

TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY News from the Paul Fink Room

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

Vol. 38 No.4

2019 Hall of Fame - Graduates making a difference



An artist, a Shakespearean scholar and a public administrator were inducted into the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the school's second-floor Woodward Library.

Two former staff members were honored as Distinguished Staff.

A special presentation from Artist Walter Hatke (THS 1967 and THS Hall of Fame) was also be part of the ceremony.

This is the 38th Hall of Fame ceremony, with 114 THS graduates having been inducted and 23 former staff/faculty honored with the Distinguished Staff designation.

The three honorees whose portraits have been added to the Hall of Fame Room and Distinguished Staff whose names were added to the special plaque are:

T.C. Broadnax, Jr., class of 1987, a public administrator. He was on the 1986 State Basketball Championship squad and was 1987 Homecoming King. He earned bachelor's degrees in political science and communications at Washburn University and later a master's in public administration from the University of North Texas at Denton. His career in public administration has spanned the continent from Pompano Beach, FL, to San Antonio, TX, to Tacoma, WA, and since 2017 he has served as city manager of Dallas, TX, overseeing a \$3.6 billion enterprise with 13,000 employees.

David H. Overmyer, an artist, who lived from 1889 to 1973. He was a Topeka High student, but might not have formally graduated, which was a norm back then. He was the first in a long line of distinguished artists from Topeka High School. Overmyer became well-known as a muralist with some of his best examples at Hale/Farrell Library at Kansas State University and historical murals for the Capitol Rotunda in Topeka. Three important works are found at THS: "Pageant of Old England" in the English room (1936), untitled Mediterranean seascape in the faculty dining room (1937), and "Pioneers" in the Woodward Library (1939).

Gary L. Taylor, class of 1971. Shakespearean scholar. His activities at Topeka High included debater, chief justice of the Judicial Council, Model UN, Quill & Scroll, newspaper staff, and All Time Honor-T. He earned his bachelor's degree in English classics at KU and his doctorate at Cambridge University. While in England, he was a joint general editor of The Oxford Shakespeare, and during this period he rediscovered a long-lost work attributed to Shakespeare. He has written numerous books and articles about Elizabethan literature and has taught at Oxford, Brandeis University, and the University of Alabama. He is the Dahl and Lottie Pryor Professor of Shakespeare Literature at Florida State University.

Donald E. Madl – Distinguished Staff, was on the English faculty and lived from 1924 to 2005. He received his bachelor of education degree from Pittsburg State University and his master's from Fort Hays State University he served in the Army in World War II, earning the rank of Master Sergeant. He began his teaching career at Plainville Rural High School, coming to Topeka High in 1958, where he taught English; he later taught at Jardine Middle School, retiring in 1985. At Topeka High, he was often the Junior Class or Senior Class sponsor.

Michael Homan – Distinguished Staff, was on the security staff at Topeka High. for 35 years, he was the face of security at Topeka High, making all feel welcomed and comfortable in the Halls of Troy. He graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1971 and entered the Air Force, stationed first at Lackland AFB, TX, then Eglin AFB, FL, and finally Lajes Field in the Azores. Returning home, after a brief stint at Kmart, Holman became a security officer for USD #501. He retired in 2013 as coordinator of Campus Police for THS with the rank of sergeant.



THS 150th Report

Specific dates will be decided as the school calendar is prepared in the Spring 2020.

January – Kick-off Gala – Formal Dinner followed by concert with Richetta Manager and Anthony 'Tommy' Jones

February – Fiddler on the Roof – Grads invited to participate in opening number 'Tradition'

April – Sock Hop for Grads on the same evening as Prom in the North Gym. Get out your saddle shoes and penny loafers

May – Reception for Graduating Seniors sponsored by the classes of 1951 and 1971

June through August – Graduate Art Exhibit July – Patriotic Chimes Concert on the front lawn August - Topeka High Display at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library

September 18 – Birthday Cake on the Lawn for Students and Staff

September 24th – Homecoming Weekend
Assembly and Parade – Inviting past Royalty,
Former Band, Former Athletes, Former
MCJROTC, Former Cheerleaders/Dancers/Step
Team, Clubs

<u>Saturday</u> – Affinity Groups, Memorabilia Sales, Food Trucks, Graduate Variety Show, Surprise Finale

Sunday – Hall of Fame Brunch and Ceremony

We're looking for these volunteers NOW!

