

THS stair railings received attention this summer

As the centennial anniversary of our esteemed building approaches, the Topeka High School Historical Society Project Preservation Committee is actively pursuing initiatives aimed at enhancing its visual appeal in anticipation of this significant milestone.



One recent project involved the restoration of over 120 handrails across the building's staircases—a task suggested by THS Principal Dustin Dick during a summer 2025 building walk-through. The railings had not been serviced in over 40 years, resulting in worn finishes and significant buildup of old wax, grease,

and dirt. The total cost of the restoration was \$6,710.

Dave Clark (THS 1967) and his grandson, Brady, spent many hours in the unairconditioned building this past summer determined to complete the project before school started.

Dave shared a few interesting facts from the project:

- The combined length of all 120+ railings spans 4½ football fields.
- The longest railing was 20½ feet long.
- The work uncovered staircases I didn't know existed during my school days.
- We found several initials carved into the wood, including three on the undersides of the railings. Surprisingly, there were no hearts with initials to show someone's love for another.
- I should have kept track of the number of pieces of gum, but maybe best I didn't.

Dave expresses his thanks to the school administration and the custodial staff for their support and help.

"It was a pleasure to work on this project," Dave said. "As we look forward to celebrating 100 years of Topeka High School in 2031, I know the THS Historical Society will continue its vital work to preserve the history and beauty of our building for generations to come.

Such projects are only possible through alumni and friend support. Please consider contributing your time and talents by contacting Joan Barker, at the THSHS office, or supporting the work financially by making a donation to the THSHS."



"We worked on the project this summer to take advantage of reduced foot traffic while the air conditioning was being replaced," Dave said. "To maintain safety, we removed only one railing per side at a time, working across the entire building each week. I want to extend a special thanks to my grandson, Brady Clark, whose help with the

weekly removal and installation was essential to finishing before the new school year."



Thanks to Tonya Foster (THS Media Specialist) for the photographs.

There's always a Topeka High project

With a building as large and unique as THS, there are always projects underway and more on the horizon. The THSHS continues to work toward funding:

- Repairs for six sections of stained glass. Hoefer Stained Glass of Hutchinson, KS beginning work in October. Proposal \$48,700
- Annual maintenance of the Deagan Chimes. \$3,000 per year
- Flagpole repair and restoration on East Campus.

We are also looking toward new projects to further enhance the building and grounds at

Topeka High:

- Carpeting in the Hall of Fame Room.
- Repair of the Trophy Cases in the gym foyers on Western Avenue.
- Cleaning exterior walls around the building.
- Turf and landscaping around the building.

We welcome donations and sponsorships for these projects leading up to the 100th Anniversary of the building. Call Joan Barker at the THSHS office ([785-295-3200](tel:785-295-3200)) if you would like to participate or go to our website to donate. www.thshistoricalsociety.org

Have trailer, will travel



It was a fun & lively evening at Hummer Sports Park in September - the THS Band was practicing a new half time routine, the Band Backer parents were serving gold frosted cupcakes, and everyone was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new band trailer.

The THS Band and the THS Drumline have created a superior

reputation in places close to home and across the United States. They have performed in many Kansas towns and cities - Wamego, Dover, Junction City, Overbrook, Silver Lake, St. Marys, Wichita, Kansas City, Concordia, Nicodemus, Lindsborg, Mound City, just to name a few. Their buses and trailers have been to Branson, MO, Chicago, IL, Winter Park, CO, and Disney World in Orlando, FL. They are well known as a community based band that supports community activities such as parades and events. The THSHS is proud to help sponsor the new band trailer.



Calling all history geeks! Thanks to friends who have already responded.

THSHS needs volunteers to help organize its collections, get data entered into the museum database, and sort through new acquisitions.

The big project will be sorting the hundreds of trophies stored in the Tower. Each one will be photographed and logged. Some will be kept, some will be offered to people who earned them, and some will be donated for repurposing. There will be a lot of "Wow!" and "I had no idea!" and "Look at this!" If that sounds like fun to you, let Joan Barker know by emailing her at thshs@thshistoricalsociety.org or calling 785- 295-3200.

Homecoming 2026 - THS Today

Rain was forecasted for September 25th. Sure enough, it was still raining at noon so the administration decided to cancel the parade. However, a little rain did not dampen the Trojan spirit. Plan B was executed with an exuberant Running of the Halls and a lovely Royalty Introduction Assembly. Some floats created the week before were on display at Hummer Park, the Homecoming Royalty rode around the football stadium in golf carts, nine classes celebrated their class reunions, and the Royalty was crowned at a pre-game ceremony. It was a great day to be a Trojan!



