



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.4 Dec. 2023

2024 INAUGURAL THS SPORTS HALL OF HONOR

Topeka High's administration, staff, employees, and student body have always appreciated the talented athletes who have helped define the determination, school spirit, and pride evident in our Trojan community. We owe a thank you to our athletes for modeling an enthusiastic participation in extracurricular activities, consistency, sacrifice, team spirit, good sportsmanship, and the results of making healthy choices.

Our athletic standouts deserve to be honored for their significant impact on our school's reputation, including providing brave sports moments for local media coverage; celebrating and proving the importance of diversity in our world; and their continued influence on community athletics, post high school.

The newly established **THS Sports Hall of Honor** will soon celebrate its first class of inductees on **Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the student cafeteria, and they will also be recognized during halftime of the basketball game in the dungeon, on the next evening, Friday, January 12, 2024.** These sports heroes are groundbreakers, risk takers, record setters, game changers, influencers, and proud TROJANS all.

For most honorees, their high school years were spent under the Tower; but one created a powerful connection, later in life to THS, as a winning coach. For yet another, his graduation was from Troy, and then he returned, to serve as a remarkable coach for Topeka High. We note their many accomplishments; these names will be permanently displayed and honored.

INDIVIDUALS to be on the inaugural 2024 THS Sports Hall of Honor are as follows:

Preston-Syed Carrington-Mufti 1967 Track Olympian

Judy Dyer 1966 Track Olympian; in 1968 named 3rd in in the nation in the 80-Meter Hurdles

Fred Slaughter 1960 Starting Center for UCLA's USAA 1964 Championship Basketball Team

JaNelle Wright Casson 2000 High-Jump State Champ, Big 12 Champ, NCAA All-American Track

Willie Nicklin Men's Basketball Coach 1970-1994, over 500 Career wins; 12 League Wins

Larry Reid 1943 Football & Tennis Coach 1959-1970,

Football Coach of the Year 1960; 4 State Tennis Titles

Chris Barnes 1988 Professional Bowler; PBA & PBA50 Tours; 16 times Member Team USA

Ruth Fairbank 1937 Kansas Softball Champ, All-

American in Basketball (1935), local Tennis Champion

Janet Steck Nuzman 1949 Washburn University's first coach of Women's Gymnastics, Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball teams

Steven Tilford 1978 Tour de France Cyclist; Tilford Foundation is established for young cyclists

Mike Torrez 1964 Major League Baseball Pitcher for many teams, first signing for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1964.

Dean Smith 1949 On KU's 1952 NCAA Championship team, UNC Basketball Coach 1961-1997, leading his teams to 11 Final Fours and 2 NCCA Championships

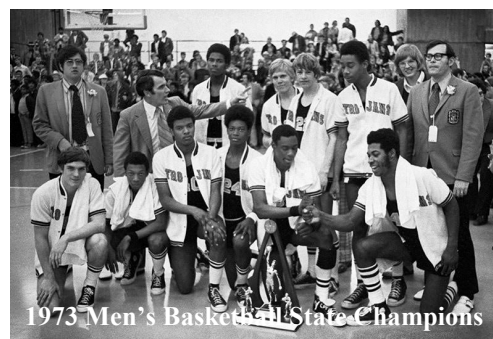
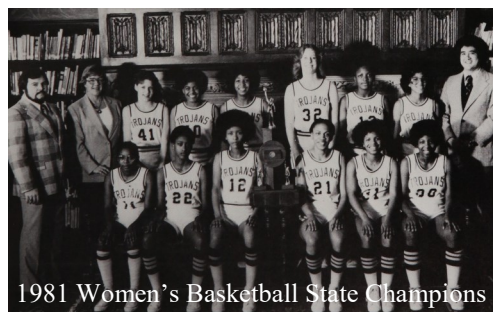
TEAMS to be on the 2024 THS Sports Hall of Honor are as follows:



Ramblers Basketball Team 1935-1949, all-Black team, organized during the segregated sports era. Spokesperson: Jack Alexander 1949 Team Captain

1973 Men's Basketball Team State Champions under Coach Willie Nicklin

1981 Women's Basketball Team State Champions under Coach Ted Juneau



Graduate Hall of Fame 2023



Sunday afternoon, October 1, 2023 was a great day to be a Trojan in Hoehner Auditorium attending the Graduate Hall of Fame ceremony recognizing the 42nd class of outstanding inductees. Congratulations to Janice Miller Karlin 1971, Wesley Revely 1990, Tommar Wilson 1994, and David Woods 1960, for their exceptional careers and contributions to society. Special thanks to the THS Strings, THS Madrigals, THS MCJROTC for their participation, and to Eric McHenry for his memorable introduction of his friend, Wes Revely.