- Marketing & Sponsorship Committee members
- Planning committee members for the Gala in January and Sock Hop in April.
- Videographers
- Speakers bureau -we'll provide scripts
- Organize a get together or THS Birthday Party with other THS Grads in your city
- Let us know at topekahigh150@gmail.com

VISIT TopekaHigh150.com and 'like' us on Facebook TopekaHigh150. Donations are accepted online or made to: THS Historical Society/Topeka High 150, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612

PHYLLIS WILEMAN, "FUTURE ARTIST"



This Topeka High Trojan, class of 1945, knew even then she was going to be an artist during her life. **Phyllis Wileman Stewart** 1945 signed fellow students' yearbooks with the above signature (see photo of yearbook signature).

Sometimes we know what we are destined to be, and sometimes we don't. She was so confident about her future, she was comfortable



signing everyone's yearbook in this manner while still in her senior year.

She studied art at Topeka High and went on to begin her art career almost immediately. She fell in love with fellow '45 classmate Ed Stewart and they married in Lubbock, Texas, in 1948, after his service in the US Army ended. After their marriage in Lubbock, they lived in Odessa, Amarillo, Abilene, Waco, Albuquerque, and finally back to Lubbock. Early on, she began painting and drawing for family and friends, selling some pieces along the way. She eventually became locally famous enough to begin teaching art lessons out of her home. At one time, she was awarded her own one-person art show at the local art museum and was written up in the town newspaper for having been afforded such an honor. She also won prizes in local art contests and served as Vice President of the Abilene Creative Art Club. She continued painting and drawing well into her life, but now is retired and she and Ed live in a small town near Tulsa, Oklahoma, close to her daughter's home. Both are now 92 and doing well for their age, having enjoyed a long and adventurous life together in these two states.

As we all know, THS instills in many of us a confidence which is rooted in the very fame and importance of our high school and its students and faculty. We benefit from these traditions that we unconsciously rely on later in life. Phyllis Wileman undoubtedly felt this confidence before she even graduated from the halls of Troy and was willing to sign her yearbooks "Phyllis Wileman, 'future artist'." Good for her, and congratulations to her for her life as a confident artist proudly representing THS!

(Continued on page 3)

THS Historical Society Endowment Fund

An Endowment Fund for the Topeka High School Historical Society has been formed thanks to a generous Topeka High graduate with family ties to the school extending over decades.

Brinton W. "Pete" Woodward, THS 1958, has consulted with the THS Historical Society board of directors to establish the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund that will sustain the operations of the organization and encourage preservation of the building and grounds that comprise the Topeka High School campus.

"By giving to the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund," Woodward says, "I am not only honoring my family and our past commitment to Topeka High, I am helping preserve the building and heritage for students that will pursue their future through education." Woodward has made an initial contribution to the Endowment Fund as well as funds for marketing the new Fund according to Steve Holloman, president of the Historical Society board. "Pete has also pledged an estate gift that will benefit the organization for years to come," Holloman added.

Pete is the grandson of Chester Woodward who was the president of the Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) school board when the building was being planned and constructed in the 1930's. The school's library was named in Chester Woodward's honor.

Pete Woodward, who served as Headmaster of Holderness School in Holderness, NH, for 24 years, says, "I learned early on of the importance of endowments to educational, ecclesiastical and non-profit organizations as a means to balance an annual budget, a means to provide financial assistance to students, a means to cover unexpected short falls, a means to support deferred maintenance, and as a means to develop programs to support faculty and students outside the operating budget." During his tenure as Headmaster of Holderness School, its endowment grew from \$500,000 to \$30 million. He has also served on endowment committees at Trinity Church in Meredith, NH, Lakes

Region Community Services in NH, and Whole Village in NH.

"Topeka High School is especially in need with the changing demographics, the year-to-year ambiguity of public support and memberships, the age of the building, and the necessity to preserve one of the finest school buildings in the U.S," Woodward said.

The Endowment Fund will be administered by the Topeka Community Foundation with contributions held, administered and distributed in accordance with Foundation policies. Endowed funds are unique in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year, a percentage of the endowment's average three-year September 30 balance will be distributed to benefit the THS Historical Society. Gifts to the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund during a donor's lifetime or via estate planning is a statement that the donor values education and supports the institution that has been important to you, your family and the Greater Topeka community.

The Topeka High School Historical Society was founded in 1985 by a visionary group of alumni with a dream to preserve the building, traditions and heritage of Topeka

High School. Their vision laid the foundation for an organization that today represents more than 40.000 alumni that have walked the Halls of Troy in pursuit of an education that allows them to be successful adults, contributing to their families and community.

