



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

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2023 Ed Love Scholarship awarded to three THS seniors

The THSHS Ed Love Scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of Ed Love (1939), a founder of the THS Historical Society. Fifty-one students have received the scholarship in the past twenty-nine years. Three outstanding seniors, in their class of 330 students, received a \$1,000 scholarship award at the THSHS board of directors' meeting that was held in the THS Woodward Library on April 17th.

Adisyn Caryl has been president of her class, on the Superintendent's and Principal's Student Advisory Councils,



American Field Service, and Spirit Club all four years at THS. She earned honors and championships in tennis, basketball, and softball. She played second base on the THS 6A 2021 Softball Undefeated State Champion Team and the THS 2022 Softball State Champion Team. Her college objective is to earn a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Elementary Education and minor in Social Service. She will be attending the University of Illinois on a softball scholarship.

Kushal Mamillapalli is a 2023 National Merit Finalist. He plans to become a computer scientist with a minor in robotics. He has qualified for State in Policy Debate for three years and nationals in World Schools Debate. Kushal played the clarinet in the Trojan Band and participated successfully in Scholars Bowl and tennis. In the summer of 2022 he taught Ugandan students mathematics through zoom to supplement their school curriculum. In his free time, Kushal works on his coding skills in Java and



Python.



Thomas Schmidt will be attending Truman State University studying physics and engineering. While at THS, Thomas received the rank of Eagle Scout and is

now staffing the National Youth Leadership Training. He was an active member of LINK Crew, that helps freshmen acclimate to THS, and captain of both the soccer and swim teams. Thomas a member of in Robed Choir, Madrigals, and THS Theatre.



From Left, Cindy White 1975, 2023 chairman THSHS scholarship selection committee, Adisyn Caryl, Kushal Mamillapalli, and Thomas Schmidt. Sisters of Adisyn and Thomas, Zoe Caryl 2021 and Amber Schmidt 2018, also received the THSHS scholarship as THS seniors.

Where are these Ed Love scholars? Adam Nordstrom 1994, Amy Wurtz 1995, Bree Elrod 1996, Breanna Miller 1997, Brooke Mellen 1997, John VanSickle 1998, Eva Davis Chevreau 1998, Joel Crandall 1999, Megan Petty 1999, Gabrianna Hall 2000, Courtney Self 2001, Hannah Mueldener 2002, Carly Waugh 2002, Katie O'Hara Calcutt 2003, Christopher Luxem 2004, Catharine Brennan 2005, Jayne Long 2005, Tom Rosen 2006, Jennifer Kirmer 2007, Ryan Patrick 2007, Kelly Jacobsen 2008, Bobby Ross 2008, Laura Salvatore 2009, Anna Hamilton 2010, Addison Keegan-Harris 2010, Kaitlin Kobs 2011, Nicole Montague 2012, Marah Schlingensiepen 2013, Christine Christensen 2013, Alyce Williams 2015, Alayna Hewitt 2015, Jessica Moore 2016, Brianna Jackson 2016, Matthew Johnstone 2017, Emily Goodrow 2017, Adrianna Mead 2018, Amber Schmidt 2018, Julia Howell 2018, Angelica Comahig 2019, Haley Piper 2019, Irene Caracioli 2020, Madison Jacques 2020, Zoe Caryl 2021, Nate Routsong 2021, Elaine Bunten 2021, Adrienne Caracioli 2022, Emily Locke 2022, and Lillian Thornton 2022.

Black & Gold Report - Graduates in the Spotlight



The Topeka High School Historical Society congratulates our current Board President, **Marsha Sheahan, THS 1967**, for being recognized by Junior

Achievement by being inducted in the Topeka Business Hall of Fame! Marsha served as VP of Public Relations for the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce for more than 35 years. She also championed the Chamber's young professional program, Forge, worked with the Junior League to create the Topeka Community Foundation, and has worked with several other local organizations in a leadership capacity. The THSHS is a stronger organization because of her leadership. Marsha developed our strategic plan model and the THSHS Endowment. She is a fabulous THS tour guide, said yes to a second term as president, and keeps her class of 1967 on their toes. Thank you, Marsha for all that you do, not just for the THSHS but for the Topeka community!