To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Public Schools, 1900-1950 August 22, 2023 - May 11, 2024



Exhibition featured art by Ethel Spears

WPA Cutting Down a Tree

Ca. 1938, WPA Federal Art Project, Illinois, allocated to Topeka High, opaque watercolor and graphite on paper, Kansas State University, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art,

THS Historical Society is not a travel agency, but they strongly suggest taking a road trip to Manhattan, Kansas before May 2024. A destination worth your time is the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the Kansas State University Campus. Topeka High was selected to be part of the exhibition *To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Schools, 1900-1950* by loaning several pieces of art.

The following explanation of the exhibition was taken from the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art Fall 2023 Newsletter.

“A team of regional scholars led by Curator Elizabeth Seaton have spent the last five years researching the history of art collecting by Kansas K-12 schools. The topic has propelled them around the state in search of treasures in classrooms, district offices, and museums. Seaton and her collaborators (including Kara Heitz, THS 1993) will present their discoveries in this exhibition of 65 works acquired by more than a dozen school districts. The exhibition will be the first survey of art collecting by schools in Kansas and the first study of art acquired by the nation’s schools to give attention to boarding schools for Indigenous students.

A prominent theme in the exhibition is the heavy community involvement in the campaign to bring original artwork into Kansas schools. In 1911, the school superintendent in McPherson organized an exhibition to acquire art for the high school. This became an annual event attracting more than half of McPherson’s residents. Ticket sales allowed the district to establish a rich collection of work by regionally and nationally recognized artists, among them Birger Sandzén, Fern Coppedge, and James Abbott

McNeill Whistler. Before 1950, districts in dozens of Kansas towns and cities joining McPherson in acquiring original art through traveling exhibitions, bequests from the Carnegie Corporation, new Deal art programs, and other avenues.

A goal of the “To the Stars Through Art” exhibition is to show the vital role American art played - and might play again - in Kansas schools and their communities. The exhibition’s title, inspired by the state motto, *To the stars through difficulty*, alludes to the challenge of keeping the arts at the forefront of education. Another aim of the exhibition is to guide Kansas schools in caring for their collections and using them in teaching.”

Sponsors of the exhibition include: The Alms Group, Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, Humanities Kansas, and KANSAS! Magazine.

Topeka High and the THS Historical Society are proud to contribute to this exhibitions, lending the David Hicks Overmyer, *The Pageant of England*, 1937, 89 1/2 x 61 in. (frame) from THS Room 306, David Hicks Overmyer sketches for the mural in the teachers’ cafeteria, 1937; Aaron Douglas THS Yearbook cover, 1917; and Bradbury Thompson, THS 1929 Yearbook page design.



Nancy Overmyer, David Hicks Overmyer’s granddaughter, proudly admiring her grandfather’s piece *The Pageant of England*.

~ 2024 CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2024 - October 11 - THS vs Washburn Rural, 6 pm, Hummer Sports Park

Class

Class of 1969

Class of 1974

Class of 1979

Dates

September 21

TBA, 2024

August 16-17

Class of 1989

October 11-12

Class of 2004

October 11-12

Class of 2014

TBA, 2024

For More Information

robnjeni51@gmail.com

katydidinks@aol.com

james.ramos@wibw.com

hoyhoy79reunion@gmail.com

clarksamclark@gmail.com

kylewesleypeterson@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. 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**

**Sponsor the refinishing of 1931 library furniture
that will be used as the check out counter for the
Trojan Store \$1,500**

**Sponsor the repair of 4 sections
of stained glass windows
\$63,000**

Inventory the vintage THS Video Tapes
(sports, music, etc), in VHS, 16mm, DVD formats
We need help taking inventory of the collection that's
full of treasures.

**Sponsorship of new Graduate Hall of Fame
framed displays for the Hall of Fame Room, in-
cludes extra years of framing supplies - \$6,000**

Troy Today - What's going on at THS?



A newly formed ensemble features advanced THS string students. The **THS Larry J. Harris Memorial Quartet/Harris Quartet** made one of their first appearances at the THS Graduate Hall of Fame in October. The Harris Quartet is named in honor of beloved orchestra teacher Larry Harris, who taught at Topeka High from 1968 - 1995. Harris was the recipient of awards including being inducted in the Kansas Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in 1998. Larry Harris passed away in 1995.

