



Taylor
Center High



John F.
Kennedy High



Harry S.
Truman High

Board Of Directors

President: Caroline (Craddock) Patts	TCHS 1973
TC-Vice President: Jennifer Fowler-Glumm	TCHS 1992
JFK-Vice President: Mary (Swartout) Rusnak	JFK 1972
HST-Vice President: Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink	HST 1977
Secretary: Sandra Kyte	TCHS 1962
Treasurer: Nancy Mascaro-Miller	JFK 1967

Join the Alumni Association

Become a lifetime member!

Membership is \$25 per person for a lifetime membership. Part of the proceeds will go to the "Taylor Schools Foundation of Excellence" Scholarship Fund. Your payment may be tax deductible.

Send your check payable to "Taylor School District Alumni Association" to:

Taylor Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Or visit the website at:
www.tayloralumni.org and use the online application feature

Taylor School District Alumni Association

Volume 4, Issue 2

December, 2009
Taylor, Michigan

President's Column.....by Caroline (Craddock) Patts, TC '73

Another year almost over! Where did the time go? Thank you to all alumni who have become lifetime members of the Taylor School District Alumni Association this past year. Hopefully you are enjoying your discounts from the various companies. Want to know where you can receive a discount? Go to our website, www.tayloralumni.org for a list or a list is included on pages 7-8 of this newsletter. Speaking of discounts....if you are an owner of a company why not pass along a discount to a fellow alumnus. Anything you could give to the lifetime members of the Alumni Association would be greatly appreciated. We will

post your company name on our website with the discount you choose. It would be like advertising.

Not a lifetime member of the Taylor School District Alumni Association? An application is attached to this newsletter. Questions, email the Alumni Association at tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR NEXT ALUMNI INFORMAL GATHERING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2010

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy happy New Year. Blessings to you all!

The Taylor School District Alumni Association wishes everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!



Seasons' Greetings

MEMORIAN

The Alumni Association expresses their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away.

SUSAN PRATT, A TEACHER AT THE TAYLOR CAREER CENTER AND MOTHER OF BECKY PRATT PARK A 1986 GRADUATE OF TRUMAN. BECKY IS NOW TEACHING AT MCDOWELL ELEMENTARY IN TAYLOR

CLYDENE CURTIS MCLENON A 1958 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH

TOM SHEMANSKI A 1970 GRADUATE OF JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH

JENNY GRIFFOR PASSED AWAY JULY 18, 2009. JENNY WAS A 1981 GRADUATE OF TRUMAN HIGH. SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER HUSBAND DALE DUQUETTE, SON JEFF, DAUGHTER LESLIE BROTHER LEROY, SISTERS PAM AND WENDY AND PARENTS LEROY AND JEANETTE SLAVEN GRIFFOR. JEANETTE IS A 1957 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH

EUGENE PAASINEN RETIRED EDUCATOR WHO TAUGHT AT JFK AND TCH IN ADDITION TO OTHER SCHOOLS IN TAYLOR PASSED AWAY AUGUST 28, 2009

DAVID POAGE A 1960 GRADUATE OF TCH HAD BEEN LIVING IN THAILAND AND PASSED AWAY IN JUNE.

RICHARD YOUNG WHO WAS A 1965 GRADUATE OF TCH

LINDSAY FULTON PASSED AWAY OCTOBER 25, 2009. SHE WAS A 2009 GRADUATE OF HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH AND IS SURVIVED BY HER PARENTS AND A SISTER, STEPHANIE CLASS OF 2007 AND A BROTHER ROGER JORDAN CLASS OF 2005.

DON CLARK A 1972 GRADUATE OF KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL. DON IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, JAN BARTOK CLARK, ALSO A 1972 GRADUATE AND HIS SISTER BARBARA CLARK A 1975 GRADUATE OF KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

JIM VOLLMAR PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009. JIM WAS AN INSTRUCTOR AND COACH AT KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL FROM 1968 TO 1972.

MARY ANDERSON, A 1960 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH PASSED AWAY ON AUGUST 31, 2009. SHE WAS ALSO PAT ANDERSON'S SISTER A 1958 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER.

