



TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News from the Paul Fink Room

THS Historical Society/Alumni Association, 800 SW Tenth Ave, Topeka, KS 66612
Website: thshistoricalsociety.org Phone: 785-295-3200 Email: thshs@thshistoricalsociety.org Vol.42 No.3 Sept. 2023

2023 THS GRADUATE HALL OF FAME

The forty-second Topeka High Graduate Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

A federal judge, engineer, actor/screen writer, and a music educator will be inducted into the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, in the Topeka High School Hoehner Auditorium. The public is welcome to attend.

There are 129 Topeka High graduate inductees and 26 former staff/faculty previously honored with the Distinguished Staff designation.

A reception in the main hallway will follow the ceremony. The Topeka High Madrigals, Topeka High String Ensemble, and Topeka High Marine Corps Junior ROTC will participate in the ceremony.

The four honorees whose portraits will be added to the Hall of Fame Room:



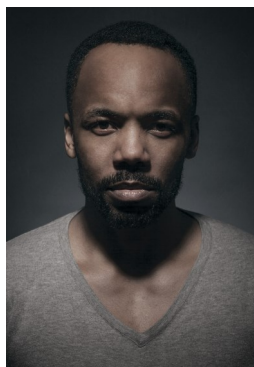
Janice Miller Karlin's (THS 1971) 40-year law career took her from civil litigation for the Justice Department to chief of the 10th Circuit Bankruptcy Appeals Court. After receiving undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas, Mrs. Karlin took a position as assistant U.S. attorney and was with the Department of Justice for 22 years. She also was an

adjunct professor of trial practice at the University of Kansas School of Law. In 2002, Mrs. Karlin was appointed a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Kansas. In 2008, she moved to the appellate bankruptcy court for the 10th Circuit and became its chief justice in 2016, the first woman to hold that position. Throughout her career, she was active in federal and state bar associations and groups for women in the legal profession. The foundation for Mrs. Karlin's career started with her participation in debate and forensics at THS.

Wesley Revely (THS 1990) earned a B.S. from Kansas State University and worked for 14 years as a mechanical engineer, systems engineer, and project lead engineer at



Lockheed Martin in Eagan, Minnesota. His projects ranged from structural modifications for airplanes to security solutions for New York City Transit. Mr. Revely was awarded six U.S. patents, most of them for innovations in shock-dissipation and shock-isolation systems, and received numerous honors from his employer, including five mission success awards, three "trade secret" awards, and two special recognition awards. Wise, genuine, and caring, Mr. Revely was beloved by his many friends and was the godfather of two of their children. His passion was racing motorcycles, and he enjoyed playing softball and volleyball, fishing, and tinkering with all things mechanical. He passed away in 2010.



In the more than two decades since **Tommar Wilson (THS 1994)** graduated from Carnegie Mellon University, he has trod the boards on Broadway, toured in the cast of "Hamilton," and made appearances in television shows of all genres. In 2023, he has been busy developing his talents for screenwriting. Mr. Wilson's stage credits also include "The Book of Mormon," "The Music Man," "Hair," and "Mamma Mia." He has appeared on regional theater stages across the United States. In addition to his Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting, Mr. Wilson also graduated from the UCLA Professional Program in TV Drama Writing. Outside the theater, Mr. Wilson has helped raise funds and awareness for Covenant House International, an organization that supports youth facing homelessness and trafficking; the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; and the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative in New York City. At THS, Mr. Wilson sang with the Madrigals and appeared in school productions, including "Fiddler on the Roof."

David G. Woods (THS 1960) is known for his pioneering work in music curriculum development and as an expert

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner

Greetings to fellow THS alumni and friends!

Over the summer the THS Historical Society hosted more than 100 visitors and tourists, including graduates, families, community supporters, lots of drop-ins, and dignitaries from Washington, DC who then participated in a Naturalization Ceremony at the Brown v Bd site in July.