At left - Guests Governor Laura Kelly and Election Commissioner Andrew Howell spoke to students in Hoehner Auditorium for a THS Voting Club assembly. From left to right: Gabby Baker 2023, Alejandra Valera Lopez Pinter 2025, Governor Kelly, Caroline Toland 2025, and Christa Dickman 2026.



At right - THS Drum Majors won an Outstanding Drum Majors award a multi-school band competition at a Washburn Yager Stadium. From left to right: Ayden Smith 2024, Ke Ni 2024, and Bre'Elle Thomas 2025.



WE REMEMBER OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

Lewis B. Jolley 1940
 Betty Whitney Alderson 1942
 Gladys Gartner Sitrin 1944
 Wilma VanEs Eisenhut 1945
 Lois Levett Lykins 1946
 Jerry F. Eaton 1947
 Wilma Trendel DeWilde 1948
 Joy Gastineau Fireston 1949
 Betty Carmean Fisk Jury 1950
 Robert F. Willis 1951
 John Brooks Slaughter 1951, Hall of Fame
 Charles Banks, Sr. 1952, past THSHS President
 Eleanor Gartner Lonschein 1952
 Ramona Toledo Shump 1952
 Shirley Semler Lutz 1952
 Ralph Reid 1952
 Joyce Dryden-Damron 1954
 Floyd E. Reed, Jr. 1954
 John Newcomb 1955
 Alberta Pinger Garner 1955
 Norma Kay Weaver 1955
 Shirley Wyman Schmick 1956
 Larry Redd 1956
 Larry Simmons 1956
 Herbert Cooper 1956
 Edward W. Crume 1957

Carol Kay Griggs 1957
 Robert R. Barnes 1958
 Judith Holle Finch 1959
 John Oberhelman 1959
 Patricia Leach Casper 1959
 Patricia Turner Robinson 1959
 Hudson H. Hamilton 1960
 Carolyn Secord Frye 1960
 Sherry Kearney VanDonge 1961
 Betty Perry Deisher 1961
 John P. Wheeler 1961
 Sheryl Johnson Cairns 1961
 Judith Smith Welch 1961
 Betty Perry Deisher 1961
 James A. McHenry 1962
 Stana Jane Nyswonger Palubinski 1963
 Hermine Chisholm Daniels 1963
 Roger L. White 1963
 Carolotte Boring Ratliff 1963
 Bruce E. Barnes 1963
 Jean Taylor Myers 1964
 Angelina Rodriguez Gonzalez 1964
 William E. Feldman 1964
 Verlin L. Jones 1965
 Mary Cummings Samz 1965
 William L. Beeman 1965
 Russell G. Freel 1967
 Charles M. Nauheim 1967

Georgia Rider 1968
 Kathleen Yardley Frickey 1968
 Danny R. Miller 1969
 Paul A. Dinkel 1969
 Charles D. Guerrero 1969
 Woodrow W. Reser II 1969
 Richard T. Cobb 1969
 Clifton M. Parker 1970
 Larry W. Hahn, Jr. 1970
 Danny L. Lane 1971
 Deonne Doud Rukes 1971
 Terry Ann McCoy 1972
 Douglas Pomeroy 1972
 Paul M. Adams 1978
 Joe Carter 1978
 Sheila Bennett Redmon 1978
 Benjamin J. Blevins 1978
 Lynnette Apperson Cervantez 1980
 Jon R. Comfort 1984
 Nekeishia Taylor 1992
 Leslie Wilkerson Baker 1992
 Nicklaus S. Cianciarulo 1993
 Andrew Remfry 2003
 Dylan J. Holley 2013
 Charles D. McCarthy, 1940s student
 Eleanor Simons Slusser, Former Staff

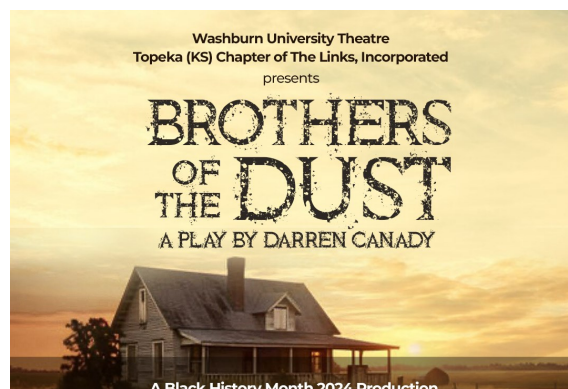
Black & Gold Report - Graduates in the Spotlight