Chuck Nelson, THS 1951, believes his success and long-life is because of his involvement in sports, specifically



Chuck displaying his pin collection

volleyball, which began in the Topeka YMCA. After graduating from Washburn in 1956, Chuck joined the U.S. Air Force and while not flying jet fighters, he continued playing volleyball on the Air Force and Armed Forces All-American first team in 1958 and 1959. Chuck retired from competitive volleyball fol-

lowing the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics which featured the first-ever volleyball competition. In 1968, he started the Pepperdine University volleyball program and from 1975 to 1977 he served as the commissioner and CEO of the International Volleyball Association. He also worked for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Nelson, who has lived in Santa Monica, CA for more than four decades, has taken part in a program called "Ready, Set, Go", an effort of Olympic alumni in Southern California where each member is assigned a particular school in the L.A. district, meeting with and motivating the kids five times a

year. While he has traded his volleyball for a tennis ball now, he continues to promote the benefits of staying physically fit.



Kansas District 21 Representative **Jerry Stogsdill, THS 1965**, received the Kansas National Education Association's Friend of Education Award. Mr. Stogsdill is the House Minority Agenda Chairman. Mr. Stogsdill is pictured with Philip Wrigley, THS Government, History, and ESOL Teacher

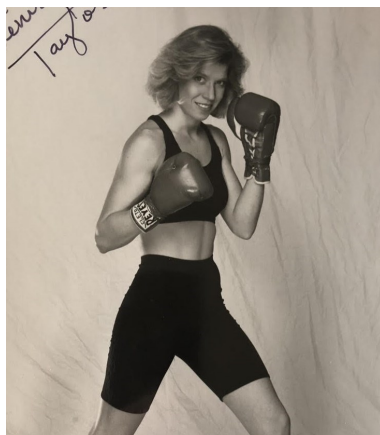
- ♦ **Marty Mitchell Berry, THS 1948**, started teaching swimming for the American Red Cross when she was 16 years old. She taught her last class in Zion, Illinois when she was 89 years old. Marty competed in the World Senior Games in St. George, Utah for seven years and once qualified to go to the International Races in the 50 yard breaststroke. At one time all of her six children were Red Cross Swim Instructors.
- ♦ **Aisha Lee Amani, THS 2007**, Multidisciplinary Artist, has been selected for the 2023 session of Artist INC Topeka, sponsored by ArtsConnect. Artist INC is a multi-week seminar that addresses business needs and challenges artists face every day.
- ♦ **Crystal Kemp, THS 2002**, and **Chris Barnes, THS 1988**, will be inducted into the 2023 Shawnee County Sports Hall of Fame in June 2023.
- ♦ **Jerry Dawson, THS 1951**, is still using the experiences that he enjoyed at THS. He was Speaker of the Representative Council, President and student director of the Trojan Band, and formed and managed the 'Dawson's Dance Band' during his Junior and senior years. His band played for the varsity dances as well as 'in-the-pit during assemblies in the auditorium. Currently he is the chair person for the Palm Desert, CA Park and Recreation Commission.

Your news, thoughts, and questions are important to us. Information about jobs, honors, and events is always welcome. Include your name, class year, mailing and email address to us at 785-295-3200, thshs2001@yahoo.com.

More Graduates in the Spotlight

A story about my friend **Denise Hartman of Council Grove**, formerly **Denise Taylor**, THS 1983.