We also took advantage of “quieter” days and finished several projects on our “to do” list:

- The four fireplaces in the building were cleaned and exterior masonry repair work on the front veranda and Western Avenue gym entrances was completed.
- The main office counter has been completely refinished, thanks to funding from the Class of 1967 and the refinishing skills of class member Dave Clark.

We're also refreshing the 1931 room signs located throughout the building. There are about 36 total and we're 25% complete.

The annual Chimes Concert on the front veranda was again a success with approximately 200 people enjoying the program featuring patriotic and military songs played by Jerry Anderson (THS 1967).

Watch for an announcement about a Topeka High Art Tour with Kara Heitz (THS 1993) sometime this fall. Kara leads an interesting tour of the building showcasing the art displayed throughout the building—from stained glass to large oil paintings.

Thanks to those of you who continue to send \$25 annual payments toward operating expenses and for your donations to the Tower Society for preservation projects.

With your help we all can continue to enjoy the beauty of Topeka High School.

Hoy Hoy Mighty Troy!

Marsha Martin Sheahan, President of THSHS Board of Directors, THS 1967

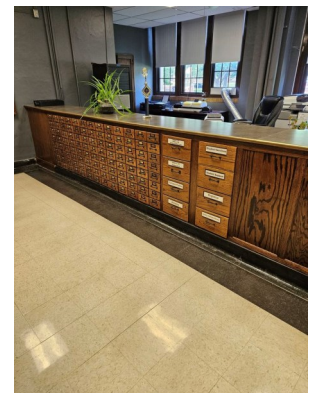
Summer of 2023 projects sponsored by the THS Historical Society



Before and after cleaning the Student Cafeteria fireplace. Fireplaces in Room 103, Room 307, and the Woodward Library were also cleaned this summer.



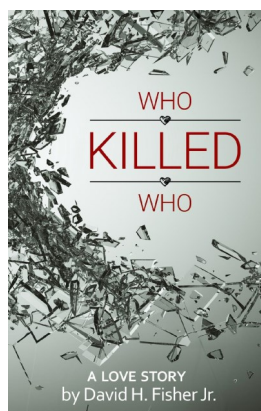
Tonya Foster and Jewelia Oswald, THS Media Specialists, are ready for the school year with a spruced up library desk.



The main office counter got a facelift.

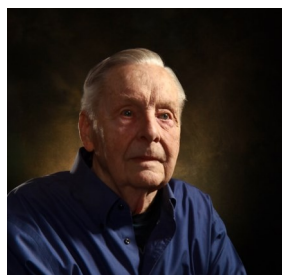
A note to snowbirds: Eighty newsletters mailed in May were returned to our office as ‘Temporarily Away’. If you leave home for the winter or summer, let us know your email and we'll make sure you don't miss an issue.

Black & Gold Report - Graduates in the Spotlight



Have you read the new murder mystery eBook titled, “Who Killed Who? A Love Story”? Author **David Fisher, Jr. (THS 1958)** says it takes place in and around Topeka including Bobo’s Drive In. The son of Dave Fisher’s classmate, Paul Ebel, created the cover.

The eBook can be purchased on Apple Books or Kindle.



Ray Collins (THS 1949) attended Yale, and was drafted as an Army combat infantryman during his junior year. He married Betty Ann when mustered out of the service. Ray attended Princeton, where Betty Ann had twins (Jim and

Ann) and he earned an MPA. Joining the State Department as a foreign service officer, his first assignment was Manila, Philippines where Betty Ann had their third child (Nori). He became a Japanese language and East Asia specialist during his second assignment in Japan, where their fourth child (Susan) was born. On the Japan Desk at State, he did Japanese interpreting at the White House. Ray left State to focus on Head Start, childcare, and other programs for vulnerable families. He was a resident Mid-Career Fellow and earned a PhD at Princeton and, for five years, was a non-resident Fellow at the Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy, a think tank within the Yale Child Study Center. Ray’s early publications focused on Head Start, childcare, and policy toward children and families. Recently, he’s published on white supremacy’s resurgence and

the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol. When not writing thrillers (*The General’s Briefcase* is being published by Köehler Books in June and *Motive for Murder* will be published in December 2023), Ray enjoys traveling and watching movies with Betty Ann, weight training, and spending time with their four children and extended family.

