



TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News from the Paul Fink Room

THS Historical Society/Alumni Association, 800 SW Tenth Ave, Topeka, KS 66612
Website: thshistoricalociety.org Phone: 785-295-3200 Email: thshs2001@yahoo.com Vol. 40 No.2, May 2021

2021 THS Historical Society Ed Love Scholarship

The THSHS is pleased to announce our three recipients for this year's scholarships. Elaine Bunten, Zoe Caryl, and Nate Routsong will each receive a check for \$500 from the Ed Love scholarship fund through the Topeka Community Foundation. These three students were selected from a pool of six applicants for the scholarship opportunity.

All three of these winners credited their experience at Topeka High for their success not only in the classroom, but in their extra curricular activities. We are very proud of these three students and the other three applicants who demonstrated much passion for Topeka High in addition to the rigorous course work and ambitious extracurricular activities in which they participated.



Elaine Bunten, the granddaughter of former state legislator and Topeka mayor Bill Bunten (1948), is the editor of the Topeka High yearbook. She has been a very active participant in the Topeka Youth Commission as well as a cheerleader for four years at Topeka High. Elaine carries a GPA of 4.0. Her ACT score is 32 and currently she is ranked number one in her class of 2021. Elaine plans on attending Kansas University next fall to study Chemical Engineering on a Pre-

Med track. Upon completing her degree she plans on attending Pharmacy /Med School or going into the workforce to study with NASA.

Zoe Caryl, daughter of THS faculty member Emily Caryl and Topeka West assistant principal and THS graduate Beau Caryl, has been a member of the highly successful women's basketball program for four years. In addition she is currently a member of the undefeated women's softball team. Batting close to .700, she is tearing the cover off the ball! Zoe has been a part of Student Government,

Spirit Club, Yearbook, and as a photographer for senior sports. She credits much of her success to not only family support, but to her participation in National Honor Society, the Superintendents Student Advisory Council, and Interact Club. Zoe carries a GPA of 3.9. Her ACT score is 26. Zoe plans on attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on a softball scholarship, to major in Atmospheric Sciences. Her dream job would be to become a meteorologist and work for the National Weather Service.



Nathaniel Routsong has been an integral part of the Topeka High School Drum Line for the past four years, serving as Captain this year. The amount of hours and trips this group has performed is amazing. This group performs year round to promote music education and Topeka High. It has created quite a brotherhood of percussionists. Nate also participates in the Link

Crew, Forensics, Scholars Bowl, and tennis. Nate has a GPA of 3.98. He is currently ranked 5th in the class of 2021. His ACT composite score is 28. Nate plans on attending a Kansas college and major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in music or physics. He is very interested in becoming a nuclear operator, which is a subspecialty of the Mechanical Engineering umbrella.



Doris Derrington loved Topeka High and her class of 1951. Her class gave her a Trojan maquette in appreciation for the time and TLC she spent organizing their class reunions and keeping track of her classmates. The limited number of maquettes were created by artist Janet Zoble, creator of the Trojan statue standing at our front entrance. Doris cherished the gift and what it represented. She made plans for it when she would not be around to enjoy it. Doris wanted the top student in the year of her passing to be given the statuette. Doris passed away on February 21, 2021. Doris' gift was presented to **Elaine Bunten 2021** on Senior Recognition Night.

President's Message

Dear Trojan Alumni and Friends,

It is with great anticipation that I bring you greetings from the Topeka High School Historical Society Board of Directors. The 150th Anniversary of Topeka High School is finally becoming a reality and even though the pandemic has delayed the start of our celebration, we are looking forward to beginning our anniversary events by mid-2021. Our 150th Anniversary committee has been enthusiastically planning for this year's celebration since their first meeting in November 2016. They have developed a slate of exciting events that we all can enjoy as we honor 150 years of the Topeka High School.

