



50th Anniversary Reunion Celebration  
**CLASSMATE SCRAPBOOK**  
*Hospitality Room,  
Taft Museum & Library*



## Events At-a-Glance

Join us for  
*Reconnzation, Reflection*  
&

*Information in the*  
**Taft Hospitality Room!**

Hours of Operation:

Thursday, 9/24: 1p.m. - 9p.m.

Friday, 9/25: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(we will reopen for the Reception at 5:30p.m.)

Saturday, 9/26: 9a.m. - 11 a.m.

## The Hospitality Room & Taft Museum/Library Displays

During the four days of Reunion Celebration a Hospitality Room gathering place was setup for classmates to reconnect, reflect, laugh, have fun & celebrate the theme of being "Together Again". This room also housed the "Taft Museum & Library".

The Taft Museum & Library was the brain child of Mary Allegretti-Kalesz of McKenna & Me Design in Lake Zurich, IL. Mary's vision was not to just lay memorabilia out on tables but create museum-like displays that would capture the times and experiences of times 1955 to 1959. Antiques, hula-hoops, vintage posters, roller skates that saw a lot of time on the Hub Roller Rink hard wood floor, model cars of the 1950's and much more surrounded original Taft memorabilia from our high school years. In the center of the museum was a 32" LCD screen that continuously played the DVD "Taft the Movie" which all classmates received as part of the Memory Book. The "Taft Library" was loaded with hard copies of Taft photos and documents, and the tables were covered with over 100 different "Toss-Arounds", (Laminated photos & articles that were reproduced from the Taft Tribunes published during our high school years.)

Mary is not only a professional designer, but also the daughter of reunion committee member Fred Allegretti. On Christmas 2008 Fred received an unusual gift, a "Certificate for Reunion Design & Decorations" services. The "certificate services" were subsequently expanded to include event organization & coordination for the 50th Reunion Celebration. According to Mary these additional responsibilities were required so her father and other committee members could participate and enjoy their own Reunion Event and not have to just "work the event".

To say that Mary achieved her goal would be an understatement. The Hospitality Room gathering place and "Taft Museum & Library" was absolutely one of the elements that made our reunion so special. And Mary's objective to minimize reunion committee members' need to "work the event", rather than enjoy and participate in the reunion, was surely accomplished. Since all committee members reported having "the time of their life", and further agreed that "... the almost three years of preparation that came to be known as our labor of love, was worth every minute of the time invested."

So we all say . . .

**THANK YOU MARY!** For helping to make our  
**50th Reunion Celebration truly SPECIAL!!**

**We think YOU are SPECIAL TOO !!!**

**The next eight scrapbook pages illustrate the creativity, quality, effort & love Mary put into the "Taft Museum & Library"**

Note:

The "McKenna" in McKenna & Me Design is the name of Mary's 6 year old daughter and her Moms' maiden name. She also has a 4 year old son David and resides in Lake Zurich, IL with her husband of ten years David Kalesz, an Allstate Agency business owner.



McKenna  
& Me  
Design



Mary and her Dad,  
Classmate Fred Allegretti

## Hospitality Room, Taft Museum & Library

The room was filled by Taft memories from our high school days. In the center of the room were tables to sit, visit, talk, reunite & reconnect with classmates. Complementary drinks & snacks were available. The memorabilia table backdrops were designed to highlight key events & items that would quickly take your thoughts back to a simpler time filled with fun & fond memories. Tables were covered with laminated pictures, news articles & documents, which accelerated the recall process & served to stimulate classmate conversations. Special blue & silver, Mylar balloon clad Superdawg boxes were designed as table center pieces for the event. The back wall displayed a banner that said it all... "Taft High School - June 1959 - Together Again!"



## Hospitality Room, Gathering Place and Taft Museum & Library



*Karen Wolff-Hamelberg, Sharon Lee Olsen-Engel, Judith Henriksen-Schwolow & Susan Harvey-Wood*



*Jane Werling, Amie's wife, Larry Marsh, Barb Kundson-Newlin & Rae Marie Hillier-Byrd*



*Les Torrey & Karen Lange-Wilson watching and enjoying "Taft the Movie".*



*Les Zurawic & Ken Monahan enjoying the time, remembering the times.*



*Joe & Kathleen Beireis checking out the Taft Library*



*Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened.*



*Gordie & Roberta Lund on the left, Tom Edmonds on the right, and Larry, in the background picking names for door prizes.*