Washburn University Alumni Association honored **Robert Meinershagen (THS 1959)** with the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Meinershagen was in sales and marketing of medical diagnostics products before starting his company Medical Diagnostics in 1976. Based in suburban Washington, D.C., the company distributed a full range of products to hospital, pathology, and medical research laboratory markets.

Lara Avery’s (THS 2006) debut novel for adults,



The Year of Second Chances was on the shelves August 22. Also the author of three young adult novels, Ms. Avery graduated with a BA in Media & Cultural Studies from Macalester College, MN in 2010, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Mississippi in 2020.

Frank Petersen, Jr (THS 1949) is being inducted in the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame in November 2023. He was inducted into the THS Hall of Fame in 1986.

Cody Miller (THS Athletic Director, Head Baseball Coach) is compiling a new record book of **individual statistical records for any THS athletic team**. If you have knowledge, with proof (newspaper article/stat book), it will be added to the record book. Contact Coach Miller at cmiller1@tps501.org with questions or information.

(Continued from page 1)



in early childhood music education. He has presented workshops, lectures, papers, and clinics worldwide.

Dr. Woods earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Washburn University in 1965 and his master’s and Ph.D. in music from Northwestern University. He also studied at the Copenhagen Con-

servatory of Music and at the Aspen Institute. He is co-author of “Jump Right In!” a comprehensive music series for grades K-8; “Teaching Music in the Twentieth Century”; “Teaching Music in the Twenty-first Century”, and “Creating Curriculum in Music.” His honors include being named Teacher of the Year in 1981 at Iowa State University and the Governor’s Arts Award from Frank Keating of Oklahoma in 1995. Dr. Woods remains active in retirement in Topeka with the Topeka Symphony.

~ 2023 CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2023 - September 29 - THS vs Emporia, 6 pm, Hummer Sports Park

Class

Class of 1958

Class of 1963

Class of 1971

Class of 1973

Class of 1978

Class of 1983

Class of 1988

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

September 29-30

Class of 2003

Boswell Jr. High

Class of 1974

September 29-30

September 29

TBA, 2024

For More Information

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katydidinks@aol.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. 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 Suggestions & Volunteer Opportunities

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

Contact the THSHS, if you're interested.

Sponsor the refinishing of an original

Student Cafeteria Table

3 tables @ \$250 each

Preserve the THS scrapbook collection

Scan and/or place fragile pages in acid-free sleeves

Conversion of vintage THS Video Tapes

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

Inventory the collection

THSHS office volunteer

Graduate Database Updating

Remembering 45 years ago



1978 State Debate Team. Top row: Andy Reeves, Matt Carithers, Mike Hurd. Bottom row: Mark Long, Coach Diana Prentice, Tricia McClellan, David Patterson.



THS Debate & Forensics Coach, Dustin Rimmey holding the 1978 trophy in Room 103.

Our Chimes

songs from the tower
moved by soft winds
echoing a place and time
with details of memory
to be proclaimed with
a shared music
striking a chord
with another's thoughts
of
Topeka High

