

# 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.3 September 2021

### 150<sup>th</sup> OF TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The 150th Committee is excited to begin the year of celebrating the Topeka High milestone. They have been working with the Topeka High administration, staff, and students to provide safe and fun events. Nothing has been cancelled, but we are ready to adapt if needed. We feel responsible to protect the vulnerable by wearing masks indoors and are being mindful of social distancing.

Put these dates on your calendars and join us for all or some of them.

#### **Homecoming Weekend – Public invited!**

##### **Friday, September 24, 2021, outdoor options available**

1 pm – Royalty assembly, followed by parade through Downtown Topeka.

Football vs Manhattan 7 pm, special halftime entertainment, Hummer Sports Park.

#### **Saturday, September 25, 2021 – Public invited to THS - Community Events Too**

- Open House at Topeka High – 10 am – 2:30 pm - Affinity Groups, Food Trucks, Displays, Walk the Halls, etc. **Masks and Social Distancing required inside.**
- Aaron Douglas Art Fair, 1211 SW Lane, 10 am – 5 pm. Featured Artist Aisha Imani Sanaa THS Grad
- ‘Crawl Kansas Avenue’ – 3pm - 8pm - In conjunction with the Topeka Car Show. Enjoy the establishments of Downtown Topeka.
- CHORUS LINE, featuring community actors, at Topeka Performing Arts Center.

**Saturday, October 16, 10 am, Topeka High School – An Art Tour of Topeka High with historian and THS graduate Kara Heitz (1993).** Watch for a Facebook post with a link to sign up for 1 of 2 times. Tour will feature significant pieces of art at THS.

**THS Graduate Hall of Fame, Sunday, October 17, 2 pm, THS Woodward Library.** Honoring Marian Knight Douglas 1950, Steve Holloman 1970, Gary Krohe 1971, and Anton Ahrens as Distinguished Staff. **Public invited. Reception Following.**

**Naturalization Ceremony at Topeka High** hosted by Topeka High & the THS Historical Society recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of THS receiving the national Bellamy Award – Wednesday, November 10, 2021. **For current students and staff to witness.**

**The Black & Gold Gala - Saturday, December 4, 2021.** VIP Dinner in the THS Student Cafeteria followed by a Concert in the THS Hoehner Auditorium co-produced by Richetta Manager (THS 1971, THS Hall of Fame) and Anthony ‘Tommy’ Jones (THS 1971). Watch for Facebook post with ticket information. **Admission – Public invited.**

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF – March 4-6, 2022.** THS Graduates will be invited to participate in the opening number ‘Tradition’. Watch for Facebook posts. **Admission – Public invited**

**Graduates and Friends Sock Hop – April 23, 2022 (same night as THS Prom) held in the North Gym. Admission – Public Invited**

**Graduate Variety Show and Laser Light Show 150<sup>th</sup> Finale – May 28, 2022. Admission – Public invited**

**Graduate Art Show – First Friday Art Walk, June 3, 2022 - THS Art Gallery. Public invited.**

## 2021 Topeka High Softball Team Makes History Taking First State Softball Championship



### 2021 State Roster

2021 Graduated Seniors- Mia Kelly, Zoe Caryl, Tatum Wilson, and Zoie Kincade  
2022 Seniors- Amiah Cain, Nija Canady, Calyn Michaelis, Elycia Joyce, Majayla Boyd  
2022 Juniors- Adisyn Caryl, Quincy Smith, Carter Johnston, Alesia Alvarez  
2022 Sophomores- Hailey Shaeffer, McCall Beall  
Head Coach- Shane Miles

After winning its first Class 6A state championship as well as its first Centennial League championship, Topeka High swept player, newcomer and coach of the year honors for the 2021 All-City Softball team.

The Trojans, who finished 25-0, had the city player of the year in junior pitcher Ni-Jaree Canady, who went 21-0 in the circle with a miniscule 0.26 ERA and whopping 226 strikeouts. She also hit .478 with a city-best 13 home runs, including a solo home run in the state semifinals against Gardner-Edgerton that propelled the Trojans to the championship game in a 1-0 win.

Sophomore teammate Adisyn Caryl was named the city newcomer of the year after hitting .608 with 40 RBI in her first year as the Trojans' starting shortstop. High coach Shane Miles was named the city coach of the year and the Trojans had nine players receive honors overall.