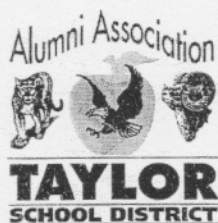
KEITH POPOUR PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 1, 2009. KEITH WAS A GRADUATE OF TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975

KAREN KOVACS JAMES A 1965 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH PASSED AWAY IN SEPTEMBER OF 2009

VIRGINIA ANDERSON STACY PASSED AWAY JUNE 18, 2009. VIRGINIA WAS A 1966 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH

GERALD THOMAS PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 29, 2009. GERALD WAS A BUSINESS TEACHER AT TAYLOR CENTER HIGH FOR MANY YEARS

PAT STROHM KOVACS. PAT A 1963 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 28. AMONG THE SURVIVORS IS HER HUSBAND DENNIS KOVACS A 1962 GRADUATE OF TCH,



Organizing Committee

Nancy (Vauris) Myers	JFK 1968
Nancy Mascaro-Miller	JFK 1967
Linda Pilous	JFK 1967
Barbara (Weigel) Schultz	TCH 1958
Mickey Turcheck	TCH 1960
Gloria (Villet) Blommer	JFK 1967
Claudia (Michael) Boyda	JFK 1967
Mary (Swartout) Rusnak	JFK 1972
Lora Coats	HST 1983
Sharon (Campau) Barnett	TCH 1964
Clair (Wasil) Conway	JFK 1967
Bea (Leonards)	
Holland-Benjamin	JFK 1985

Advisory Members

Charles Dickelman	Faculty (Retired)
Robert Haarala	Faculty (Retired)
John Pantalone	Faculty (Retired)
Amy Skehan	Executive Director, Taylor Foundation For Education Excellence

Taylor Alumni Association

22770 Northline

Taylor, MI 48180

Web: www.tayloralumni.orgE-mail: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Taylor Schools Alumni Association's purpose.

To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.

Alumni Directories—2008 \$25

Alumni Mugs \$5 gray with all 3 mascots on them

Window Clings \$1 Alumni Association has Ram, Cougar & Eagle on it.

Taylor Center Pins \$3 It says 1953-1997

Taylor Center Brick \$10 (comes with a certifi-

Alumni Association Membership Benefits...

The Alumni Association is often asked "what benefits do I get for joining the Taylor Schools Alumni Association"? The first and perhaps most important benefit is being able to stay in touch with people like you, Taylor Schools Graduates. Our website has great connections with the high schools and city so even if you no longer live in the area you can keep up to date with what is happening in your old hometown and high school. There are news items posted, class reunion infor-

mation, a chat room and bulletin board. There is even a yellow pages section where alumni with businesses can post their information. Visit the website at: www.tayloralumni.org. Receive free admittance to sporting events at the high schools for active members. We have lots of other ideas but need everyone we can get to provide input and help. Remember, any association is as good as its members. Please consider joining today!

Reunions

For information on upcoming reunions or to see pictures from past reunions, visit the Taylor School District Alumni Association website at: www.tayloralumni.org.

Have information to share, pictures to share from your reunion? Or do you have information about an upcoming reunion? Please email the Alumni Association with the information so that it can be posted on the Alumni website. The email address is: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Alumni Look Back at the Birth of HST.....by Cheryl (Polgar) Czerwinski,

HST First Graduating Class of 1974

Harry S. Truman Senior-Junior High School - what is the first thing that comes to mind? Why, all of the "firsts" this school had - not only in its first year (the doors were open to students and faculty in September, 1973), but also in its very existence.

HST was the first school designed as a senior-junior high school facility. The late president, Harry S. Truman, wrote a letter to Simon Kachaterian, then school superintendant, on November 18, 1971 stating that he was "highly complimented and I hope that all the students enrolled in this school will make the most of the opportunities for an education extended to them. I greatly appreciate this honor and the members of the Taylor Board of Education have my sincere thanks and best wishes." The letter was framed and displayed in the school's main showcase.

The school, which took up 5.5 acres of the 40 acres on which it stood, housed 1600 senior high students and 1300 junior high students in its first year. It was the first open concept classroom school in Taylor (and probably in the state). The first faculty and administration for the senior high were: A. C. Whited, Principal; Carl Bargamian and Thomas Hovermale, Assistant Principals; six full time counselors (Mr. Iquinta, Mr. Murray, Mr. Ray, Miss Royce, Mrs. Landrith, and Mr. Rollins); and 73 classroom teachers. The first junior high faculty and administration included: Leonard Peruski, Principal; Jack Miller, Assistant Principal; three counselors and 49 teachers.