By George Turkovic, THS Social Studies/History Faculty



In Denise's sophomore year at Troy she arrived one morning and was leaving the 1st floor foyer and was about on the 3rd step going up to 2nd floor when another girl grabbed her by the collar, dragged her back down into the hall and pinned her to the windows of the main office. The other girl was much larger and was about to "deliver a vigorous thrashing." Denise

Taylor was completely overpowered and helpless. She was rescued by the THS security officer that the students called "Opie" known to others as **Mike Homan** who worked at T-High 1978-2013. The other girl had a reputation for being a bully and was widely known as "The Dragon Lady." The Dragon Lady was suspended and when leaving school at the end of the day Denise found that the tires of her car were slashed. As she watched her car being towed away she vowed that she would never be a physically helpless victim again.

She began taking kickboxing lessons and later karate & other martial arts. Her trainer saw potential and called other gyms, eventually setting up some successful and popular exhibition matches. At that time there was no such thing, anywhere, as "Women's League Kickboxing."

Eventually, with time and hard work she actually became a professional kickboxer. She battled Darling Valdez (both girls were world contenders) for the US Championship in the first Women's Kickboxing match to appear on ESPN. She won that match to become the United States Women's Bantamweight Champion Kickboxer in 1989 & ranked #2 in the world with a record of 9 & 3. She went to France and fought a 12 round match for the world championship and lost in a 2 to 1 decision.

Denise never forgot the girl who attacked her but decided with time and maturity that revenge was never a worthy goal. Ironically the Dragon Lady changed Denise's life in a positive way and she concludes that NOBODY should accept being a victim.



If you subscribe to the philosophy that dessert should come first, what better way to put that into practice than to make dessert your career?

Jolene Bluejacket Worthington, THS 1959, retired five years ago after a long association with Eli's Cheesecake. The bakery, which delivers worldwide, was a slice off Eli's Place for Steaks, a white tablecloth restaurant in Chicago. Eli Schulman wanted a signature dessert for his top restaurant. He

perfected the Chicago style cheesecake, which has a butter/shortbread crust and is baked dry – not in a water bath – to give it a golden exterior and creamy interior.

Jolene joined Eli's son, Marc Schulman, in 1984 at the opening of Eli's Finest Cheesecakes, dedicated just to their amazing dessert. As vice president of operations, she helped build and shape the staff during her 35 years with the company. For its workers, Eli's went beyond simple employment, helping adults finish their high school education with onsite classes while being employed.

In her spare time, Jolene mentored culinary students at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. She also has served on the boards of Slow Foods, and the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, and has been a long-standing member of Les Dames de Escoffier, a national organization of women food professionals.

Before joining Eli's, Jolene was a food stylist and consultant for Time-Life Books and a freelance writer for Cuisine magazine. She also had a cooking column in the Chicago Tribune after she started at Eli's.

She may have learned something about cooking as a member of Future Homemakers of America at Topeka High, but the Science Club had more to offer in mastering how ingredients go together.

Jolene also was in Pep Club, the Junior Red Cross Club and the Modern Dance Club. She worked as a proctor and helped plan prom.

Before heading for the big city, Jolene operated Alpha Books at White Lakes Mall in Topeka and Omega Books downtown.

"Jolene was instrumental in taking Eli's Cheesecake from the signature dessert at Eli's the Place for Steak in Chicago to being one of the largest specialty cheesecake and dessert companies in the country," Marc Schulman, president of Eli's, said.

If you'd like to try Eli's, you can order online at elicheesecake.com or pick up the "Eli's Cheesecake Cookbook" at the bookstore. The THS library has a copy of the cookbook, too.

Article by Lisa Sandmeyer, THS 1975

~ 2023 CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2023 - September 29 - THS vs Wichita Northwest

Class

Class of 1958

Class of 1963

Class of 1971

Class of 1973

Class of 1978

Class of 1983

Class of 1993

Dates

September 15-16

September 22-23

September 23

September 29-30

October 13-14

June 23 & Sept. 29

September 29-30

For More Information

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The THS Historical Society assists class reunions by: 1. providing classmate contact information 2. arranging THS tours 3. facilitating the use of the building. 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.**

Gift & Volunteer Suggestions

Are you looking for a way to help your school? Here are some suggestions.