Brent Maycock, Topeka Capital-Journal

## Class of 1970 Gift to their Alma Mater - Where the Sunflowers Bloom



From left, George Vega 1970, Nancy Shuart Vega 1970, Christa Huss Sloop 1970

### “Meet you at the Sunflowers!” - Nancy Shuart Vega 1970

A voice to echo down a hallowed hall of Troy. Anything could happen after that. A philosophy could be voiced, a new club could be imagined, a friendship could be forged, or a life-changing experience could be shared and evaluated.

Hopefully, this Sunflower sculpture can offer a place to give or get encouragement to participate, lead, initiate, organize, support, decipher, create—all those actions Topeka High students have utilized to change this school, our community, and later, the world, for 150 years, now.

Our one-of-a-kind school building has a beautiful engraving above one entrance, “Books are the window through which the soul looks out.” Remembering this, my class of 1970 hopes that this Sunflower sculpture can be placed in a location where future Trojans can meet as their souls “look out” at things of import as they learn from each other’s views.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains*, a book written by Tracy Kidder, relates the true story of Dr. Paul Farmer who helped eradicate tuberculosis in Haiti. Kidder states that “Education wasn’t what he (Dr. Farmer) wanted to perform on the world. He was after transformation. Dr. Farmer recognized that his view in Haiti provided him with a lens on the world and believed, “To understand Russia, to understand Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Boston, identity politics, Sri Lanka, and Life Savers, you have to be on top of this hill.”

Topeka High, for 150 years, now, has been transforming students by providing them with a lens on the world. “A song for the land where the Sunflowers bloom,” indeed!



## ~ 2021 CLASS REUNIONS ~

**Homecoming 2021 - September 24 - THS vs Manhattan**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>For More Information</u>
Class of 1960	September 24, 25	jpfuetze@gmail.com
Class of 1961	September 24-26	skipglad43@windstream.net
Class of 1965	September 24	cadair47@gmail.com
Class of 1966	September 25	Facebook
Class of 1970	September 25	ltenbrink1952@gmail.com
Class of 1971	September 24-26	pmorgan379@gmail.com, Facebook
Class of 1976	September 24, 25	dkimbrough@gmail.com
Class of 1980	September 24, 25	topekahigh1980@gmail.com, Facebook, topekahigh1980.com
Class of 1981	September 24, 25	reignbow913@aol.com rhutchison1963@gmail.com
Class of 1990	cancelled	
Class of 1991	September 24, 25	miguelcolon32@yahoo.com
Class of 2001	September 24, 25	alexis.m.stevens@gmail.com margaretmorrismick@gmail.com
Boswell Picnic (cancelled) September 25, Noon-4 pm		douglas.barnes67207@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.**

## THS Class Gift Suggestions

Topeka High classes and individuals have been generous to their school. If you are looking for a way to help, here are some suggestions. Contact the THSHS with questions.