The Little Theatre in the Round was the first in the district to offer seating that surrounded the stage where various plays and variety shows took place. The Agora was the area where 26 open classrooms held lessons for English, Social Studies, and Math. The Olympic sized swimming pool (complete with observation portholes under the water level) had a separate diving well.

This was the first year that EVERYONE was a new student at this school, so no one had an advantage as to navigating through that maze of hallways. The cheerleaders distributed maps the first day to students so they could find their way in this enormous new complex. (I doubt that many elevator passes were sold that first week, as it was pretty common

knowledge that it was a one-story school!)

There were many traditions established for the opening of the school and during the first year. The Steering Committee was instrumental in collaborating together to write the school's fight song and alma mater, directing elections to determine the school's mascot (Cougar) and colors (Navy Blue, Columbia Blue, and White), and organizing the Bouquet of Victory/Rose Festival (which took the place of a homecoming, as there were no alumni that first year). The Steering Committee Members were: Ron Barnhart, Debbie Bochenek, June Burkeen, Linda Curcio, Gerard Drazba, Jim Gendron, Terry Mills, Chris Porter, Cindy Waskelis, and Pam White.

The election of the Rose Queen saw another first for the school: The female population got to vote for the first time! (Gotta love that 19th Amendment!) Mary Ellen Patterson was our first correspondent to the Mellus Newspaper. Her articles were filled with all of the news generated at this new facility.

Many thanks to my mother, Marge Polgar, who diligently cut out every (and I mean every) article that appeared in the Mellus or Detroit newspaper that had any reference (no matter how slight) throughout my school years. Stay tuned for future information to tug at and provoke your memories.

I'll leave you with the words from our Alma Mater, written by Gerard Drazba, HST '74 (music was composed by Dan Greer, music education):

*Truman High School, Blue and White
Your torch of knowledge burning bright.
Thoughts of Truman we will hold
Mem'ries that shall not grow old.
Truth you taught us, honor, courage
Living by this be your fame.
And we keep this as tradition,
So that all will know your name.*

Memories of Truman High

I remember the first day Truman was opened. My sister Debbie was a Sophomore that year. Her class of 1976 was the first official graduating class of Truman High School. I mean official because of them going all three years at Truman. Debbie would bring me to school with her at times, I don't know how she got away with it but there were days that I would go with her and just hang out for the day with her and her friends. Debbie was 16 and I was 8. I couldn't wait to grow up and go to school at Truman. Then 2 years after Debbie started going there, Shelia started then the next year my brother Bill started attending Truman. The class of '79's Senior Variety Show was awesome. It was based on Saturday Night Live. In the fall of '81 I started at Truman Senior High, it was awesome. Building the homecoming floats were so much fun. Then there was spirit week. I wonder if they still have the White Castle eating contest. One of the other memories that sticks into my head is during my Junior year, in gym class, Roger Bectol the gymnastics teacher had been bragging to all of us that he could do a round-off back handspring back tuck. We all bullied him into doing this. Well in the middle of this he blew out his knee cap and had to be rushed to the hospital and have surgery. He was never able to live it down. We all felt kind of bad butI loved the open classrooms, we could sit and throw paperwads back and forth to the other classrooms and send secret messages to them. Mr. Zimmerman was my favorite principle and Ms. Johns and Ms Kunzi were my favorite teachers. I have been wondering a lot

lately... are my brother-in-laws swim records still on the wall at Truman. Bruce "the loose goose" Reynolds?? Well these are just a few of my memories from Truman.

Sandra Pace Mason

I was a sophomore when Truman first opened and a member of the marching band. That year every member of the marching & concert bands had a uniform tailor made for them. I remember coming to the school during the summer of 1973 to get measured. I think they arrived just before school started so we had them for the first football game of the year. I also remember that our football team that year was pretty powerful. It seemed that the best athletes from Kennedy and Taylor Center were sent to Truman with the redistricting. That first year was a very unique site with student wearing letterman jackets from both Kennedy and Taylor Center roaming the halls. Finally, the members of the class of 1976 always thought we were the first true graduating class from Truman since we went through all 3 grades.