Contact the THSHS, if you're interested.

Sponsoring the refinishing of an original Student Cafeteria Table

3 tables @ \$250 each

Conversion of vintage THS Video Tapes

(sports, music, etc), VHS, 16mm, DVD

First, we are looking for help taking inventory of the collection.

Troy Today - What's happening at THS?

- ◆ Lilly Krohe 2025, Jamie Ramos 2023, Autumn Lane 2023, and Jordan Jackson 2025 won Thespian Awards at the International Thespian festival in the Musical Theatre category. They will travel to the University of Indiana for a week of camp this summer.
- ◆ Sara Burgess, was honored at the 58th Annual HSES School of Education Award Ceremony as an Outstanding Alumni of the Year by the University of Kansas. Sara is a special education teacher at Topeka High. When she's not in the classroom, Sara's coaching. She has coached basketball and swim and is a coach with the Track and Field team at T-High. Last season she joined new Topeka West football head coach Russell Norton on his staff while continuing to teach and coach at Topeka High. She is currently the only female varsity football coach in the 10 Topeka-area schools.
- ◆ Congratulations to all students and staff who contributed to *Amelie*, THS spring musical. They were one of 7 schools in the state to be nominated for 10 or more awards for the annual Jesters Awards through Music Theater Wichita. They were honored for regional recognition in 17 categories and the only Topeka School to take home an award. That award went to Anna Goering, Autumn Lane and Jamie Ramos as Best Small Ensemble.
- ◆ News from the THS Vocal Department - Autumn Lane 2023 and Zach Rivera 2024 attended the National Association for Music Education's All-National Choir in Washington, D.C. in November. Autumn Lane and Jamie Ramos 2023 were selected for the Kansas All-State Choir in February. Robed Choir and Madrigals both earned "Outstanding" 1 ratings at state-wide festivals in April.

(Continued on page 5)

IN MEMORY OF OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

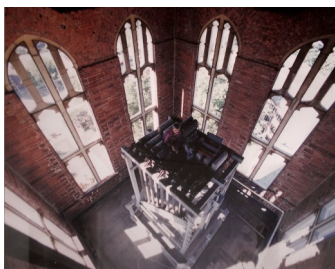
Judson Goodrich 1940
 Jim Freel 1941
 Crosby W. "Bing" Powell 1942
 Marilyn Whiting Thomas 1943
 Vernon L. Ingram 1947
 Edna Metzenthin Greene 1947
 Jeanne Hillyer Smith 1947
 Don Franzen 1947
 Robert G. Hinchsliff 1947
 Gloria Price Allison 1948
 Clyde Coriell 1949
 Ted Birdsell 1949
 Treva Seckinger Frisbie 1950
 Lewis "Duke" Streeter 1950
 John R. Bunten 1950
 Nina Stebbins Schoenfeld 1951
 Rose Marie McKeever 1951
 Bernard F. Swader 1951
 Richard W. Kohlschreiber 1951
 Eleanor Jones Dalsing 1952
 Paul Galbraith 1952
 Charles "Cy" Moyer 1952
 Shirley Painter Jacobson 1952
 William Nowlan 1952
 Jesus "Chui" G. Jaramillo 1954
 Norman "Mick" Grove 1954
 Richard E. Smith 1955
 Lois Allen Kelly 1955