**Refinish an original Student Cafeteria Table - 3 tables @ \$250 each.**

**Refinish an original Library table – \$375 each.**

**Refinish an original Art Gallery bench – 6 benches @ \$175 each.**

**Refinish an original USD 501 Drafting Table – 2 tables @ \$275 each.**

**Modifying the Home Gym Entrance Trophy Case  
to be accessible with sliding glass - \$8,500.**

Multi-class project

**New Trophy Case for Visitor's Gym Entrance - \$16,000.**

Multi-class project

## IN MEMORY OF OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

Kathryn Quaney Hill 1941	Marjorie Roberts McDaniel 1953	Kenneth Smith 1960
Doris Heck Hedberg 1943	George Weston 'Wes' Lyle 1953	Sara Senne Hischke 1962
Richard Cornish 1943	Carla Stewart Benton 1954	Gary Oyler 1962
Robert E. Reed 1944	Rex Roush 1954	Roger 'Rod' Templin 1963
Jeanne Woodcox Taggart 1944	Pat McCluggage Dickinson 1954	Michael Worswick 1964
Jerry F. Rogers 1944	Henry 'Bud' Bromich 1954	David G. Monical 1964
Patti Jo Sippel Lindley 1946	Donald E. Luttrell 1954	Cheryl Bittenbender McLain 1964
David A. Houser 1946	James Howard 1954	Karen Alumbaugh Simpson 1965
Alice Hodgson Cook 1946	Harry M. Turner 1954	Thomas W. Powell 1965
Genevieve Wanstrath Ennis 1946	Peter S. Taylor 1955	John J. Guerrero 1965
Peggy Scott Kimbrough 1946	Janet Morton Metz 1955	James A. Stoops 1965
Charles 'Bill' Hockenbarger 1947	Fred 'Fritz' Steele 1956	David C. Laney 1966
Dorothy Beems Lewis 1947	Darl E. Everett, Sr. 1956	Michael B. Ecord 1967
Dean Grogger 1948	Roy Glassman 1956	Virginia Tucker Johnson 1968
Ollie Burke Kutina 1948	David L. Jellison 1956	Nicholasa Rocha Hidalgo 1968
Charles W. Hockenbarger 1948	Judy Frost Longstaff 1957	Karen Hauer Goering 1969
Frank J. Griffin, Jr. 1948	Jacelyn McQuery 1957	Becky Jo Walters 1971
Jack Byron Green 1949	Robert B. Johnson 1957	Michael 'Mick' Lynch 1971
Buddie Salsbury 1949	Stephen M. Poort 1957	Thomas D. Tenbrink 1971
Martha J. Herrick 1949	Carolyn King Wheeler 1957	Kenneth Sieh 1971
Sharon Lietz Eulert 1950	Rosemary 'Rosie' Martin Lester 1957	Debra Trimble Thornton 1971
Doris Drennan Enloe 1950	James A. Flowers 1957	Teresa 'Tess' Delgado Berroth 1974
Lois Diepenbrock Metzenthin 1950	Jean Allison Blaisdell 1958	Mark Penn 1975
Patty L. Cumnickel Beal 1950	Wanda Gingrich Newman 1958	Greg K. Waetzig 1976
Peggy Hughes Glazzard 1951	Barbara Leech Rummel 1958	Mark M. Barber 1976
Flora 'Marlene' Kintz Lohrbach 1951	Barry Gentry 1958	Donald D. Hawkins 1976
Mildred 'Millie' Carlson Collie 1951	Wanda Gingrich 1958	Pamela J. Perry 1978
David E. Ohse 1951	Sue Falley Anderson 1959	Gregory A. Martin 1979
Mary Jane Johnson Fleenor 1951	Marcia Jones Levin Chambers 1959	Laura Barnes Sullivan 1989
Janet Kesler Bair-Rost 1952	Joyce Leonhart Morales 1959	Frederick W. 'Erick' Benke IV 2004
Louise A. Anderson 1952	Judith Gorrell Struss 1959	Carl L. Parton 2011
Margaret Harper Talley Holzhtuter 1952	Robert Ford 1959	
Milton E. 'Jack' Scott 1953	Bonnie Phelps Maupin 1959	

### HS Students Honored by Living the Dream

Topeka High students were honored as part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Living the Dream, Inc. Community Awards and Scholarship Program. Although this year's event was cancelled in response to the pandemic crisis, the organization through virtual presentations awarded ten community awards and seventeen (\$1,000.00) scholarships to graduating high seniors pursuing higher education.

**Topeka High School senior, Chrishayla Adams**, who recently graduated, received the **Youth Award** for her leadership as the statewide president of the Jobs for America's Graduates - Kansas for her first place award winning performance in public speaking at the national JAG Competition and for being selected by Governor Laura Kelly to serve on the State's Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Kelm Lear, THS 2021**, received the **Elizabeth "Liz" Ross Community Action Award** for his outstanding school leadership positions and his encouragement of student community service work. Kelm volunteers weekly at the Faith and Family Ministry, Inc. community service agency. Kelm took the leadership role in organizing a drive to collect thousands of masks for THS students to wear during the pandemic. Also, through his service as the Interact Club President, he organized a socially-distanced Trick-or-Treat event for the community surrounding Topeka High School. During the holiday season, the Interact Club collected and delivered baskets for several needy THS families in need of food assistance.

