

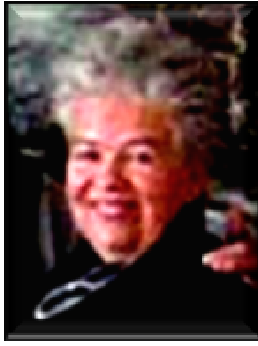
CLASSMATE PROFILES

Getting to know Classmates all over again!

So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?



Judy Thornton Taft Student



Judy Thornton-Lewis



My Grandkids

Top Stair L to R
Heather Lewis 21
Ashley Lewis 19
Holding Her Niece
Grace Lewis Age 1
Middle Stair L to R
Ryan Lewis 9
Logan Vendel 6
Michael Lewis 6
Bottom L to R
Lauren Vendel 5
Sarah Lewis 4

JUDY THORNTON-LEWIS

THE THREE DISTINCT PHASES OF MY LIFE

THE FIRST – CHILDHOOD AND TEEN YEARS - Growing up in the home that my mother still lives in as the eldest of five children (all of whom attended Taft) was probably the most carefree of these phases and was filled with laughter and lots of love.

My memories of Taft are varied and for the most part very happy. The most unusual of my memories is when a classroom assignment in my clothing class – to create knitting project-resulted in some quick creative thinking. The three-inch rectangle that was to have been a sweater was transformed and presented to the teacher as an “innovative project – a nose warmer” with four strings attached to hold it in place. I must have been a great persuader because the project not only earned me a high grade but also launched a lucrative (for that time) business of selling these nose warmers for \$1.00 each. Business was so good I had to recruit a couple good friends to spend the next couple weeks knitting their spare time away. We really had quite a few good laughs watching people walk away wearing these treasures and admiring themselves in the reflection of the classroom door.

THE SECOND – YOUNG ADULT/WIFE/AND MOTHERHOOD - was the busiest, scariest and without a doubt the happiest time of my life. Raising my three children, Kathy, Robert and Mike as a stay at home Mom gave me the opportunity to enjoy, appreciate and guide each and every stage of their development. It also gave me the flexibility to work extensively within our community, in the parks, political organizations and the school system. My involvement with the PTA was extensive both at the local and citywide level and resulted in friendships that have continued up to this day.

THE CURRENT - MOTHER/GRANDMOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER AND CAREER WOMAN - is really a close second to the happiest time of my life. Watching my three children grow into successful adults and experiencing the joy of having eight grandchildren (ranging in age from 21 to 1) has certainly been the most rewarding phase. Having them, my mother and all but one of my siblings and their extended families still involved in my life is wonderful and causes me to continually reflect on the meaning of the continuity of life.

The current and third was entering into the workplace and being fortunate to find a challenging and rewarding career in the health care field, it was 23 years ago shortly after the youngest of my children graduated from High School I began working in the HealthCare Field and have continued working with the same company as they expanded from owning one skilled nursing and rehabilitation Center to owning seven throughout the Chicago land area. I am the Assistant Administrator of the largest of these facilities, LakeShore HealthCare & Rehabilitation Centre.

Hearing from the Taft 59 Reunion Committee and joining them has given me an opportunity to reflect back, renew acquaintances and also to look forward to enjoying the next phase of my life, retirement within the next couple years. During this phase I am looking forward to more free time to devote to my ever-growing family, friends and to continue be involved and develop new interests.