Dave Sabon, Class of 1976

I remember my 1st day well, I got caught smoking in the bathroom and was suspended !!!

Yvonne Brooks

Do you have any memories of Truman or Taylor Center or Kennedy you would like to share? Please email them to: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com so that we can include them in future newsletters.

In the News.....Alumni

CONGRATULATIONS TO **CRYSTAL DAWN MORRISON BICKFORD** ON THE PUBLICATION OF HER FIRST BOOK. CRYSTAL IS A **1996 GRADUATE OF JFK**. HER FIRST BOOK "BEAUTIFULLY TORN" CAN BE PURCHASED AT "PUBLICHAMERICA.COM". SHE ALSO HAS HER OWN WEBSITE - BEAUTIFULLY-TORN.WEBS.COM

CONGRATULATIONS TO **MARIANNE PEEL FORMAN** WHO WAS GRANTED A FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP. MARIANNE A **1977 GRADUATE OF TRUMAN HIGH** WILL BE STUDYING IN TURKEY THIS SUMMER. IF YOU'D LIKE TO FOLLOW HER BLOG GO TO WWW.MARIANNETURKEY.BLOGSPOT.COM IN 2008 MARIANNE TAUGHT IN BIJIE, CHINA. YOU CAN STILL READ ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE BY GOING TO THIS BLOG WWW.MARIANNECHINA.BLOGSPOT.COM

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HAS RECOGNIZED **DUSTIN ROSE, 2001 GRADUATE OF TRUMAN HIGH**, AS A HOMETOWN HERO. DUSTIN GRADUATED JUNE 2001 AND ONE WEEK AFTER THE INFAMOUS SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACK HE ENLISTED IN THE MARINE CORPS. NOW A STAFF SERGEANT, DUSTIN EARNED A MARINE CORPS MEDAL WITH COMBAT V FOR VALOR. IN 2004 HE WAS SERVING AS A FIRE TEAM LEADER IN

HUSAYBAH, IRAQ. HIS SQUAD CAME UNDER FIRE AND HE IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR VALOR IN LEADING HIS SQUAD AND SAVING MANY LIVES. TWO BILL BOARDS ARE UP WITH DUSTIN'S PICTURE ON THEM. ONE IS ON I-94 EAST OF OAKWOOD AND THE OTHER IS ON SOUTHBOUND 75 NEAR SCHAFER.

THE TAYLOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES MIKE STELLINI ON RECEIVING A "TOP DOCTOR" AWARD. THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF "HOUR DETROIT MAGAZINE" NAMED DOCTOR STELLINI A TOP DOCTOR IN HIS FIELD OF HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE. MIKE STELLINI IS A 1977 GRADUATE OF TAYLOR CENTER HIGH.

Tim Conrad, a 2006 Kennedy High School graduate, was awarded the title of Rock Paper Scissors world champion Nov. 15 at a tournament in Toronto. To become the world champ, Conrad threw down against people from not only the United States and Canada, but as far away as Australia, New Zealand, France, Mexico and Norway.

We know there are many more graduates who have outstanding careers and lives. Please send in information on someone you would like recognized to: John Pantalone at: johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net

In the News.....Taylor Schools

CONGRATULATIONS TO **BRAD SCHWARTZ AND THE TRUMAN COUGAR 2009 BASEBALL TEAM**. THE COUGARS DEFEATED SOUTHGATE AND LEAGUE CHAMPS ALLEN PARK TO WIN A DISTRICT TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1976

Alumni Association Happenings

The Alumni Association hosted two informal get togethers for all Taylor Schools Alumni. This summer the event was held at the Trolley Stop and this fall at Keefers Blue Line Saloon. Both venues are owned by Taylor School District alum. Both events were well attended and a good time had by all. Visit the Alumni website (www.tayloralumni.org) to see pictures from the event. Watch your email boxes for future events.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Did you know that if you are a lifetime member of the Taylor Alumni Association you are entitled to great discounts from local merchants? Below are some of the wonderful local businesses that are offering you, our lifetime members, great discounts on their great products!!

If you are a lifetime member of the Alumni Association you are entitled to FREE admission to all Taylor School District Sporting Events



Authentic Italian Cuisine

31735 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Giulio's Cucina Italiana

20% Discount on any food order

Giulio's Italian Restaurant is the local source for Livonia's best Italian food. They also specialize in fine wines, cocktails, live entertainment, catering, and gluten-free menu items. When you go, stop and say hello to Ray Borden, Co-Owner. Ray is a 1979 Graduate of JFK!