On September 18, 1871, when the first students of the THS entered its doors on the 3rd floor of the Lincoln School located at 5th and Madison, little did they know that 150 years later their school would have endured and would serve as the flagship school for the City of Topeka and the region. In the late 1920s, the Topeka Board of Education had a vision for a school that would provide students with learning opportunities well beyond those of a basic education. The Board believed that the design of the school should reflect the importance of learning in a facility of which the community could be proud. When the current building opened in the fall of 1931, it clearly represented the Board's vision for an exemplary education and to this day, Topeka High continues to serve as a shining beacon of educational excellence and tradition.

The Topeka High School Historical Society was organized in 1985 under the leadership of Ed Love (THS '39) with a mission to preserve the architecture, traditions and heritage of Topeka High School. For the past 36 years, the THSHS has worked in partnership with the administration of Topeka High School and that of the Topeka Public Schools to achieve our mission. The THSHS also awards the Ed Love (THS '39) and Dean Smith (THS '49) scholarships each year to THS students who have attained high levels of academic achievement while exemplifying what it means to be a Trojan.

The THSHS Board of Directors take great pride in doing the work that helps preserve our majestic and historic school so that future generations of Trojans will be able to benefit from all it has to offer. But none of this would have been, or will continue to be possible, without the financial support of our alumni, Society members and friends. Whether you have graciously donated to the THSHS Endowment, Tower Society, to our Year-End Appeal or simply paid your Membership, your contributions have ensured that the THSHS continues to fully operate while completing important preservation projects. Recently, many of you have contributed monetary gifts to sponsor events scheduled for our 150th anniversary celebration.

None of this would be possible without you, our alumni and friends!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to extend our gratitude and *thank you* for your generous and continued financial support of the THSHS. Topeka High School is such a unique and beautiful place and as we approach the start of our 150th Anniversary celebration, I hope that you will be able to join us, in-person, for the wonderful array of activities and events that are planned. If you have not been back to The Halls of Troy recently, I hope that you will consider reconnecting

with the school as we celebrate its 150th Anniversary. A phrase from our School Song captures the essence of this moment -- *Ever we glory in thy proud success, Hail to the Black and Gold Forever!*



Linda Wiley, 2021 THSHS President
THS Principal 2006-2016

2021 Board of Directors

President - Linda Wiley
Vice-President - Michelle Neis 2006
Secretary - David Corley 1968
Treasurer - Adam Crouch
Past President - Joy Smith Dodd 1975

Anton Ahrens
Lesia Moore Carter 1976
David Clark 1967
Liam Dale 2010
Andrea Etzel 2001
David Heit
Amy Jenkins 2005
Steve Holloman 1970
Susan Baird Marchant 1964
Marsha Martin Sheahan 1967
Alexis Stevens 2001
Judy Stuenkel Soule 1958
Mike Stewart 1967
Douglass Wallace 1965
Marlaina Webb
Cindy Owens White 1975

Rebecca Morrissey
THS Principal

Joan Friedstrom Barker 1971
Executive Secretary

Clarence Frost (My Dad)

By Cherryl Frost Thompson



My Dad, **Clarence Leroy Frost**, was born July 9, 1928, and raised in Topeka, Kansas with his four siblings. They were, by his own admission, from the wrong side of the tracks. The family grew up in an old boxcar purchased and placed on a piece of property with some siding and doors added. That structure is still sitting in the same location.

Dad was raised in an extremely poor and abusive home and eventually was forced to leave and be on his own by the time he was 15, which did not allow him to finish school. He survived by picking potatoes and delivering ice and eventually went into the Marine Corps. His main position in the Marine Corp was Military Police and once he was out of the military desired to become a Police Officer. The lack of a high school diploma would not allow him to obtain a position on the police force so he started working as a mechanic in Lawrence, Kansas. He met my mother, Shirley Gifford, and was married and started a family quickly. With work scarce, they made the decision to move to California and he became a plasterer with the Union building homes throughout Southern California. As Dad talks about things that made a difference in his life, he never fails to talk about his 5th grade teacher Mrs. Welch who realized he did not own shoes without holes; she took him under her wing and purchased him good shoes for walking in the snow. He knew that taking the good shoes home would initiate a beating so he would hide them under a bush at the end of the day and wear his old ones home and then change again on the way to school. He has never forgotten the teacher that cared enough for him to make sure he had warm dry feet for school.