THS Staff who are THS Grads!



Running the Halls



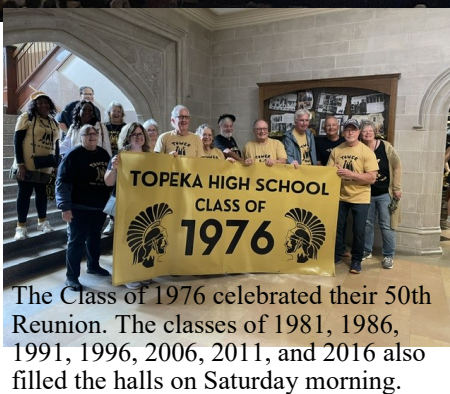
2026 Homecoming Assembly



2026 THS Administration wearing their new game day jackets



2026 King Noah and Queen Kimora



The Class of 1976 celebrated their 50th Reunion. The classes of 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2006, 2011, and 2016 also filled the halls on Saturday morning.



~ 2026 CLASS REUNIONS ~

Nine classes celebrated their reunions over Homecoming weekend. Here's contact information so you can thank those who made your reunion happen.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>For More Information</u>
Class of 1964	October 10	80th birthday party, 785-766-4066
Class of 1966	June 20	Facebook
Class of 1971	May 30	Facebook
Class of 1976	September 25-26	khenao@usd345.com
Class of 1981	September 25-26	Facebook, russ@russ-hutchison.com 785-383-8585
Class of 1986	September 25-27	Facebook
Class of 1991	September 25-26	miguelcolon32@yahoo.com, 785-580-7045, tiffanij20@gmail.com
Class of 1995	September 25	50th Birthday, ksbarbie@hotmail.com
Class of 1996	September 25-26	rebecca.bealmear@gmail.com
Class of 2006	September 25	golf.dreamcatcher7171@gmail.com
Class of 2011	September 25	sophie.lorson01@gmail.com
Class of 2016	September 25-26	jessbarr1598@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.

Thank you 40th Anniversary donors

Thank you to these friends who gave an extra gift for our 40th anniversary. As publicized, the funds will be used for stained glass window repairs and replacing the Hall of Fame Room carpet. It's not too late to contribute to those projects and others on our wish list. Use the 40th envelope that you received in 2025, the QR code below works, or go to thshistoricalsociety.org.

Shernise Allen, Allen L. Anderson, Jerry & Linda Anderson, George Ashworth, Mary Bargas, Gregory Barker, Bill & Joan Barker, Amy Bauer, Grace Beam, Elaine Blumenthal, Ronald R Booth, Clayton Brice, Denise Brice-Walker, David & Kathy Brooks, Cherie Byrd, Gary M Campbell, Karen Craig, Susan and Michael Dunnaway, Alice Eberhart-Wright, Judith (Judy) Edes, Ken & Jeanne Elder, Dennis G Elliott, Jett Elmer, Charles & Elizabeth Farnsworth, Linda Featherston, Mark Fischman, Jerry & Patty Foster, Rick Friedstrom, Leah Gabler-Marshall, Karen Gehrt, Patricia Geoffroy, Ray & Judy Germonprez, Amy Gilchrist, Phil & Martha Gray, Denise Grice, Noel D Gritman, Ellen Guthrie, Dominic Gutierrez Sr, Beverly Hall, Karen Haller, Casey Halsey, Joan Hartung, Rebecca Hill, Martin Hines, Pamela G Hol-lie, E. Harley Holmes, Jr, Lynn Holt, Lynda Huffer, Vivian Hulsopple, Eldon L Hyle, Linda P Jeffrey, Brian Jones, Ronald P Jones, Janice Karlin, Robert E Keeshan, Jim Ketcherside, Tierney J Kirtdoll, Christine Kramer, Margot Lamar, Karl Landis, Ken & Gail Leonard, Martha Lips, Jonas Lonergan, Julia Marsh, Charles Marshall, Debra Marshall, Debra McClelland, Mary McCue, James McEntire, Randy McGrath, Gretchen McKee, Don R Moe, Mike Monaghan, Shelly Moses, Alana Moyer, Merle Nunemaker, Jo Ann O'Brien, Jacqueline Perry, Gerald Phifer, Duane & Debbie Pomeroy, Jerry Pozez, Sally Reed, Alan Renfro, , Malcolm Robinson, Carole Rost, Thomas Rost, Carrie Rutherford, Barbara Salyer, Jane Schlicher, DeLano Sheffield, Lucy Shifton, Rita Snyder, Judy Soule, Walter Taylor, Vicki Townsend, Lowell Twining, Valerie VanDerSluis, Stanley N Wellborn, Doris Ann Willcox, Rosemary Williams, Barbara Williamson, Carol Willis, Dan & Linda Woodland, David Woods, and Frank & Judy Worrall



