



Taylor  
Center High



John F.  
Kennedy High



Harry S.  
Truman High

## Board Of Directors

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

### Advisory Members

Charles Dickelman	Faculty (Retired)
Robert Haarala	Faculty (Retired)
John Pantalone	Faculty (Retired)
Barbara (Weigel) Schultz	TC 1958

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  
Taylor, MI 48180

# Taylor School District Alumni Association

Volume 5, Issue 2

October, 2010  
Taylor, Michigan

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

The following was written by a secretary in the Taylor Schools.....

On Thursday I was working at the P.R.C. and one of our Special Needs Drivers stopped by to pick up some maps to take to Transportation. We started to talk and I asked him why in the world he didn't retire in June, with the additional multiplier that the state offered he would receive extra money every month for life. Now I have known this driver for years and he has never struck me as an emotional person, but I watched as his eyes welled up with tears and he responded with "because I made a promise." Taken aback by the sudden display of emotion, I asked him what promise that could be. He then said "I have driven special needs children for years and you love them all, but you know how you will meet a couple that tug at your heart strings? Well I promised two of them that I have transported since they were three years old that I would be their bus driver until they graduate from high school. One of them will graduate this year and the other one will graduate next year, and then I will retire."

We provide services to life's most valuable treasures, our children. Yes it is a job; it provides our own families with the necessities of life, but in the process we are leaving imprints in our future citizens. I'll bet that the two young people that our driver was referring to will remember his kindness and the fulfillment of his promise for the rest of their lives. I know that the students that have little at home will remember the cook that gave them a little extra, the maintenance person that helped them with their locker for the tenth time, or cleaned up after them when they had the flu and just couldn't quite make it. What about the secretary that dries tears and holds them in her arms for a

hug. The one who makes sure you have lunch money, supplies for your class and in many cases, clothes.

Our Library Media Aides, who take the extra time helping to find a book or read a story when they are busy doing something else. Oh and the crossing guards that make sure that our students that have to walk to school, walk into a busy street first to make sure traffic stops so the children can safely cross. The bus monitors on our special need buses that calm some and care for all our special needs students to ensure they safely arrive at school. The special education aids that help our challenged children with everything from working on projects, eating lunch, and taking them to the bathroom. Let's not forget the ladies who walk the little ones to lunch, help them with their needs, and then help clean the cafeteria when lunch is over. And even the one gentleman that works in the print department who makes sure all the teacher requests get printed for our children to use in their classes.

I just wanted to say thank you to that driver. I'm sure you can remember someone who made an impression on you while you attended school. Whether it was elementary, junior high, or high school. What about the counselor who helped you change your classes or guided you through your choices for scholarships or college applications. I know I can name a few who I remember to be an influence in my life. Mr. Rima, Mr. Buck, and Ms. Coleman to name a few. Whether you are in the educational field or not, you can make a difference in someone's life.

\*Don't forget to come to our next get-together at the American Legion Hall on Brest Rd. in Taylor

## Party Time!

The Taylor Schools Alumni Association is hosting another informal get together on Friday, November 12, 2010 at the American Legion Hall off Brest Road (between Telegraph and Beech Daly). The party begins at 6:30 pm. There is food and drinks available for purchase, a juke box for music and lots of room for mingling. Come join us for some great food, drinks and memories! Why not make it a "minireunion"...grab some of your old classmates, friends, siblings, anyone you know who attended Taylor Schools and come on up on November 12. There will be alumni items available for purchase such as the most recent hardcover alumni directory, mugs, t-shirts, etc. Questions: contact the Taylor Alumni Association at [tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

PS...there is LOTS OF PARKING available

## **MEMORIAM**

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

**Robert O'Mara, Kennedy 1969**, July 26, 2010. He is survived by his wife Sally, his parents Robert & Rose O'Mara, brothers Mike(Vickie) Truman<sup>74</sup>, Tim(Karen) Truman<sup>76</sup>, Ed(Holly) Truman<sup>79</sup>

**Allen Novick, Taylor Center, 1960**. Survived by wife Diana and sister Aleen, a 1960 graduate of Taylor Center

**Larry Restaino, Taylor Center 1965** passed away July 2, 2010. Survived by his wife Cathy Roberts Restaino, Kennedy, 1967 and brother Rick Restaino, Kennedy, 1970

**Shane Lyberg, Kennedy 2008** passed away June 5, 2010. Survived by his mother, Jodi Elkins-Rouse, Kennedy 1982, Stepfather, John Rouse, Kennedy 1983 and his Father Eric Lyberg, Kennedy,

**Al Beebe**, who taught biology at Kennedy for many years passed away June 18, 2010  
Edna Buford, mother of Lucy Buford Barringer, Taylor Center 1967, Brenda Buford Miller, Taylor Center

The following communiqué was received from John Howard, Kennedy, 1980:

IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS AND HEAVY HEART THAT I SHARE WITH YOU THAT PATRICK, OUR OLDEST SON, HAS DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOR HIS COUNTRY IN THE U. S NAVY. HIS BODY WAS TO BE FLOWN BACK TO MINNESOTA FOR A FULL MILITARY HONORS FUNERAL.