Dad eventually continued his trade education and became head of heating and air conditioning at a Junior College in Southern California. He worked hard his whole life and raised three children but always regretted not being able to say he had a high school diploma. He could have been a statistic for continuing abuse; however, broke the cycle and was, and still is, a caring man with a great sense of humor that worked hard all of his life to provide for his family.



He

currently lives in an assisted living facility in Newport, Washington, where they all love him and enjoy his stories and jokes daily.

Thank you to Topeka High School for understanding the value of this amazing 92-year-old man that never let his beginning circumstances define his life!

The Rest of the Story.....

Sophia Hodge 2020, daughter of Scott '89 and Susan Durow '87 Hodge, gave Mr. Frost her cap and gown, tassel, and honor cords. She didn't get to walk with her class due to Covid. Giving those items to him helped her to get past her own disappointments that she had with her Graduation and also losing her swim season. Seeing Mr. Frost in his pictures and hearing him on a local newscast brought her to tears. She said to her mother, assistant to Principal Morrissey, "This is what we do at Topeka High, we take care of each other".

Bellamy Away correction: In our previous story about Topeka High School winning the Bellamy Award, we incorrectly stated that the award was for being the best school in America for that year. The national Bellamy Award Committee chose a different state each year and then awarded the honor based on applications from that state. We were chosen as the best school in Kansas during the 1961 year which allowed THS the honor of joining the highly prestigious national Bellamy family of winning schools. Different states were chosen each year, allowing only one new school to join the national Bellamy family of schools per year. The program lasted from 1942 to 1977, when it was discontinued. 37 schools were inducted into the family during that time. Many thanks to fellow Trojan alum Roy Miller (1961) from Brainerd, Minnesota, for catching our error. He served his fellow Trojans as Editor in Chief of the *World* in Mrs. Greer's journalism class. He also wrote the article in the *World* which is showcased in the display in the high school today. Roy's recollection was also confirmed to us by another alum, Ken Leonard (1963).

A Topeka High Legend: Martha Herrick - "Mom"

Douglass W. Wallace (1965)

"Legend" - a term often over used but in this instance accurate: Martha Herrick, who passed away at age 89 on April 2nd, is a Topeka High LEGEND. From 1954 to 1993 Miss Herrick taught at THS English, Creative Writing, Humanities, Stagecraft, and Theatre (Acting). She assisted Topeka High drama coach Gertrude Wheeler and subsequently became head drama coach. As head of the Theatre Dept., "Mom," as she was affectionately known, directed 110+ productions. Teaching and other honors include: Topeka Teacher of the Year (1984); Topeka High School Hall of Fame (1993); and Washburn University's Lifetime Achievement Award (1999). A scholarship for THS Theatre students was established in her name in 2000.

Martha Herrick was born in Kansas City, Kansas, but grew up in New Jersey. When the family moved back to Kansas, she attended Roosevelt Jr. High and, of course, Topeka High - class of 1949. Because her folks lived outside Topeka near Meriden, Miss Herrick could not participate in after school activities as an undergraduate. That changed her senior year when she got to shine as "Penny" in the George S. Kaufmann and Moss Hart comedy *You Can't Take it With You*. For her performance, she and co-star Walt Menninger were named 'Thespians of the Year.'

After high school she earned her Bachelor's degree from Washburn University and later a Master's at the University

of Denver. Martha began her teaching career at Curtis Jr. High (1953-54) and then Topeka High. Even before coming to Troy she assisted Miss Wheeler with play productions and, of course, after coming to THS. Before her retirement in 1963, Miss Wheeler switched roles with her protégé, now assisting Miss Herrick. It is said on her last day in school before retirement, "Mom" let out a Tarzan yell that shook the Halls of Troy.