5% Discount on any order

Voted #1 salsa in America two years in a row. The company also offers cherry juice concentrate, tart cherry capsules and a complete line of super fruit products. Owned by Andy LaPointe (JFK '86) and Jennie Weir (JFK '88)

Order online at www.traversebayfarms.com or call 1-877-746-7477 or International: 1-231-533-8788 to place your order. Use discount APPR05-This reads (APPR (zero) 5



12245 Telegraph Rd

Taylor MI 48180

Or

20155 Telegraph Rd

Romulus, MI 48174

Pete's Place

15% Discount

Pete's Place is a great place to hang out with friends and family and enjoy a delicious meal. Whenever you want it, wherever you want it, when you're hungry for something good, Pete's Place is the perfect place to go.



32328 Michigan Ave.

Wayne, MI 48184

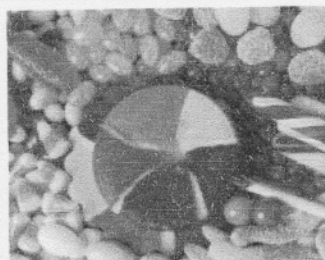
(734) 728-5717

Wayne Heating & Cooling

Owned by: Leon Fenn, TC '62

\$5.00 off Service Call and \$50 off Installation of New Equipment

To get the best heating and cooling services that the industry has to offer, contact us today and let us know how we can enhance the comfort level of your home or business!



Northline & Goddard

Taylor, MI

Mastro's Sweet Shop

10% Discount

Bring back the memories of the old time corner ice cream and candy store you remember from years ago. We invite you to come visit us for all your sweet treat needs.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS—Continued



8820 Pelham
Taylor, MI 48180

Trolley Stop 10% Discount

The Trolley Stop is now offering a 10% discount to Lifetime Members of the Taylor Alumni Association. Stop by for one of their Daily Specials!

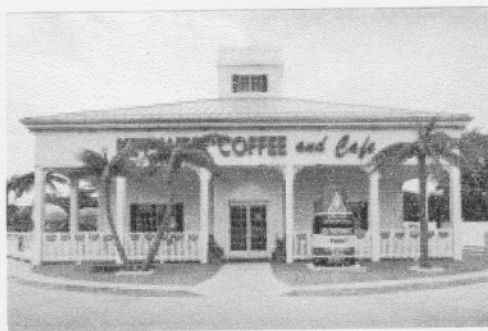
Keefers Blue Line Saloon 10% Discount on any food item

Keefers Blue Line Saloon offers a 10% discount on all food items to Lifetime Alumni Association Members. Keefers is owned and operated by JFK graduates Keith Weycker and Sue Fitzpatrick Weycker. Stop by for a great steak, a cold beer and even better company!



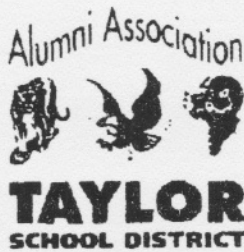
22124 Ecorse Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Key West Coffee & Café 10% Discount



Key West Coffee & Cafe
12995 Telegraph Road
Taylor, Michigan 48180

On the corner of Telegraph &
Northline in Taylor, Michi-



**Taylor School District Alumni Association
Application for Membership**

Alumni Lifetime Membership: \$25 per person
(A portion of the membership fee will go to the "Taylor Schools Foundation for Excellence" Scholarship Fund. Your payment may be tax deductible)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Maiden: _____

School Attended: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ email address: _____

Please specify, if any, what information you do not want published.
(For Alumni Association Use Only)

_____ Address _____ Phone _____ e-mail

Make checks payable to: **Taylor School District Alumni Association**

Charge Cards:

Visa# _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 digit # on back of card _____

Mastercard# _____ Expiration Date _____ 3digit # on back of card _____

Mail this form along with your payment to:

Taylor School District Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly Road
Taylor, Mi 48180-3941

____ I would like to be involved with the Alumni Association

____ I would like to represent my class in the Alumni Association

____ I would like to help on Alumni Activities

e-mail: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com
website: www.tayloralumni.org