THS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

THSHS ENDOWMENT - Established in 2019 to sustain the operations of the THSHS and encourage building preservation - administered by the Topeka Community Foundation

THSHS TOWER SOCIETY— established in 2009 to be used for building projects and separated from operating expenses - administered by the THS Historical Society—list included in the newsletter once each year

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND YEAR END APPEAL— these funds are used for operating expenses of the THSHS.

(Continued from page 2)

Her art falls mostly in the impressionist genre, and she preferred working in oils and chalks. Here are a few examples of it.







Attention THS Artists!
THS Graduate Art Exhibit
June - August 2021
THS Art Gallery
Watch for details at:
topekahigh150.com, Facebook

Black & Gold Report

- Mitch Erickson 1968 retired December 2018 after a 42 year career as a chemist for the government. Most recently he established and advanced the technology scouting and horizon scanning capabilities for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- ◆ Janis Ekdahl 1964, former Museum of Modern Art library director in New York City, was awarded the 2018 Art Libraries Society of North America Distinguished Service Award.
- George Vega 1970 was elected 2019 President of the Topeka and Shawnee County Library Board of Directors.
- Adam Nordstrom 1994, principal with Viking Navigation LLC, is working in government relations in Washington DC and Los Alamitos, Calif.
- Rob Briman 1975 has been named to the 2019 Junior Achievement of Kansas, Topeka Business Hall of Fame.



♦ Josh Friedberg 1990 is the head of the 2020 Olympic skateboard event. He cultivated a skateboard exhibit at the Smithsonian and since 2018 has been the Skateboarding Director in Lausanne, Switzerland. A new job is with World Skate, recognized international federation responsible for global development of skateboarding.

♦ Alec Beatty 2015, a former quarterback at THS and an All-American receiver at Macalester College, has received a Fulbright award for the 2019-20 academic year. He is in Kosovo, where he is supporting the teaching of English in Mitrovica.

- ◆ Aaron Mays 1997was chosen to fill a seat on the Shawnee County Commission. He left his District 7 seat on the Topeka City Council to join the commission.
- ◆ Paige Orr 1988 has been a casting director in LA for over 20 years. Her latest effort won an Emmy Award for casting the Netflix project "When They See Us", based on the Central Park 5, with more than 23 million hits on Netflix.
- Art Glassman 1955 was recognized with a Washburn Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◆ Hannah Naeger 2008 defeated two opponents for the District 6 seat on the Topeka City Council. She has a dental practice in Topeka.
- ◆ **1989 Grad, Ed Skoog's** poem "Pittsburgh" was featured in the October 21, 2019 issue of *The New Yorker*.
- ◆ Linda Haughawout Lee 1966 was recently inducted into the American Sewing Guild Hall of Fame in Boston for her contributions to the sewing industry.
- Current THS Principal Rebecca Morrisey received the Education Peace Builders Award from the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice.



The Kroger Stores sponsors the Community Rewards Program of Dillons. In the 3rd quarter of 2019 supporters of the THSHS contributed to a \$183.01 donation from Kroger.

Thank you to Kroger and to the 35 households that shop for the THS Historical Society. Go to www.dillons.com/communityrewards and shop for Topeka High.



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THS Class of 1999 and their families walking the halls during their reunion weekend.







2019 Homecoming Grand Marshalls Martha and Dick Patterson

IN MEMORY

Carl C. Nordstrom 1933 Dorothy Schroeter Prager 1938 Joseph P. Logan 1938 Madge Mankle Simonson 1939 Patricia Kline Kennedy 1939 Mary Lee Huff 1939 Maxine Stephenson Johnson 1941 Marjorie Gideon Hersh 1942 William K. Clark 1943 Caroline Morriss Hines 1943 Lois McDowell Burnett 1943 Forrest E. Cowell 1944 Phil Gilman 1944 Robert E. Lee 1944 Charles L. Dutt 1944 Phylis Fowkes Price 1944 Harold O. Chapman, Jr 1944 Herbert 'Mac' McPartling 1945 Gail 'Frank' Sedgwick 1946 Leota Becker Martin 1946 Norman R. Collins 1946 Ralph E. Skoog 1947 Jackson Hopkins 1947 Madge Tillinghast Garrison 1947 Patricia Miller Ecord 1948 Harold M. Lowe 1948 Darrell E. Brockmeier 1948 Bonnie Gordon Quednow 1949 Mary Ann Bromich Peel 1949 Grace Keeling Thurman 1949 Theresa Byrd Counts 1949 Melvin L. Jenkins 1949 Grace Keeling Thurman 1949 Rollo R. Gurss 1949