Though retired, she wasn't finished "treading the boards" in Topeka. Miss Herrick had several other performances ahead of her - at Topeka Civic Theatre and Topeka High. Records are not perfect, but apparently her first play at THS, as a freshman teacher/drama coach, she assisted Miss Wheeler with *George Washington Slept Here* (1955) and the last *Greater Tuna* (1993). In between were productions of *The Glass Menagerie*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Pygmalion*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Miracle Worker*, and many, many more.

The sadness of Martha Herrick's, Mom's, passing is soothed by the knowledge that she lived to see one of her "kids," Jayne Houdyshell (1971) receive Broadway's highest honor: the Tony Award for the best actress in a featured role (2016).

~ 2021 CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2021 - September 24 - THS vs Manhattan

Class

Dates

For More Information

Class of 1960	September 24, 25
Class of 1961	September 24-26
Class of 1965	September 24
Class of 1966	September 25
Class of 1970	September 24, 25
Class of 1971	September 24-26
Class of 1976	September 24, 25
Class of 1980	September 24, 25
Class of 1981	September 24, 25
Class of 1990	September 24, 25
Class of 1991	September 24, 25
Class of 2001	September 24, 25

jpfuetze@gmail.com
 skipglad43@windstream.net
 cadair47@gmail.com
 Facebook
 ltenbrink1952@gmail.com
 pmorgan379@gmail.com, Facebook
 dkimbrough@gmail.com
 mbrentnall@gmail.com, Facebook
 www.topekahigh1980.com
 reignbow913@aol.com
 magerpayne@cox.net
 miguelcolon32@yahoo.com
 alexis.m.stevens@gmail.com
 margaretmorrismick@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 discounts for 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.**

IN MEMORY OF OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

Kordula Polenek 1937
Anita Reid Tannuzzo 1943
Portia Anderson Allbert 1945
Darlene Gooding 1949
George Schrader 1949
Richard C. Foster 1949
Annette Huke Chance 1950
Doris Derrington 1951
Joan Pauley Diehl 1952

Betty Beal Heitzmann 1953
Donna Pagel Velesquez 1954
Jean Allison Blaisdell 1958
Barbara Leech Rummell 1958
Judy Gorrell Struss 1959
Joyce Leonhart Morales 1959
Judy Sharkey Blocher 1959
Richard A. Hutchens 1959
David E. Becker 1961

Donald R. Longren 1963
Ben L. Haley 1963
David C. Laney 1966
Debra Carver Bardsley 1971
Arleeta Burney 1971
Karen Meek Lyming 1973
Daniel W. Bell 1989
We apologize for including Leatrice
Endlich's name in this column

A First (Pandemic) Year Teaching - Lara Avery (2006)

It's a day in December. Or maybe November. One of those shapeless gray months from then to now. My students' Zoom squares are, as usual, dark or emblazoned with their chosen cartoon characters. I had let them unmute themselves or chat with me rather than turn on their cameras, as I'd read about the anxiety some students get when they have to show their faces on Zoom; one of many think-pieces before I stopped having time to read.

Admittedly, most of my understanding of teaching high school at that point had come from think-pieces. I had put my resume in a Topeka Public Schools pool of applicants in September 2020, hoping to get a call back sometime in 2021. Instead, two weeks later I found myself shuffling from my kitchen in socks, composing questions for a novel I was reading only slightly quicker than the 9th graders in the digital waiting room. This is my first year as a high school teacher.

My classroom is a menagerie of avatars. How strange to spend hours every day exchanging notes and instructions with the image of a sleepy Daffy Duck, or LeBron James dunking. That is, when I could get Daffy Duck to talk. Small existential crises creep into their daily silences.

"What is the inciting incident?" I call out to the Zoom that winter day.

Nothing. *Should I have explained that first? Is this boring for them? Are they even there? What am I doing wrong?* In the corner of the Zoom, a Spongebob leers through the gloom as if through a lamplit window in some Dickensian alley. *Everything*, my answer comes.