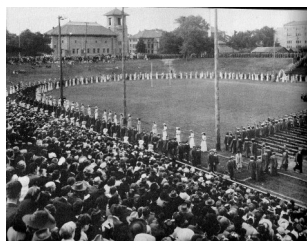
Nancy Shuart Vega, THS 1970

IN MEMORY OF OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

Raymond Dennis 1937
Margaret Taylor Crook 1941
Lila "Polly" Kern Williams 1943
Howard L. Swartzman 1943
Donna Dean Armstrong 1944
Mary Kathryn Johnson 1945
Mary Chubb Brown 1946
Lois Levett Lykins 1946
Joe D. Swalwell 1947
Lenora Melzer Speer 1948
James E. Flory, Jr. 1948
Harold Endlich 1949
W. W. 'Bud' Metzenthin, Jr. 1950
Clella Ingram Ault 1950
Mary Beth Brown Benson 1950
Marvene Renfro Bargman 1950
William C. Higgs 1950
Judith Crane Elliott McCoy 1951
Grace A. Flory 1951
Billy J. Gill 1951
Fredrica Volland Everett 1952
Paul H. Galbraith 1952
Buddie W. Spencer 1952
Robert L. Lemon 1952

Ramon Toledo Alvarez-Shump 1952
Elario 'Pete' 'Blanco' Gomez Jr. 1954
Lois Elaine Allen Kelly 1955
Noman G. Schiesser 1956, THS Faculty
Earl D. McCarter 1956
Karen Fry Kliever 1957
Patricia Strahan Floyd 1957
Ralph Hartner 1958
K. Richard Kliever 1958
Argell Jantzen 1958
Rose Norman Glatt 1959
Gerald D. Kendall 1959
Ruth Briscoe Williamson 1960
Marlene Murray Campbell 1960
William E. James 1960
John Peele 1960
Ray Flowers 1960
Rinda Coon Oldham 1961
Sharon Blevins Waters 1961
Kathleen Sheldon Tilley 1961
John P. Wheeler 1961
Roger L. White 1963
Mary Huttanus Watson 1963
James E. Zimmerman III 1963

Nancy Jean Harden Hartman 1964
Pamela Spillner Cline 1964
Gary W. Weekly 1965
Bill D. Gehrke 1966
Billie Jo Meyer White 1967
Russ Freel 1967
Karen Morrow Smith 1967
Juli Benson Wessel 1967
Michael Morse Jackson 1967
Robert L. Wilkerson 1969
Brian R. Thompson 1969
Daniel Charay Jr. 1969
David E. Tindall 1971
Mary Gates Reddick 1971
Pedro F. Munoz 1972
Randy Perez 1975
Jesse L. Bargas 1977
Maria Guerrero Villalobos 1978
Sheila Bennett Redmon 1978
Tina R. Hernandez 1994
Merick Dwayne Whetstone 2013
Gayle Vernon, Friend



Then & Now - THS Commencement

One of Topeka High's longest traditions, Daisy Chain, has changed with the times. The pastel dresses and crepe paper hats have been replaced by black dresses and daisy nosebags.



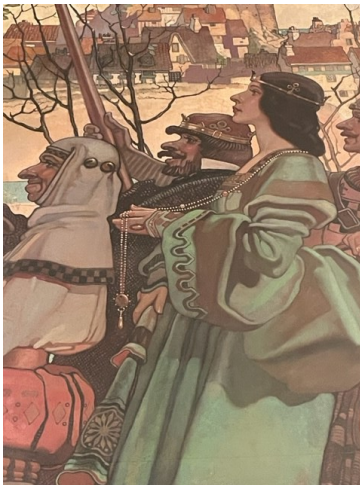
Paula Reilly, THS Associate Principal, and Dustin Dick

Welcome to Topeka High, Dustin Dick!

Dustin Dick became the 26th Principal of Topeka High on July 1, 2023. Mr. Dick grew up in Rossville, KS and graduated from Emporia State University with a degree in secondary education. He earned his Master's in Leadership & Policy Studies from the University of Kansas and only has his dissertation to complete for his PhD. Mr. Dick taught Chemistry and Physics for 3 1/2 years at St. Mary's, while also serving as the Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Football Coach. His 18 year multi-experience career with Topeka Public Schools started at Eisenhower Middle School as the Dean of Students. From there he went to Highland Park High School as Assistant Principal. He served a stint at Seaman High School as the Assistant Principal and Activities Director. Then, back to Highland Park as Associate Principal, followed by the assignment as Principal at Topeka West High School. He left education for a couple of years to assist with his family's business. He soon returned to education as Principal of 501's Topeka Center for Advanced Learning & Careers (TCALC). And now,

he is the principal of Topeka High School. Mr. Dick and his wife, Angela, have been married for 24 years. They have a daughter, Aubrey, who is a KU student and works at Bert Nash Mental Health Center in Lawrence.

