

What a celebration it's been! Through the rollercoaster of the past two years, in which we often had to delay or dramatically change plans, we successfully celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our beautiful and historic Topeka High School.

We could not have done it without the generosity of our donors and volunteers. We rightfully regularly recognize our donors who make our work possible. But we are lucky to have so many people who invest in our organization, not merely with their money, but also with their time.

In this newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to give an extra special thank you to the planners, organizers, and volunteers who put on these events. We absolutely could not have done all this without you!

Below is a chronological list of the 150th THS Anniversary events along with those we would like to specially recognize for their efforts in making each of these a success:

Ice Cream Social Honoring the THS Class of 2021 – May 22, 2021. Sarah McGrew Ansnick, Susie Nuss Reichenberger, Sandy Singer, Mary Patzkowsky Reilly, Sharon Cheschier Zimmerman, Kris Grooms Trimmer, Jan Miller Karlin, and Joan Barker, all from the 100th THS Class of 1971, provided the ice cream for the 150th THS Class of 2021 before their graduation.

Annual Patriotic Chimes Concert – June 27, 2021. Held the Sunday before July 4th on the THS Front Lawn. Jerry Anderson, 1967 has been playing the THS Chimes for many years.

Topeka High School's Birthday – September 17, 2021. Denise Heavner (THS Faculty), with assistance from other THS staff oversaw the ordering of 2,000 cupcakes and organized the set up for the event. Birthday cupcakes were served to the current students and staff on the front lawn honoring the first day of Topeka High in 1871. Following a special program in the auditorium, the Drum Line led the student body to the front lawn. Cupcake sponsors were Gayle and Alice Terry Vernon 1951.

Homecoming Weekend – September 24 & 25, 2021.

Friday, September 24, 2021: Royalty assembly, Parade in Downtown Topeka, football game at Hummer Sports Park, 16 classes celebrating reunions returned to THS.

Saturday, September 25, 2021: Open House at Topeka High School – Affinity Groups, Food Trucks, THS Displays. Several thousand attendees walked the Halls of Troy.

Shayla Babb Kincade 1995 was the event chair of the Open House activities. Numerous volunteers contributed – THSHS Board Members, THS graduates, current THS students, parents, and staff.

THS Art Tour – October 16, 2021. Historian Kara Heitz 1993 led a unique tour of the art housed at Topeka High School.

THS Graduate Hall of Fame – October 17, 2021. Induction of Marian Knight Douglas 1950, Steve Holloman 1970, and Gary Krohe 1971, with Distinguished Staff Anton Ahrens.

The Black & Gold Gala – December 4, 2021. An elegant dinner with a menu from 1871 was served in the THS Student Cafeteria (prepared by Manuel & Sara Johnson Martinez 1999) followed by a concert in the THS Hoehner Auditorium featuring Richetta Manager (1971, THS Hall of Fame) and Anthony 'Tommy' Jones 1971. Sheila Krohe 1999 was the event chair.

Fiddler on the Roof – March 4-6, 2022. THS Graduates were invited to participate in the opening number 'Tradition.' Approximately 20 graduates took the stage with the welcoming student cast.

Graduates and Friends Varsity Dance – April 23, 2022. Held the same night as prom in the north gym. Sponsored by Michael Stimpert 1962. Music provided by Jerry Kent & EZ Pieces. Judy Whitaker Conklin 1964 was the event chair.

150th Finale: Graduate Variety Show ‘Generations of THS Talent’ & Laser Light Show – May 28, 2022. Graduates showcased an impressive and wide variety of talents followed by a laser light show outside the front of the building. Sally Glassman 1983, owner of Dorothy Thomas School of Dance, was the show’s Director. Jenny Walker 2009 was Assistant Director. The THS Drum Line performed in the show. Brady Miller 1999 organized and coordinated the spectacular Laser Light Show with support from YLS Entertainment, Cytex, and the THS building staff.

Graduate Art Show: Opening First Friday Art Walk – June 3, 2022. Held in the THS Art Gallery. Event co-chairs were Larry 1956 & Barbara Waterman-Peters and Stan Metzger 1963, with assistance from Josh Davis, Chairman of the THS Art Department. Sponsors were Brady Robb 1977 and Becky Robb Dickinson 1973). Special thanks to

the Topeka and Shawnee County Library and Sherry Best, Sabatini Gallery, for lending pieces from their collection by THS grads, including work by L. Brent Kington 1953, Walter Hatke 1967, Mary Huntoon 1916, Merrell Gage 1911, Robert Ebendorf 1957, Charles “Bud” Holman 1944, George Stone, David Overmyer, Bradbury Thompson 1929, Aaron Douglas 1917, Aisha Imani Sanaa, and others.

In addition to our 150th Anniversary events, a few people have gone above and beyond to help commemorate 150 years of Topeka High School:

Rick Friedstrom 1969 conducted over 100 interviews with THS graduates to add to the THS Oral History Collection. THSHS is looking for assistance in making these interviews available for public viewing.

Hannah and Randy Schumacher 2000 sponsored the 150th banners lining the THS front sidewalk.

Codi and Simon Bates 2000 sponsored the 150th buttons that were given to students, staff, and Trojan supporters.

Debbie Rider Schroeder 1975 has sponsored a Trojan statue in memory of Sylvia Gomez Litwin 1974. Creation and installation are in progress.

Rebecca Morrissey (THS Principal) and Paula Reilly (Associate Principal) provided their support, guidance, and allowed us to use the perfect venue for all our 150th activities.

Lastly, we want to give an extra special thank you to Lin Palmore and the THS Custodial Staff for their professional assistance in using our remarkable school.

We hope to continue these types of events in the future to celebrate our unique and beautiful school. We look forward to you joining us, as an attendee, volunteer, donor, sponsor, or event chair. We have been honored by the outpouring of support for THS’s 150th Anniversary and give a heartfelt thank you to all who participated.

Michelle Neis 2006, 2022 President THS Historical Society