My office chair is surrounded by open books, passages earmarked then abandoned once I realized that all the stories I loved were about sad adults. My email inbox is full of acronyms I don't understand, gentle reminders of some meeting I've missed or paperwork I forgot to fill out. A dull ache of exhaustion settles behind my eyes and I look at the clock: 9:45 am. *Do I have COVID?* I think, for the 40th time that week.

"Folks? What is the inciting incident?" I repeat to my class.

Nothing. After too many days like these, I begin to ask my students questions about themselves rather

than just the material. I could communicate with them about ideas, I figure, but first we need to simply communicate. After all, I am a stranger to them, too: a floating head who has too much coffee, a creaky floor, and corny taste in music.

So, I ask them about their families, their favorite way to eat a potato, their dream cars, and whether or not they would leave Earth with the aliens, among other things. We play everyone's favorite songs, we Google pictures of turtles together, and once, in a "grab an object from your house" game, several students "grab" their round-cheeked younger siblings. Pets appear. Souvenirs from Mexico and Florida. Stuffed animals. Cameras turn on, their faces blinking in their little squares, lighting up my screen like a Christmas tree. Happy tears come to my eyes, which I duck away from my own camera to hide.

Now, as the school year comes to a close, my Language Arts lessons can still be phenomenal flops. I still have to backtrack, adjust, and admit my mistakes. I struggle teaching two sets of students at once. Sometimes I can't reach the remote students, sometimes in-person students can't hear me through my mask. But one practice I still keep—and will always keep—from my first months at Topeka High is to start each day with a question, setting aside a few precious minutes where we simply share. Maybe it's silly, but I've learned we must savor each other. Humans should never be so flattened in each others' eyes as they were this year. Maybe here—where we allow some time and space for each others' dreams, and favorites, and beloved animals, and snack foods—maybe here is where we hold space for each others' lives.

Lara Avery is a writer and teacher. She has written branching narrative games for FoxNext, award-winning Young Adult novels for Alloy Entertainment, and her articles and essays appear in *San Francisco Chronicle*, *ARTNews*, and *Women In Clothes*. Lara graduated with a BA in Media and Cultural Studies from Macalester College in 2010, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Mississippi in 2020.

150th celebration of Topeka High School - UPDATES

Topeka High is going to celebrate her 150 years, in the grand way it deserves, in the 2021/2022 school year with events throughout the year. The celebration of 150 years of Topeka High is meant to be a gift to our graduates who have "Walked the Halls", generous supporters and friends of THS.



THS Graduate Hall of Fame, Sunday, October 17, THS Woodward Library, Honoring Marian Knight Douglas 1950, Steve Holloman 1970, Gary Krohe 1971 and Anton Ahrens as Distinguished Staff

Naturalization Ceremony hosted by THS & the THSHS, honoring the 60th anniversary of THS receiving the national Bellamy Award – Wednesday, November 10, 2021(unofficial).

Ice Cream Social Honoring the THS Class of 2021, Friday, April 23.

A sweet thank you to 1971 grads Susie Nuss Reichenberger, Sharon Cheschier Zimmerman, Mary Patzkowsky Reilly, Sandy Singer, Jan Miller Karlin, Sarah McGrew Ansnick, Kris Grooms Trimmer and Joan Friedstrom Barker!

Annual Patriotic Chimes Concert – June 27, 2021. THS Front Lawn.

150th Kick-Off - Birthday cake for students and staff on the front lawn honoring the first day of Topeka High in 1871 - Friday, September 17, 2021.

Homecoming Weekend Friday, September 24, 2021

Royalty assembly, 1 pm, followed by parade. THS vs Manhattan, 7 pm, Hummer Sports Park.

Saturday, September 25

Open House at Topeka High, 10 am - 2:30 pm, Affinity Groups, Food Trucks, displays, etc.

'Crawl Kansas Avenue' Graduates and the community will enjoy the Downtown Topeka establishments and the Topeka Car Show.