**To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas
Public Schools, 1900-1950
Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art
Kansas State University
August 22, 2023 – May 11, 2024**



In 1911 the school superintendent in McPherson, Kansas, organized an exhibition to acquire artwork for a new high school. This became an annual ticketed event, allowing the McPherson schools to establish a rich collection of works by regionally and nationally recognized artists, among them James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Bir-

ger Sandzén, and Fern Coppedge.

Before the mid-century, schools in dozens of Kansas communities, including boarding schools for Indigenous students and segregated schools, joined McPherson in acquiring original art. *To the Stars Through Art* will feature 70 paintings and prints by Blackbear Bosin, Norma Bassett Hall, Walter Ufer and other artists, from more than a

dozen schools and history museums across the state.

A goal of the exhibition is to guide Kansas schools in caring for their collections and using art for educational enrichment. The exhibition is being organized by Curator Elizabeth Seaton in collaboration with regional scholars and museum curators.



This featured work by Ethel Spears, *WPA Cutting Down a Tree*, ca. 1938, Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project, Illinois, was allocated to Topeka High School, opaque watercol-

or and graphite on paper, 2016.30.

Topeka High and the THS Historical Society are proud to contribute to this exhibit, lending the David Hicks Overmyer, *The Pageant of England*, 1937 (image at right), oil on board; David Hicks Overmyer, sketches for the mural in the Teacher's Cafeteria; a 1917 yearbook cover designed by Aaron Douglas; and a 1929 yearbook page designed by Bradbury Thompson (THS 1917).

Support The THS Historical Society After Your Lifetime

It's easy to continue your support of the THS Historical Society as you plan for "after your lifetime." The Historical Society offers multiple ways to give back to the school you remember attending in your teens. Your gift will continue to preserve, promote, and enhance the traditions and heritage of Topeka High School.

To add a gift to Topeka High School Historical Society in your will, share this simple sentence with your estate planning attorney:

"I give to the THS Historical Society, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 800 SW Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or its successor thereto, _____ (write in amount or percentage of the estate) for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose."

To make the THS Historical Society a beneficiary of your retirement account, savings account or CD, or life insurance, contact the administrator of your account and share our tax ID number, as well as the amount or percentage you'd like THS Historical Society to receive after your lifetime.

You may designate your gift for one or more of several funds:

- Operations (for daily expenses and support)
- Tower Society (for preservation projects)
- Endowment (for long-term benefit)



Tax ID Number: 48-1003353

Thank you for your generosity!

If you have questions, call the THSHS office - 785-295-3200

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 Ave., 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.

Troy Today - What did THS students do last summer?



Pictured, from left: **David Erwin (2026)**, **Aaron Lane (2026)**, **Lilly Krohe (2025)**, and **Jordan Jackson (2025)** spent their time at Helen Hocker Theatre at Gage Park in the cast and crew of **THE LIGHTNING THIEF**, **THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL**.

McCall Beal (2024) 2023/2024 THS All School President, was elected Governor of Girls State.

Gabriella Barron (2025) took 2nd place in a Future Educators national high school competition.

New email address for the THS Historical Society:
thshs@thshhistoricalsociety.org



THS Historical Society
800 W Tenth Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

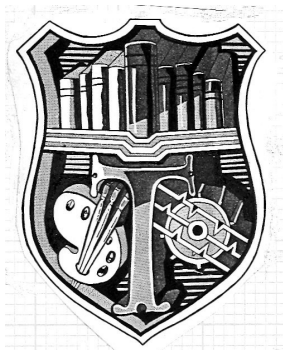
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**The THS Historical Society
Needs You!**

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.