WE REMEMBER OUR GRADUATES & FRIENDS

Jack "Leo" Horacek Jr. 1937	John W. Barrett 1953	James W. Nelson 1959	Gregory P. Meyer 1970
Ruth Martinez Campos 1946	Jerry L. Burgen 1953	Helen Ann Barreto 1960	Joel Burrow 1970
Sharlyn Firestone Neis 1946	Ezequiel Munoz 1953	Tom J. Stovall Jr. 1960	Linda Ortiz 1970
William J. Barrett 1947	Lois Alberg Lander 1953	Polly Palmer Brunkhardt 1960	David H. Niven 1971
JoAnn Hammarlund Drevets 1948	Jack A. Woodruff 1953	Loyce Larson Taylor 1961	Melvin J. Copeland 1971
Barbara Lewis Johnson 1949	Patricia Hutchens Jackson-Bigley 1953	Robert D. Tolbert 1961	Vernon L. Johnson 1971
Virgil R. Waldo Sr. 1949	Audrey Baer Erdman (Ferro) 1954	Kenneth M. Wilke 1961	John Curry 1972
Evelyn Stahl Jaeckel 1949	James T. Stanley 1955	Rosemary McGirr Smith 1962	James K. Armstrong 1973
Doris Barge Henderson 1950	Clayton D. Ijams Sr. 1955	Terrence A. Modlin 1962	Daniel O. Jackson Sr. 1975
Bonny Harris Freeman 1950	Mary Carter Jungman 1956	Daniel F. Phelps 1962	Frank R. Rajewski 1976
Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker 1950	Elisa Rodriguez Mendez 1956	Ruby "Tena" Gentry 1962	James "Jim" L. Lewis 1978
Roberta Grame Buchholz 1951	Bonalyn Becker Beelman 1956	JoAnn King Jones 1962	Jerome "Todd" Wilson 1978
William J. Fitzgibbons 1951	Neal C. Henriksen 1957	Harlan K. Schlicher 1963	Robert Flower 1979
June Hartzell Shull 1951	Joseph A. Kelly 1957	Susan DeBaun	Natalie Oyler 1990
John "Jack" R. Shull 1951	Diane Reamon Crump 1958	Hetherington 1963	Katrece M. Guliford 1993
James Dinwiddie Bowen 1952	Lois Barge Kozich 1958	William Owens 1965	Nichole Cann 1996
Coraleen Murray Ellis 1952	Charles E. Southard 1958	Richard L. Williams 1965	Jayson McBroom Edwards 2005
	Larry D. Dillard/Fidel Abdelalim 1958 (THS Security)	Agustina Martinez Williams 1966	Michael Culbertson 2007
	Janet Barnett Lafferty 1958	Angelina Lira 1968	Steve Slough THS Faculty
		Daniel A. McCabe 1968	Marlene Bien, THS Faculty
		Bill Kennedy 1968	Rose Ramos, THS Faculty

Black & Gold Report - Graduates in the News

Congratulations, **Judy Dyer 1966**, for her July 2026 induction in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. Ms. Dyer was inducted in the Topeka High Sports Hall of Honor's inaugural class in 2024. She qualified for the 1968 Olympics in the 80-meter hurdles. She advanced to the semifinal round of the Olympic Games where her fastest time of 10.5 seconds (American record) placed her in the top 15 fastest women in the world in 1968.

Jack "Leo" Horacek 1937 passed away in July 2026 at the age of 107 (yes, you read that right). Leo was an uncle of **Robin (Jim) Hoover THS 1969**. Leo was born on April 21, 1919 in Topeka, KS. As a teenager he played trumpet in the THS band and orchestra and in Marshall's Band of Topeka. He received a music education degree from the University of Kansas in 1941 and joined the Navy, where he became a flight instructor and fighter pilot, flying combat missions in both the Mediterranean and Japan. After the war he returned to KU where he taught music and eventually received a PhD. He taught in the schools of Ellis, KS, Central Missouri State College and at West Virginia University from 1960 until his retirement in 1982. In retirement he taught over 100 classes in Osher Life-

long Learning Institute in Morgantown, WV and returned to flying. He was a flight instructor, private pilot and occasionally flew for West Virginia University.