**The following five Topeka High seniors (THS 2021)** were awarded the Living the Dream, Inc. \$1,000.00 scholarship award for their academic achievements, school involvement, and community service: Aubrey Zimmerman, daughter of Kerry (THS Science Faculty) and Kari Ziegler (THS 1992) Zimmerman; Chelee Blancas; Ryleigh Atkinson-McLaury, daughter of Lysa Atkinson (THS Staff & THS grad); Zoe Caryl, daughter of Beau (THS 1992) and Emily (THS Faculty) Caryl; and Zoie Kincade (daughter of Bryan and Shayla (THS 1995) Kincade. These five students along with nine other Topeka Public Schools student winners from Topeka West and Highland Park High School were recognized at the TPS Board of Education virtual meeting February 18.

Since 1985, Living the Dream, Inc. has honored the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by recognizing individuals and organizations who have exemplified Dr. King's life within the Topeka and surrounding community. Additional information about the organization and other awards can be found at [www.ltdtopeka.com](http://www.ltdtopeka.com).

## Trojans at the Olympics



Topeka High can boast of several graduates who have been in the Olympics. Syed Abdul Mufti (Preston Carrington 1967), former long jumper, competed in the 1972 Summer Olympics. Judy Dyer (1966) competed in the 80 meter hurdles at the 1968 Summer Olympics. Chuck Nelson (1951) is a former volleyball player who competed in the 1964 Olympic Games.

Josh Friedberg (1980) found a career in skateboarding that took him around the globe working for a Skate Magazine. The connections he made there helped him build a foundation to bring skateboarding to the Olympic Games for the first time this year. He could be spotted with the skateboard team in Tokyo last month. Josh is the CEO of US Skateboarding.

Friedberg grew up in the Boswell area of Topeka and built a half pipe in his backyard during the 1990's for skateboarding. Skate parks were no where to be found at that time.

He attended Randolph Elementary and Robinson Middle School. After completing his freshman year at Colorado School of Mines, he realized that skateboarding was his true passion, so he headed to California to pursue skateboarding.

Congratulations, Josh, for following your dreams to success!



## THS 150th Watches

The THS Black Student Union (BSU) is selling these beautiful watches to commemorate the 150th of THS. Proceeds go toward student college tour expenses, with a portion donated to the THS 150. Send \$200 in check, cash or money order to the THS Business Office, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612, or place your order and pick up in person. What a great way to support our students, celebrate the 150th, and have a stylish memento of Topeka High. Hoy! Hoy!

## 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 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) .....	\$ _____
Extra 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 10<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, KS 66612, or pay dues online at: [thshistoricalociety.org/](http://thshistoricalociety.org/)

**Keep track of your THSHS membership easily by creating a recurring payment online at [thshistoricalociety.org](http://thshistoricalociety.org). Find the option at the checkout.**

## Trojans in the Spotlight

- ♦ **Kris Grooms Trimmer (1971)** was inducted in the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame in Dodge City, KS in June 2021.
- ♦ **Dr. David Woods (1961)** received the Distinguished Service Award from Washburn University.
- ♦ Topeka performer and artist **Dané Shobe (2004)** is joining forces with Walter Emanuel Jones, the first actor to play Black Power Ranger Zack Taylor in the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" TV series, to create the film, titled "Black,".
- ♦ Two-time All-State selection in basketball and the City Player of the Year in both basketball and softball last season, **NiJaree Canady (2022)** was named the Kansas Gatorade Player of the Year for softball.
- ♦ **Bree Elrod (1996)** walked the red carpet July 14 at the Cannes Film Festival on the French Riviera at the premiere of "Red Rocket," an independent film in which she stars. The film will be in theaters this fall.
- ♦ **Elizabeth Fink Farnsworth (1961)**, Doctor of Humane Letters, and **Gilbert Galle (1964)**, Doctor of Commerce, were conferred those honorary degrees during the spring 2021 commencement ceremonies at Washburn University.
- ♦ With the assistance of former students **Lev-Brinker (Luke Brinker 2009)** and **Peter Crevoiserat (2001)**, **Pam McComas (retired THS Debate & Forensics Coach)** wrote the resolution for High School Debate.



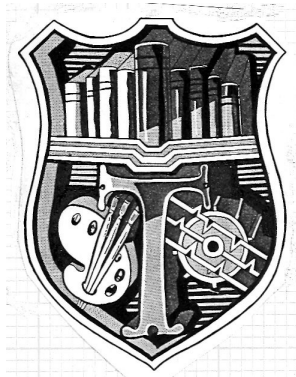
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**800 W Tenth Ave**  
**Topeka, KS 66612**

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**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](http://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.