Marge Raby Davis 1955
 Barbara Jones Becklacy 1956
 Carl D. Brace 1957
 Virginia Wilson Neeley 1957
 Joseph V. Copp 1957
 Travis B. Smith 1957
 Fannie Comer Banks 1957
 Marcia Brown Crews 1957
 Carol Dangerfield Scheuerman 1957
 James Flowers 1957
 Rose Flowers Gallego 1957
 Perry Holland 1957
 Larry Mather 1957
 Elbert R. Peddy 1957
 Mildred Tipton Wray 1957
 Gene A. Baker 1958
 Richard E. Smith 1958
 Rita Mendez Ramirez 1959
 Ann Runyon Lacy 1959
 William H. "Bill" Layes 1959
 Judith Rosetta Eikleberry 1959
 Lawrence Good 1959
 Harry Carpenter 1959
 Nancy Schendel Morgan 1959
 Robert Dallas 1959
 Olivia Balandran Diaz 1960
 Elizabeth "Betty" Henrie 1960
 Garry F. Cook 1960

Richard "Dick" Young 1961
 John "Randy" Mettner 1962
 Frances Long Gibson 1962
 Lois Irene Axelton 1962
 Diane Long Gibson 1962
 Elizabeth "Ann" Spain Davidson 1962
 Ava Amon White 1963
 Robert F. Holt 1963
 Jay Howe 1963
 Shirley Jones Gist 1963
 Lois Washburn Bilstein 1963
 Michael W. Cody 1963
 Percy D. Powell 1963
 Patricia "Patti-Jo" Schiefelbein 1963
 Linda Ramirez-Gonzalez 1967
 Johnnie D. "John" Osier 1967
 Randall D. "Skeet" Reed 1968
 Pauline Pruyser 1968
 Gladys E. Ard Woodyard 1970
 Janet Hutley Adame 1971
 Janet Breault Fisher 1973
 Derrick P. "Buck" Anderson 1977
 Jeff Ensley 1996
 Elijah Klingaman 2022
 Linda D. Allen Johnson
 Ray Flowers
 Dwight E. Norman

(Continued from page 4)

- ◆ THS Forensics & Debate are going to Nationals - Three time qualifiers Liz Seitz 2023, Big Questions Debate (Top 32 last year) and Kathleen Jones 2023 in Congressional Debate: House. Also qualifying are Dexter Cook 2026 in World Schools Debate, Ti'Zeria Thomas 2025 in Prose/Poetry and Kylie Crispin 2025 in Prose/Poetry.
- ◆ THS Journalism Department was given an All-Kansas designation for the Sunflower Yearbook. This is a ranking by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association for the best yearbooks in the state. This is the second year in a row receiving All-Kansas recognition.
- ◆ The Trojan Baseball Team won the Regional Championship on May 17 and is on their way to the State Tournament.
- ◆ THS Premier Strings and THS Wind Ensemble received superior ratings at the state large group festival.
- ◆ In March the combined band and orchestra took a trip to Memphis, Tennessee that included a performance at Graceland and visits to all the local sites.
- ◆ Grace Erwin 2023 received the National John Philip Sousa Band Award and Moses Babiera 2023 received the National Louis Armstrong Jazz Award.



Annual Patriotic Chimes Concert
Music from the Tower
Free - Public invited
Sunday, July 2, 6 pm - THS front lawn
Bring a lawn chair
Food Trucks!

More News from the Tower

After 40 years devoted to education, **Rebecca Morrissey, THS Principal**, announced her retirement on May 19. Ms. Morrissey joined the district in 2009 as an assistant principal at Topeka High, moving to principal of Eisenhower Middle School, then succeed Linda Wiley as principal of THS in 2006. She compassionately oversaw the first generation of COVID-19 era graduates. Dustin Dick, longtime Topeka USD 501 administrator will serve as interim principal. When asked about her experience at THS, Ms. Morrissey responded, "There has been no better place to serve than here at Topeka High School. My administrative team, our school leadership team, and the excellent staff of Topeka High School have the longitudinal knowledge of the traditions and diversity so valued at THS, and I have the utmost confidence that what we have accomplished so far will continue, and in fact go even further in finding ways to ensure our students succeed. Having been a part of the 150th celebration and getting to work so closely with the Topeka High School Historical Society has been an added blessing during the past seven years. The involvement of our alumni and past staff is a huge part of the reason for the overall success of THS as an institution, and the maintenance of this beautiful building, which stands as a monument to the value for education in the Topeka community. I have been blessed to serve at THS and wish everyone the best in the years to come." The THS Historical Society thanks Ms. Morrissey and wishes her the best, especially enjoying her grandkids.