**William Fernandez, Taylor Center 1964**, March 10, 2010

**Dennis Dufore, Taylor Center 1965**, May 6, 2010

**Karen Weber Platzke, Taylor Center 1960**, September 19, 2010

**Steven Greene, Kennedy 1969**, July 5, 2010

**Matt Waddell, Kennedy, 2001**

CHECK THE ALUMNI WEBSITE ([www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org)) under In Memoriam for archived notices



## Do You Remember?

Truman counselor, **Leo Diroff**, is somewhat of an icon in Taylor. This year marks two milestones in his life: his fiftieth year as a Taylor educator and his eightieth birthday. During his Taylor tenure, Leo has crossed many paths and touched many lives.

Leo Diroff didn't begin his career path with education in mind. He attended seminary for seven years with the intention of becoming a missionary. When health issues arose, he had to leave and his path changed. Leo began his new career when the principal of St Alfred's in Taylor called him and offered a teaching position, even though Leo only had 77 credit hours. If Leo promised to finish his degree, St. Alfred's would hire him to teach grade 5 to 8, all subjects.

Leo accepted the offer, and after one year, his brother Larry was also hired as a teacher. Larry taught all the math classes, Leo taught all the English classes, and the nuns handled the rest.

In 1961, Leo applied to Taylor Center High School where he taught English until Kennedy opened. On February 8, 1965, Kennedy opened its doors to students and teachers, even though it was still under construction. Leo began teaching 3 Latin classes in room 217.

Since Leo didn't start his first class until 10AM, he got a part time job driving a school bus for parochial schools. Leo continued to teach Latin and the number of Latin classes continued to increase.

In 1973, his career path took another turn when he became a counselor at Kennedy. During the great layoff of 1980, Kennedy was forced to reduce the number of counselors, and Leo's low seniority sent him packing back to Taylor Center. When Taylor Center closed, Leo moved to Truman, still as a counselor. Leo remains in that position at Truman today.

Even though his teaching schedule became full time in 1966, Leo continued his "other" career as a bus driver. From 1966 to 1990, he drove for Greyhound. After that, he continued to drive a charter bus for Corporate Travel.

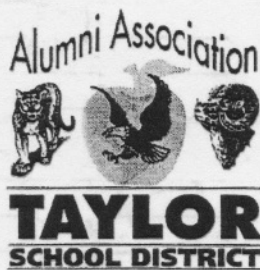
As one can imagine, after fifty years as an educator, Leo acquired many memories. One of Leo's favorite memories was the senior honor convocation dinners held at Roma Hall in Livonia or the Roostertail in Detroit.

Another favorite memory was the boat rides on the Detroit River that were arranged by John Pantalone. A dinner at Sinbads and many laughs always followed.

If you are one of the privileged alumni to have had Leo as a teacher or counselor, you know how fortunate you were. Leo is rare gem among educators, and after fifty years, he is still going strong.

*Thank you to Marsha Fortune (Bunch)...for this article*

*We know there are many more graduates or faculty and staff who have outstanding careers and lives. Please send in information on someone you would like recognized to: John Pantalone at: [johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net) or send it to the Alumni email at: [tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto: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** \$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

**T-Shirts** \$10 (each school with school name and crest

### 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](http://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!

**Taylor Alumni Association**

11501 Beech Daly

Taylor, MI 48180

Web: [www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org)

E-mail: [tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

DO WE HAVE YOUR MOST CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS? ARE YOU RECEIVING ALL THE INFO FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (OR JOHN PANTALONE?) IF NOT OR YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO ISN'T RECEIVING THE INFO PLEASE SEND THE EMAIL ADDRESS TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE

## School News

### Demolition of Some Schools...

John Carter, city community development coordinator, said a few minor setbacks should not delay the demolition of Taylor Center High School and Monroe and Racho elementary schools.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below (from the News Herald):

<http://www.thenewsherald.com/articles/2010/09/21/news/doc4c991a8552a7a280514717.txt>

As soon as we know the date that Taylor Center is scheduled we will send out an email for anyone that may be interested. FYI, the marble plaque of the Alma Mater as well as other items are being removed from the building and saved for our future Taylor Schools Alumni Museum.



## Alumni Association Happenings

### Lifetime Membership!!

A Lifetime membership to the fastest growing alumni association in the area costs only \$25...that is right only \$25. What do you receive for the \$25???? Wow! You get newsletters, an up to date website, news about fellow grads, obits, reunion information, notices of informal party get togethers, discounts from restaurants and businesses (go to the website, [www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org) and hit the tab "discounts" )...all of that for only \$25 and if you join by October 31, you will have a chance to be in a drawing for an Alumni hardcover directory valued at \$70. It's easy to join...just make a \$25 check payable to "Taylor Alumni Association" and mail it to John Pantalone, 7558 Melvin., Westland, MI 48185.

Do it now!! And begin to reap the advantages.