Dale Taylor 1957 will be at the University of Kansas in September as guest lecturer and recipient of a *Mike & Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award* from the KU Alumni Association's Black Alumni Network. Dr. Taylor will be included in the 2026 edition of *Who's Who in America* because of interest in his papers explaining "systemic racism" and an earlier discourse describing how "implicit bias" is actually "implanted bias."

Ben Lerner 1997 was the keynote speaker at the Kansas Book Festival held at Washburn University on September 26. His latest work, *Transcription*, was named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*. **Eric McHenry 1990**, Washburn Professor of English, served as the moderator.

Congratulation to **1960 classmates Carl Johnson (THS Hall of Fame) and Joan Oliver Stephens** for their recent sharing of wedding vows.

News about THS graduates is important to us. We want to know about your careers, honors, and THS memories. Drop us a note at thshs@thshistoricalociety.org.

Support the THS Historical Society Now & After Your Lifetime

Consider being a consistent THSHS contributor for just \$25 per year. At checkout on our website, you can choose to set your payment to renew automatically or make your payment a one-time gift. An automatic renewal helps you to never forget your favorite high school.

Go to: thshistoricalsociety.org/support-2/memberships

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 THS Historical Society funds:

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

Tax ID Number: 48-1003353

Other Opportunities To Help Your School

Are you feeling charitable and over the age of 70 1/2? Then, GOOD NEWS for the THSHS. Pretax money saved in an IRA can be an ideal charitable donation. You can give a donation by taking a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). A QCD will count toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD), and neither you nor the THS Historical Society will have to pay income taxes. You can take a QCD whether you itemize deductions on your tax return or not. If you use the standard deduction, you will generally receive no tax benefit from a regular charitable contribution.



A note about the THS Chimes

If your heart jumps a beat when you hear the THS Chimes play the school song you might want to take the lead from the Class of 1975 and contribute to the new Chimes Maintenance Fund. The THS Historical Society has accepted the general maintenance responsibility for the only working Deagan Chimes system in a public high school in the world. Interested in donating to the Chimes Fund? Go to thshistoricalsociety.org 'Giving Opportunities' or give us a call at 785-295-3200.

Wondering what to do with your used car, truck or motorcycle that has been taking up space in your garage? Donating your old vehicle to the Topeka High School Historical Society is convenient, easy, and may qualify you for a tax deduction. And best of all, your donation of that used vehicle will make a big difference in supporting Topeka High projects. All you need to do is to complete the Vehicles for Charity simple form on the THSHS website or call 866-628-2277. Vehicles for Charity will take care of the rest. They will pick up your vehicle, arrange to have your donation towed, and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, all at no charge to you. Call 866-628-2277 or online at www.thshistoricalsociety.org/support-2/vehicles-for-charity.



Support your favorite non-profit, the THS Historical Society, every time you shop at Dillons. The Kroger Stores sponsor the Community Rewards Program of Dillons. Go to www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards to sign up to grocery shop for the THS Historical Society. **Thanks to Trojan Shoppers!**

THS Historical Society Supporters (On a Mission for THS)

Graduation Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name (as student) _____ Current Last Name _____

Spouse First Name (THS grads) _____ Last Name (as student) _____ 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 1976, 50 years since graduation=\$50)	\$ _____
Bonus gift honoring 40th Anniversary of the THS Historical Society (\$40)	\$ _____

I want to sponsor an annual contribution for a friend (\$25):

Name _____ Graduation year _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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/

Troy Today What's going on at THS?



The THS Orchestra represented Topeka High at the annual K-State Tallgrass Festival in September.



Last summer Alejandro “Alex” Gonzalez installed 51 flags in THS classrooms without an American flag, a gift from David Kensinger 1989. Thank you, David, and the assistance from the 501 Service Center Staff and Alex.

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Topeka, KS 66612

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Upcoming Dates in 2026

Friday, September 25, THS Homecoming - Royalty Assembly & Game vs Washburn Rural
Sunday, October 4, 2 pm, THS Graduate Hall of Fame, Hoehner Auditorium
Tuesday, December 8, 12 pm, Friends of THS Lunch, THS Teachers' Cafeteria