- **Ramona Toledo Shump 1952** (1934 - 2023) raised four successful sons and one daughter as a single parent. She accomplished this while working over 30 years for the State of Kansas helping thousands of individuals on public assistance find permanent employment through programs CEDA, the Work Incentive Program (WIN), and Kansas Job Service. Ramona became a community activist in Topeka as a tenant of the Topeka Housing Authority. This advocacy culminated in the filing of a class action lawsuit *Shump v. Balka* in 1978. The attorney who filed the suit forwarded Ramona's name to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the largest source of funding for civil legal assistance to the poor. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter nominated Ramona to the national Board of Directors for the LSC. During her term fellow board members included the first African-American Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, a former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Thank you, Ramona Shump, for being a role model for those of us who think we lack time and initiative to advocate for those less fortunate.
- Congratulations to **Dané Shobe 2004** for being recognized at the 2023 Topeka ArtsConnect Awards with the Glenda Taylor Visual Arts Award for his work as a visual artist and the creation of Sun Hero Magazine. Dané is also well known for his work as an actor, his knack for teaching, and his use of his voice and artistic abilities to support others. Congratulations Dané.
- In October **Beryl Massey New 1970** was recognized as a Washburn University 2023 Alumni Fellow in the School of Applied Studies. Dr. New retired in April 2023 after 35 years in education as a teacher, counselor, principal, administrator, and most recently as Topeka Public School's Director of the Equity Council and Certified Personnel. Thank you, Dr. New for your commitment to education and believing that every young person deserves a high quality education.
- **Marcia Heil Johnston 1966** was awarded the Washburn University School of Law Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2023. She was one of four women in her law school graduating class in 1974 and the first woman to represent the school in the National Moot Court Competition and was a member of the team that won the local and regional Jessup International Moor Court Competitions.
- **Jim McEntire 1969** and his family were recognized as the Legacy Family at the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Awards in October 2023. Three generations of Washburn Law School graduates were recognized starting with Jim's father, **Richard McEntire 1928** and including Jim's wife, Joanna Corpstein, and daughter Helen "Lizzy" McEntire.



THS Class of 1949 classmates and community leaders Dr. Walt Menninger and Jack Alexander reminisced at the Friends of THS Lunch on December 11 that was held in the THS Teachers' Cafeteria. Mr. Alexander will represent the Rambler Basketball Team on January 11 & 12 as the team is inducted in the THS Sports Hall of Honor at Topeka High School. He was the Rambler team captain in 1949.

In six short years Topeka High will celebrate 100 years at 800 SW Tenth Ave. Do you want to help with the party?



Set in rural Kansas, *Brothers of the Dust* is a saga about the Coltons all returning from visiting their family farm. As we peel back the layers of this drama, we discover that this is not your typical homecoming. **Darren Canady 2000** weaves together a beautiful story of sibling rivalry, family legacy, love and betrayal. Winner of the 2012 Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award for *Brothers of the Dust*, Canady has earned numerous awards for his work. At Kansas University he is a Professor, Department of English and University Honors Program. Performance dates at the Washburn University Neese-Gray Theatre are February 23, 24, 29, 2024 @ 7:30 pm. March 1 - 2, 2024 @ 7:30 pm. And March 3, 2024 @ 2 pm and sponsored by Washburn University and the Topeka (KS) chapter of The Links, Inc.

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.

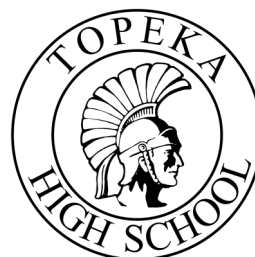
You may designate your gift for one or more of several funds:

- 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: thshistoricalociety.org/

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

**Happy Holidays from the
THS Historical Society
And best wishes for a
prosperous New Year of 2024!**

**2023 Annual Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024 @
12 pm
THS Cavalier Room**



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



THS Historical Society
800 W Tenth Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

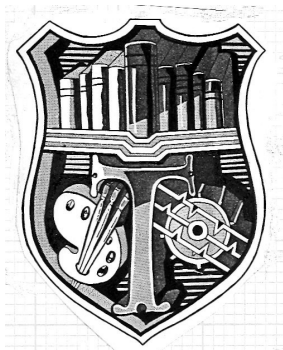
Non. Prof. Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Topeka, KS
Permit No. 702

**The THS Historical Society
Needs You!**

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

Upcoming Projects needing funding - Hall of Fame Inductee displays and Stained Glass Window repairs.

Go to thshistoricalsociety.org to make a donation 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 AND YEAR END APPEAL - These funds are used for operating expenses of the THSHS.