Cornelia 'Sally' Morrison Benfer 1949 William N. Smell 1950 Edith Schmid Jorns 1950 Doris Powell Kinnett 1950 Harriet Hull Smith 1950 R. Dean Erwin 1950 Robert E. Howard 1950 Ruth Cowie Dixon 1951 Ava Ruth Conners Magnuson 1951 Alexander Luna 1951 Jo Ann Bruhns Mzhickteno 1951 Mary Hutton Sawyer 1951 Ray Mabon 1951 Patricia Tutt Mick 1951 Robert D. Beal 1951 Emma Fox Skinner 1951 Betty Barter Soltys 1951 Suzanne Hardman Peterson 1952 Shirley 'Jo' Kenworthy Reed 1952 Gordon J. Slusser 1952 Charles M. McClenny 1952 Jimmie L. Bayless 1952 William Nowlan 1952 Dale Schuler 1953 Jack W. Renander 1953 John D. Hubbard 1954 C. Frank Foster 1954 Richard Barclay 1955 Beverley Baird Harper 1956 Alan F. 'Dan' Deaver 1956 Nancy Stebbins Baird 1957 Jimmy L. Starr 1958 Carol Absher Stafford 1958 Donald E. Critchfield 1958

Linda Wedoff Ossiander 1960 Joan C. Odgers 1960 Hilda Erickson Enewold 1961 Robert W. Evertson 1961 Terry L. Fields 1962 Claude L. Grinnell 1963 William H. Lee 1964 Terry L. Cobb 1964 Steven S. Stalter 1965 Daren Andrews Bowman 1965 Linda May Thomas 1966 Mark L. Mannell 1969 Dolly Abrams Brown 1969 Ronald D. Lang 1969 Margaret McMurdo Miller 1969 Virginia Hernandez Ferrero 1970 Wade Wyrick 1971 Judy Lee Welcher 1973 Adrienne Thompson 1975 Aaron G. Zlatnik 1977 Dann Durall 1977 Jon 'JC Culley 1978 Kyle Richardson 1979 Duane Hazlett 1980 Judy Schimmel 1981 Darren G. Abbey 1986 Stephanie Baker 1988 Nathaniel Self 2019 Julie Schalansky 2002 We regret including Barbara Hardman Card 1956 and Daniel Sanchez 1969 in this column

~ 2020 TROJAN CLASS REUNIONS ~ Homecoming 2020 - October 2 - THS vs Highland Park

<u>Class</u>
Class of 1970

September 18 - 19

For More Information
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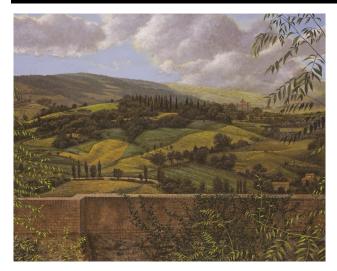
Class of 2000 TBA TaCarra82@yahoo.com tiffluttjohann@gmail.com

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 **thshistoricalsociety.org** 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.**



THS Historical Society 2019 Annual Meeting, Tuesday, January 28th, THS Cavalier Room, 12 pm





Homage to Urbino 27" x 34" oil on linen painting by Walter Hatke

This painting was originally titled *From Urbino*, initially completed in 1989, prior to reworking pars of the composition in 2014, at which time the title was changed to <u>Homage to Urbino</u>. The general composition was left largely intact. Significant changes were made to the sky, background, and castle wall. Specifically, the clouds were altered and elaborated somewhat; subtle modifications and clarifications were made to the background landscape (e.g. the human figures on a road); the wall was shifted to make tis line parallel to the bottom edge of the painting, vines and foliage were added to create a smoother transition to the landscape and enhance a greater sense of special relationships.

The painting was first shown at the artist's 1989 solo exhibition held at Robert Schoelkopf Gallery, New York City. After which the work remained dormant, stored in the artist's studio, until 2014 when it was reworked as described above, the revised version of the painting was included in the artist's solo exhibition at the Mandeville Gallery of Union College, Schenectady, NY, in 2015.

These notes by Walter Hatke, the artist, 29 January 2019 Walter C. & May I. Baker Professor of Visual Arts Emeritus, Union College

This gift of art was formally presented to the THS Historical Society by Walter Hatke (THS 1967) on October 6, 2019, as part of the THS Hall of Fame Ceremony. It is currently on display in the THSHS Paul Fink Office and Museum.