The THS Class of 2002 sponsored a metal bench that is installed in front of the building. From left, 2002 classmates, Robin Murphy Bonsall, Emily Bargas Lewis, Jacque Rocha, Sarah Laing, and Haley Taylor Pate try it out for the first time. The THS Class of 2023 also sponsored a bench. Ultimate Reunion and 150th Anniversary were also 'planted' on the THS campus.

A new \$2.5 million endowed chair at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH is inspired by **Pamela Hollie, THS 1966**

& THS Graduate Hall of Fame, a former journalist, first at *The Wall Street Journal* and then at *The New York Times*, as a correspondent in southeast Asia and the Pacific. She worked for profit and nonprofit organization including The Nature Conservancy and the Asian Foundation. She was a recipient of Fulbright Awards in Malaysia and the Czech Republic. The Hollie Endowed Chair honors Pamela's global experience and commitment to civil society. The professorship will support a faculty member whose teaching and research address global challenges. This is the only chair named for a woman or for a Black person at 200 year old Kenyon College.



On May 6 **Doug Wallace, THS 1965 and THS Graduate Hall of Fame**, was awarded a Shawnee County Historical Society Preservation Award.

NiJaree Canady, THS 2022, Stanford University freshman is on the watch list for TUCCI/NFCA Freshman of the year Top 10. Her 0.34 ERA leads the nation and she's 13-0 with 6 complete games and 146 strikeouts. Follow Nija and the Stanford Cardinals softball in the Women's College World Series.



Rick Friedstrom, 1969, past president of the THS Historical Society, was honored as a 'Golden Graduate' during Washburn University's commencement weekend.

David Woods, THS 1961, 2023 THS Hall of Fame, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music as part of Commencement 2023 at Washburn University.

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 _____

ANNUAL SUPPORT – (for operational expenses & THSHS special events)

	Amount
Yearly Donation (\$25)	\$ _____
Extra annual donation of \$1 for each year since my graduation (i.e. Class of 1973, 50 years since graduation=\$50)	\$ _____

I want to sponsor an annual payment for a friend:

Name _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership: ____ Yearly (\$25)

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 Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612, or pay online at: thshhistoricalsociety.org/

Keep track of your THSHS annual donations easily by creating a recurring \$25 annual donation online at thshhistoricalsociety.org. Find the option at the checkout.

Consider the THSHS as the recipient of your yearly contribution, estate planning, or donation matching with your business. The THSHS is a 501C3 organization - contributions are tax-exempt. For more information about the Tower Society Fund, Endowment Fund, Operational Fund, and Scholarship Fund, contact us at jbarker@tps501.org. Gifts accepted online at www.thshhistoricalsociety.org.



TOPEKA
HIGH SCHOOL



**Stay tuned - New email address coming for the THS Historical Society:
thshs@thshhistoricalsociety.org**



THS Historical Society
800 W Tenth Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

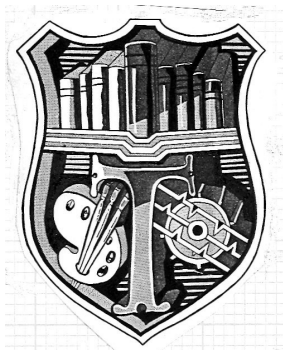
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**The THS Historical Society
Needs You!**

Thank you for renewing your annual support contribution. It's only \$25.

Go to thshistoricalsociety.org to make a payment and find previous newsletters in full color.



THSHS 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 - list of donors is included once a year in the THSHS newsletter and on the THSHS website.

ANNUAL SUPPORT DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND YEAR END APPEAL - These funds are used for operating expenses of the THSHS.