Aaron Douglas Art Fair, 1211 SW Lane, 10 am - 5 pm

The Black & Gold Gala, Saturday, December 4, 2021. VIP Dinner in the Student Cafeteria, followed by an evening of entertainment with Richetta Manager (THS Hall of Fame, 1971) and Tommy Jones 1971 in Hoehner Auditorium.

'Fiddler on the Roof' - March 4-6, 2022. THS Graduates will be invited by the THS Drama Dept. to participate in the opening number 'Tradition'. Graduates also invited to be part of the pit orchestra.

Graduate Variety Show and Surprise Finale – Spring 2022, Date TBD

Graduates and Friends Sock Hop – April 23, 2022, THS North Gym. Held on the same night as THS Prom.

Graduate Art Show – First Friday Art Walk, June 3, 2022.

Keep up with events and activities: **Topeka High 150 Facebook**, **TopekaHigh150.com**, **thshistoricalsociety.org** and **THS Historical Society Facebook**.

Get involved & join the fun!

Contact the 150th Committee at Topeka-High150@gmail.com and get signed up now to help with Homecoming 2021.

TROY TODAY

Black & Gold Report

- **Andrea Etzel (2001)**, editor of KANSAS! Magazine, was presented with a We Kan! Award May 4 by the Kansas Sampler Foundation, based in Inman, KS.
- **Larry White (2018)** was part of the national championship basketball team at Coffeyville CC Junior College.
- **Teven Jenkins**, was drafted in Round 2, #39 pick from Oklahoma State to the Chicago Bears.

- **The Lady Trojan Softball Team** finished the regular season 20-0 and won its first league title in the school's history. They won the regional title on May 18 and are on their way to State.
- **Scott Michelsen**, TPS Board of Education President was recognized as a leader in modern governance by the Diligence Corporation.
- **Daniel McCready** THS Orchestra Instructor was recognized by the KS Music Educator Assoc. with an Outstanding Young Director Award.
- **Zoe Caryl (2021)** and **Xavier Harrison (2021)** received the 2021 THS Dean Smith Scholarship.

THS Historical Society Supporters (On a mission for THS)

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)	\$ _____
Special annual payment of \$1 for each year since my graduation (i.e. Class of 1966, 50 years since graduation=\$50)	\$ _____

I want to give a membership to:

Name _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership levels: ____ Yearly (\$25) ____ 5 Year (\$100)

Total \$ _____

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: thshistoricalociety.org/

Keep track of your THSHS membership easily

by creating a recurring payment at the checkout.



Sponsor the refinishing of an original student cafeteria chair. Dave Clark (1967) will make the wobbly chair on the right look like the one on the left. Only \$200. Pay online at thshistoricalociety.org or send a check to: THSHS, 800 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66612

THSHS NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Let us know if you are interested in receiving the THSHS newsletter online. This might be a good option for you if you travel or leave your primary address part of the year.



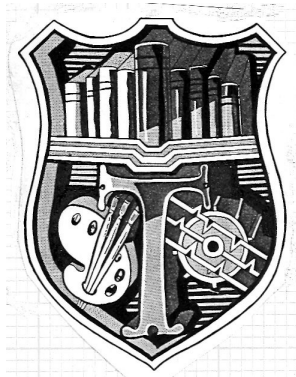
THS Historical Society
800 W Tenth Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non. Prof. Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Topeka, KS
Permit No. 702

**The THS Historical Society
appreciates our members!**

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 membership to a sibling or classmate as a gift. You don't have to be a THS graduate to be a THSHS member. All who are interested in historic preservation of a Topeka landmark are welcome. You can remit your dues by completing the form on page 7 of this newsletter or by going on-line at thshistoricalociety.org and joining the effort for THS by credit card.



**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 150TH - These funds are used for the celebration activities & events.

THSHS TOWER SOCIETY— established in 2009 to be used for building projects - list of donors is included once a year in the THSHS newsletter and on the THSHS website.

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