direction - Angela Dake
Choreography - Gwen Appenfeller and Shauna Smith
Lighting Design - Haley Piper
Sound Design - Jeff Kaufman
Costume Design - Allie Feezell
Lobby Display - Cassandra Ludlum
Technical Achievement - Haley Piper
- **Maddie Jacques** qualified to NSDA Nationals in June. She is the inaugural Big Questions Debate champion.
- **Tierra Jones and Abbie Cruse** have been invited to compete at the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions in Omaha this May. They are the first two competitors in school history to have earned this honor.
- 3 THS staff were recognized with the USD 501 Distinguished Staff Award. **Kenya Patzer (1995), High School Educator;** Richard Smith, Food Service and Jerome Plunkett, Office Personnel.
- Congratulations to the **Lady Trojan Basketball Team** that took 2nd in State. This was the first time since 2002 that the team made it to the state tournament.



The Kroger Stores sponsors the Community Rewards Program of Dillons. In the 1st quarter of 2018 supporters of the THSHS contributed to a \$178.25 donation from Kroger. Thank you to Kroger and to the 34 households that shop for the THS Historical Society. Go to www.dillons.com/communityrewards and shop for Topeka High.



SHOP AND GIVE WITHOUT SPENDING A DIME - It's easy!

- Start at smile.amazon to support the THS Historical Society every time you shop
- Amazon donates .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service
- Support your favorite charity, the THSHS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com



Wondering what to do with your used car, truck or motorcycle? Donating your old vehicle to the Topeka High School Historical Society is convenient, easy, and may qualify you for a tax deduction. And best of all, your donation of that used vehicle will make a big difference in supporting Topeka High projects.

All you need to do is to complete the Vehicles for Charity simple form on the THSHS website or call 1-866-628-2277 and we'll take care of the rest. We will pick up your vehicle, arrange to have your donation towed, and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, all at no charge to you. Call 1-866-628-2277 or online at www1.thsweb.org/alumni/vehicles-for-charity.

IN MEMORY

Doris Eyth Shepherd 1939
 Reva Purcell 1939
 Robert C. Lamar 1939
 Jacquie Timmons Brewer 1943
 Mary Lou McPherson Kirwin 1943
 B. Evelyn Holt 1943
 JoAnne Hurst Kappelman 1944
 Robert Taggart 1944
 Dean L. White 1944
 Dorothy Grooms Ramsey 1945
 Nancy Covert Harner 1946
 Don Harmon 1947
 Doris Landis Baker 1948
 Phillip Boley 1948
 Darlene Heberling Gooding 1949
 Dorothy Lott Tretbar 1949
 Lois Rathbun Lorence 1949
 Jerry Bray 1951
 Cynthia Krehbiel Fisk 1951
 Lois Fenn Brunton 1951

Joyce Peck Diven 1951
 Donald H. Moses 1951
 Bernard H. Christian 1953
 Darlene Metzger Maley 1953
 Donald A. Smith, Jr 1953
 Brock R. Snyder 1953
 James L. Fisk 1954
 Richard Gingrich 1954
 Nancy Harbes Hobbs 1955
 Gary L. Plackett 1955
 Edmund R. Shaw 1955
 Ed Shaw 1955
 Beverley Baird Harper 1956
 John S. Keim 1957
 Donald E. Horton 1957
 Sandra Dodson Baer 1958
 Nancy Rowland Miller 1959
 Sharon Daniels Oroke 1959
 Mary Ann Fourmont Lloyd 1959
 Sherry Myers Cooper 1959

Marcella Busey Tarrant 1960
 Frank R. Bartlett, Jr 1960
 Frank Chaffin 1961
 Robert J. Streff 1961
 James M. Cook 1964
 Foy Akins, Jr 1964
 Linda Johnson Lincoln 1967
 Janet O'Neill 1967
 Bob Carlson 1967
 Steven D. Shotts 1968
 David Pringle 1970
 Marc R. Drayer 1971
 Pam Luthye Rodriguez 1972
 Steven L. Pierce 1972
 Gail Shinn McDaniel 1975
 Ryan Ceballos 1999
 Melinda Anne Waugh 2000

~ 2019 TROJAN CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2019 - October 18

<u>Class</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>For More Information</u>
Class of 1959	October 4,5,6	rjschL1514@sbcglobal.net, Njkperry@gmail.com topekahighclassof1959.com
Class of 1964	October 11-12	germ101@cox.net
Class of 1969	September 13, 14	Facebook, www.ths69.net, robnjeni51@gmail.com
Class of 1979	October 11-13	amydk@excite.com sdouglas@tifamily.org
Class of 1999	October 18	lorihwilson@mac.com

The THS Historical Society assists class reunions by: 1. providing classmate contact information 2. arranging THS tours 3. facilitating the use of the building 4. offering \$5 discounts for new memberships during reunions. Go to thsweb.org/alumni/reunions for words to the school song, THS graphics, information for reunion coordinators and more. **Let the THSHS know if your class is having a reunion and we'll help you get the word out to your classmates.**

Topeka High Electrical Legacy

By Bob Gladfelter (1965) & Joyce Gladfelter Albert (1957)



In December of 1929 plans for a new Topeka High School building were completed and submitted for bid. On February 1, 1930 contracts were awarded for the construction of the new building to be built facing 10th Street between Western Avenue and Taylor Street. Tucker Electric was selected to be the electrical contractor. A young electrician's apprentice, **George Gladfelter, THS Class of 1926**, was assigned to the crew that fall to help design and install the lighting in the new building. Years later he would tell his family of installing the chandeliers and roof winches in the auditorium, of running the wiring and installing the lighting in the hallways and classrooms, of inching along the steel girders in the top of the gymnasium hanging the lights, and of crawling around in the various attics and catacombs pulling wire and installing lights. He was very proud to have been a part of the construction of the beautiful Topeka High School building on West 10th.