### Election Time!!

Your Alumni Association Nomination Committee, Larry Mitchell, TCH '74; Claudia Michaels, JFK '67 and John Pantalone, Faculty are now accepting nominations for the following offices: Vice President, one for each high school and the office of Treasurer. All offices are for three year terms. You may nominate yourself or someone else. If you are nominating someone else you must verify that the person will accept the nomination and the office if elected. Only the names of active paid members of the Association prior to the election will be placed on the ballot. Nominations are to be submitted to

[johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net) by November 9, 2010. The election will be held at the annual meeting December 14, 2010.

### Yearbooks

The Alumni Association has the following yearbooks available for purchase. The cost is \$30 (plus shipping if the book needs to be shipped):

Kennedy 1974, 1977 1979, 1980-1988, 1993-94, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2006; Taylor Center, 1993 and 1997

If you are interested in a book, please email the Alumni Association at [www.tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:www.tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

The Alumni Association is also looking for yearbooks (we would like to have one for each school, each class) to add to our future Taylor Schools Alumni Association Museum. Do you have one that you would like to donate to the Association? Please email us at

[www.tayloralumiassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:www.tayloralumiassociation@yahoo.com).

As we get extra copies of yearbooks, we will offer them for sale. Keep checking our website.

### Reunions

For information on upcoming reunions or to see pictures from past reunions, visit the Alumni website at [www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org).

If you have pictures or info to share about your reunion or information about upcoming reunions, please email the Alumni Association at [www.tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:www.tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com).

## 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!!

For the most up-to-date discount list, check the Alumni website at [www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org)

### Worldwide Cruise Headquarters

\$25 Onboard Credit

All Cruise Lines—All Destinations

Individual travel, groups large and small, incentive travel

**Lynn Polgar (Truman '77)** (313) 294-2107

[cruiselynn@gmail.com](mailto:cruiselynn@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Polgar Czerwinski (Truman '74)** 248-693-4002

[cruisecheryl@gmail.com](mailto:cruisecheryl@gmail.com)

Check out the website:

[http://www.wwcruisehq.com/index\\_files/WorldwideCruiseHeadquarters\\_Detroit\\_MI.htm](http://www.wwcruisehq.com/index_files/WorldwideCruiseHeadquarters_Detroit_MI.htm)



A Day Away Designs  
Screen Printing And More

For more information, call  
**Judy LaFleur (TC '65)** at  
313-388-1385

### A Day Away Designs

10% Discount

Screen printing, laser engraving, embroidery, heat set embellishments and more! We feature promotional products for your business, fundraisers or for your family or class reunions. Check out our website at <http://adayawaydesigns.com>

The beaches are beautiful and the water is inviting in the Nation's oldest city St. Augustine! Beach Condo for weekly rental. Recently remodeled and upgraded

No Worries (or oil) on the  
East Coast of Florida!

10% DISCOUNT TO TAYLOR SCHOOOL ALUMNI LIFETIME MEMBERS  
CALL JOHN PANTALONE AT 734-421-1159



Did you know??

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



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

### Key West Coffee & Café 10% Discount

Our eclectic interior and vibrant outdoor patio are the perfect setting for your much needed relaxation. With the combination of excellent food, great service and live entertainment, you will feel just like you're in Key West!

On the corner of Telegraph &  
Northline in Taylor, Michigan!



## **MEMBER DISCOUNTS—Continued**

---

### **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!



8820 Pelham  
Taylor, MI 48180

---



Toll Free: 1-877-746-7477  
International: 1-231-533-8788

### **Traverse Bay Farms**

5% Discount on any order

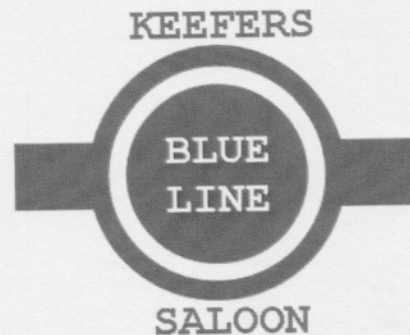
Voted #1 salsa in America two years in a row, the company also offers cherry juice concentrate, tart cherry capsules and a complete line of superfruit products. Owned by Andy LaPointe (JFK '86) & Jennie Weir (JFK '88)

Order online [www.traversebayfarms.com](http://www.traversebayfarms.com) or call 1-877-746-7477 to place your order. Use discount APPR05—This

---

### **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

---



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!

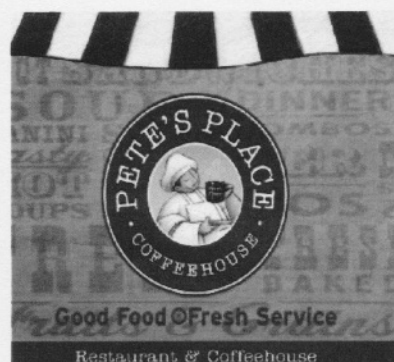
## **MEMBER DISCOUNTS—Continued**

---

### **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.



12245 Telegraph Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

or

20155 Telegraph Rd, Romulus, MI 48174



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!

---

### **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.



Taylor, Michigan

(734) 288-3564

**Look for more local merchant discounts coming soon!**