Go to: https://thstower.com/the-world/, The World, Volume 153, Issue 2, Winter 2019, pages 20 - 22, Walter Hatke story by Ricardo Montalvo (THS 2021).

The THSHS has a new website URL: http://www.thshistoricalsociety.org/

TROY JANES By Alice Terry Vernon, Class of 1951



This is a Troy Jane sweater. They were awarded to girls who were chosen as Senior Leaders. We helped with Sophomore and Junior gym classes. High school at that time was Sephomore through Senior years. Our duties were taking roll, taking care of and passing out equipment and helping students learn skills with which they

were having difficulty.

In order to be a Senior Leader, besides the required Sophomore gym class, we had to take a gym class our Junior year which consisted of one semester of modern dance and one semester of individual sports. Although I really wanted to be a Senior Leader, I was not thrilled with the prospect of taking modern dance. Turns out, I loved it:

For me this program was the best thing that could have happened. I had no idea what I was going to do after graduation. Miss Jeanne Cooper told me I had an aptitude for teaching and encouraged me to go to college and specialize in physical education. I am ever grateful to her for steering me in the right direction.

I went to Washburn University and earned my degree in physical education. Ever since, I have been and still am teaching many forms of sports and dance in various places.

Editor's remarks: The Troy Janes were operational from 1948 to 1961. They were referred to in 1948 as the "girls physical education club", but then seemed to morph into the girls PE senior leaders.

Many young kids in their 30's and 40's today will remember Mrs. Vernon as their swim teacher. She taught in the summers from her home in Westwood.

Other recent donations given to Topeka High:

Portable PA System from Dick Barrett, Class of 1956 Two granite benches placed in the main entrance from the THS Class of 1968

Furniture refinishing in the THS Cavalier Room thanks to family and friends of Elizabeth 'Letty' Weber Thompson, Class of 1946

Topeka High thanks these generous supporters!

~ THS Historical Society ~

		Graduation Year		
First Name	Last Name (at graduation)	Current Last Nam	Current Last Name	
THS Spouse's First Nar	ne Last Name	Spouse Gradua	tion Year	
Street		City		
State	Zip Code	Country	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Home Phone		E-mail		
MEMBERSHIP DUES -	for operational expenses & THS	HS special events)	A	
5 Years (\$100) 10 Years (\$175)	of \$1 for each year since my gra		Amount \$ \$ \$ \$	
I want to send a gift me Name Address Membership levels:	embership to:City Yearly (\$25)5 Year (\$100)_			
		TOTAL	\$	
THS Construction Video	ww.thsweb.org/alumni for comp o (\$10, plus \$5 shipping) o (\$30), thsweb1.org/alumni, dow		Amount \$ \$	
Freshman (\$200)	ID – (for building projects)		Amount \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	
Charge account: □ Visa requested)	able to THS Historical Society or □ Master Card □ American Expr	ess Discover (\$50 minimum		
Number:	 Year	CV # (required)		
Mail to: THSHS, 800 SV	V 10 th , Topeka, KS 66612, or pa	y dues online at: http://www.thshi	storicalsociety.org/	



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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. **Members with 2018 expirations will be removed from the list in 2020.**



The THS Historical Society appreciates our members!

We welcome new members! Carole Thomann Tozier, Ray & Sandra Parnell, David & Trina Riley, Bill Argabright, Ron and Lisa Balsters, Dolan & Kathy Bayless, Gary Campbell, Michael and Nancy Ganson, Mark Morehouse, Ramon & Nancy Noches, Karen Tabor, Cynthia Wetmore, Debra Whitaker, Ruth Akins, Rhonda Braun, Shirley Bursvold, James Carr, Becky Cash, Janet Cathcart, Kim Craig, Don Engel, Lori Fletcher, Terry Francis, Travis Gooden, Robert Harder, Jenny Heim, Anne Hochstein, Don Loyd, Colin McMillen, Debbie Mitford, Carla Norsworthy, Jimmy Lee Rose, Lara Vermillion, and Paul Nusbaum.

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 (thshistoricalsociety.org) and renewing via PayPal or credit card.

The THS Historical Society is looking for an assistant for the THSHS executive secretary.

5 –10 hours a week. Data entry and general office assistance.

Call Joan at 785-295-3200 for details.



According to "The Discoverer Blog" website, Topeka High School is the coolest in the state.

Topeka High School joined other notable buildings on the list in June 2019 such as the USS Arizona Memorial Highway in Hawaii, the U.S Air Force Academy in Colorado, and the St. Louis Gateway Arch.