Several improvements in heating, cooling, and lighting, in redesign of classrooms and offices, in new windows, and improved acoustics have taken place over the years. This year upgrades to the second floor lighting in hallways and classrooms will take place based upon redesigns being done by PKMR Engineers. One of the mechanical engineers assigned to develop the plans to update some of the areas George worked on is **Nathan Gladfelter, George's youngest grandson (photo)**. Though George passed away several years ago, we know that he would be pleased to know that Nathan is involved in the continued improvement of Topeka High by helping to upgrade and modernize areas in which his grandfather worked nearly 90 years ago.

Go Patriotic!

Come to the annual **THS Patriotic Chimes Concert at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 30th**. Bring your lawn chair, buy your dinner and dessert from **Food Trucks and G's Custard** and enjoy an evening with friends and music from the THS Tower. Sponsored by the THS Historical Society.

Did you know that Topeka High is one of few public high schools in the world who still maintains its Deagan Chimes System?

GET SQUIDDY WITH IT

A Retrospective look at the THS Squid Club
By Kelm Lear (THS 2021)

Boost. Crane. Dolphin. All of these are terms you may have heard if you were a member of the Topeka High synchronized swim team: the Squid Club.

The Squid Club was an all-female synchronized swim team at Topeka High from 1959-1982. After the completion of the swimming pool in 1959, which Topeka High was very fortunate to have since many schools didn't have on, former physical education teacher Pat Spencer held the first tryouts in the fall of 1959 and organized the Topeka High Squids.

Until the passage of Title IX, the sweeping education amendment that required equal opportunity for both men and women to participate in school sports, the Squid Club served a physically active, non-competitive, extracurricular activity for many Lady Trojans. Former Topeka High principal (1995-2002) and Squid Club member (1959-1960), Dr. Patty Pressman, remembers her days as Topeka High Squid. "In the beginning years, we worked hard and practiced a lot for our annual program presented in the spring. We always wore the same black tank suit with a white sequined squid on the hip. The program had an opening and closing act which all members participated in.

For the rest of the story and photos, go to: https://issuu.com/thstower/docs/final_issue_7/3 or Go to THSTower.com. There's a tab at the top for "World" - and it's there.

THSHS Tower Society

In 2009 the Topeka High Historical Society established the THSHS Tower Society so that operating expenses could be separated from building projects in order to ensure the long-term success of the organization. The levels of giving are graduated and all Tower Society contributors and gifts are kept on record with the THSHS. The entire Tower Society list is now linked to our website at www1.thsweb.org/alumni

The THSHS treasures the Tower Society donors and encourage this opportunity to others for giving for building projects that ensure its preservation.

~ THS Historical Society ~

Graduation Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name (at graduation) _____ Current Last Name _____

THS Spouse's First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Graduation Year _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES – (for operational expenses & THSHS special events)

	Amount
Yearly (\$25)	\$ _____
5 Years (\$100)	\$ _____
10 Years (\$175)	\$ _____
Special annual payment of \$1 for each year since my graduation (i.e. Class of 1966, 50 years since graduation=\$50)	\$ _____

I want to send a gift membership to:

Name _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership level: ____ Yearly (\$25) ____ 5 Year (\$100) ____ 10 Year (\$175)

Total \$ _____

PURCHASES -- go to www1.thsweb.org/alumni for complete list of THS items

	Amount
THS Construction Video (\$10, plus \$5 shipping).....	\$ _____
Constitution Plaza Brick (\$30), thsweb1.org/alumni , download form & attach with payment	\$ _____

TOWER SOCIETY FUND – (for building projects)

	Amount
Freshman (\$200).....	\$ _____
Sophomore (\$350).....	\$ _____
Junior (\$500).....	\$ _____
Senior (\$750).....	\$ _____
Top of the Tower (\$1,000).....	\$ _____
Mighty Trojan (\$2,500).....	\$ _____
Guardian (\$10,000+)	\$ _____
Given in honor of _____	
Given in memory of _____	

Check enclosed: ☐ (payable to THS Historical Society or THSHS) TOTAL \$ _____

Charge account: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Discover (**\$50 minimum requested**)

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ CV # (required) _____

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____

Mail to: THSHS, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612, or pay dues online at: www1.thsweb.org/alumni



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800 W 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

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REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL: The date on the first line of your label is your membership EXPIRATION date. New memberships are for 1, 5 or 10 years from the date your payment is received. For renewals, 1, 5 or 10 years are added to the date of receipt or your previous expiration date. A pink highlighted mailing label is a gentle reminder that we want to stay in contact with you. **2017 expirations will be removed in 2019.**



The THS Historical Society appreciates our members!

The THSHS appreciates our dues paying members. As a recipient of this newsletter you are a member of the THSHS. Members have made possible our many accomplishments and projects for Topeka High over the past 33 years. Membership dues cover the operating expenses for the THSHS.

We welcome these new members: Donna Zander Catalano (1978), Michael Spearman (1973), Meredith Andres Emmot (1952), Sondra Emmot Hamilton (1983), and Laura Alley (1968),

Help us get the word out about our mission to support Topeka High. Encourage a classmate or friend to join the THSHS. Consider giving a THSHS gift membership to a sibling or classmate for a gift. You don't have to be a THS graduate to be a THSHS member. All who are interested in historic preservation are welcome. You can remit your dues by completing the form on page 7 of this newsletter or by going on-line (thsweb.org/alumni) and renewing via PayPal or credit card.



DIGITAL THS SUNFLOWERS

Order a digital copy of your yearbook (1911 - 1989). Send \$25, THSHS office, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612, Credit cards also accepted.