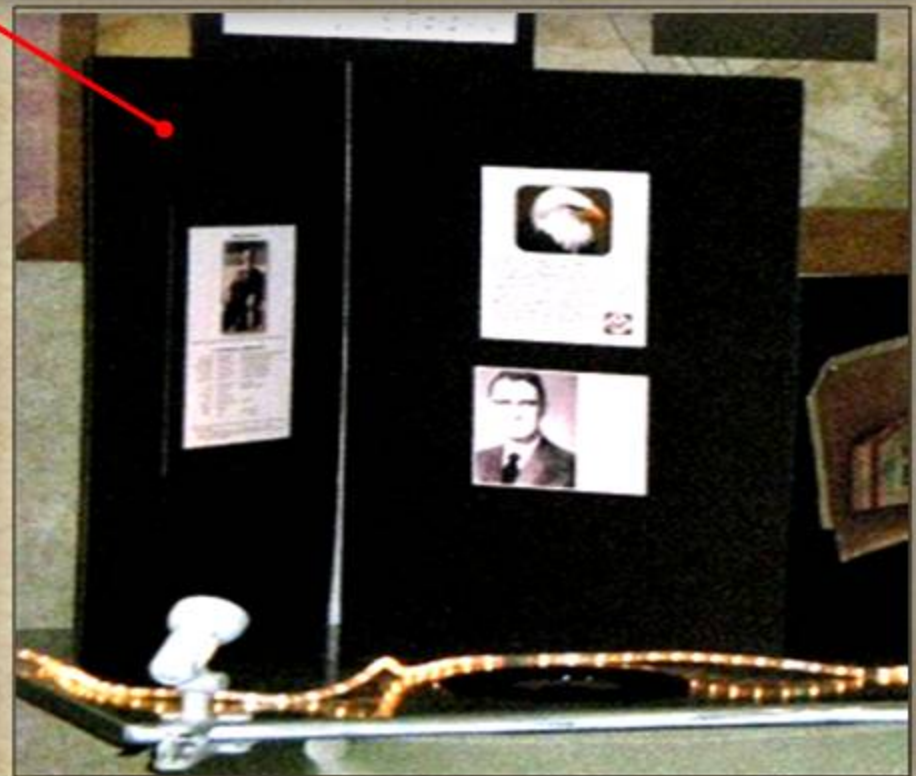
*Here is Anne Fear-McManus posing with her skates. We think Anne logged 1.8 million miles going round & round at the Hub Roller Rink during the 50's.*



*Strange unknown man crashing our reunion to get ideas on how to stage a reunion of a lifetime.*

### Taft Museum & Library in More Detail

The Library was full of photo albums, documents, press clippings & much more. The first backdrop covered the history of Taft, a write up on the characteristics of the American Bald Eagle and why the eagle was chosen as the school mascot, also a bio on Dr. Gerald Haley as principal of Taft at the time of our graduation.



## Taft Museum & Library in More Detail

The second backdrop featured "antique things" of the 50's that triggered nostalgic moments: Tinker Toys, Pick-up Sticks, Black Jack & Wrigley's Spearmint Gum, 20¢ Camel Cigarette Pack ads, Hula Hoops, Superdawg boxes, Green River, KIST Kola vintage pop bottles, 45 RPM Records & much more.



## Taft Museum & Library in More Detail

Center section was reserved for continuous showings of the 60 minute "Taft the Movie" DVD on a 30" LCD TV with helium Juke Boxes as a backdrop along with an original Taft Yearbook, an original Mr. Peepers program, Taft Tribs & Model Cars of the 50's. The next backdrop detailed the News, Movies, Celebs, CIP, Cars, Inventions, Sports Champs, etc. during 1955-1956-1957-1958 & 1959.



### Taft Museum & Library in More Detail

Antique Drive-In Clock, circa 1955 - 1957 Vintage Chevy poster - Original Grease Program & LP, circa 1962 - Mori & Flori Superdawg mascots & owners of the drive-in that opened in 1947 - Anne Fear's Skates & Hub Roller Rink tickets.





## Taft Museum & Library in More Detail



Here is Larry Marsh doing his Vanna White impression, showing the Ed McMahon size check to be presented to the principal of Taft High School as a donation from the June Class of 1959. Check amount is blank awaiting the final total from classmates.

Here is the Blue Bid Bag on the silent auction table.

Classmate bids were collected for the original Barb Kundson-Newlin Superdawg Drive-In watercolor. All proceeds go to the Taft donation.



### Taft Museum & Library in More Detail

Classmates brought tons of memorabilia which were displayed at either end of the hospitality room. Rich Cervenka even fit into his letter sweater which he personally modeled most of the evening. Ron Barth brought four years of Taft Tribunes for classmates to enjoy, once you got past the attic smell. Girls brought dance programs from 1955 to 1959, guys brought sports clippings.

