



*Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.*

## March 2017 Alumni Newsletter

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Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)

### **IN THE NEWS**



Blaine Honeycutt, 1971 graduate of John F Kennedy, has been named President of the Taylor Public Schools Board of Education.

The Taylor Alumni Association wishes you success in establishing an atmosphere for an excellent education for the students of the district. 📌

### **ALUMNI NEWS!**



#### **Welcome to the Taylor Public School Alumni Association!**

Mr. Blaine Honeycutt, JFK class of 71 is now a Lifetime Member of the fastest growing Alumni Association in the State.

Want to join him, send your name, school and year of graduation along with \$25 payable to the Taylor Alumni Association at the Taylor Alumni Association, 11501 Beech Daly Road, Taylor, MI 48180. 📌

## WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN 1967

I thought it was a good time to look back at 1967 and to my surprise, Taylor did not exist as a city. In 1968 a charter was voted in to create the City of Taylor and Richard Trolley was elected the first Mayor. In 1967, 388 students graduated from TCH and 375 graduated from JFK.

In other News the cost of a new car was \$2,750 and gas was 33 cents a gallon. Minimum wage was \$1.40. Movie tickets were \$1.20 famous movie from 1967 were, Cool Hand Luke, The Graduate and Bonnie & Clyde.

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## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

PRIMANTI BROS, nationally famous restaurant opened in Southland Mall. The chain has been making its famous sandwiches since 1933. Its start came as a simple restaurant dedicated to truckers who needed a "meal" that they could eat with one hand. Therefore, the staff created huge homemade sandwiches. The location employs about 100 people with a mix of full and part-time employees.



### WE HEARD FROM

► Reggie Dickson, retired Teacher and Counselor at JFK, wrote, *"Is there anyway to make contact with special people with whom contact has been lost?"*

*Yes Reggie and others with similar requests. We would be happy to try to locate them and ask them to contact you. Please send us the requests.*

► Pat Donahue wrote, *"nice job on the Newsletter! Thank you"*

*Thank You Pat, we truly want to hear from readers...tell us what you like and don't like etc.*

► Donald Aderhold advised us that Darrell Warner, 1985 Graduate of JFK had passed in 2015. Thanks Donald and his record has been updated and the passing posted in the memorium section of our website [Tayloralumni.org](http://Tayloralumni.org).

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW... FEATURING THE JFK AND TCH CLASSES OF 1967 (50 YEAR AGO).



### **Claire Wasil Conway, JFK.**

I loved my high school years. While most students were learning and enjoying math, science and gym class, those were not for me. I loved Home Economics with Mrs. McFry and Speech class with Mr. Clements. Guess I was more domestic and artistic than scholarly!

But both have served me well as I love to cook and I have been active in Theater for many years. And, of course, I enjoyed the social aspect of high school as in football games, proms and other fun activities. Which is why I have never missed one reunion and have had a great time at all of

them. It is such fun seeing all of my former classmates and teachers over and over again, and I am looking forward to the big one this year.

As for where I am now, I live in St. Louis Mo. I retired from working as a corporate flight attendant just this year and I have never looked back. There is still so much to see and do, can't let work deter that! I have seen the world in all of its sadness and glory and I will be grateful for that opportunity always. Life has been good to me in so many ways, but I will always remember my high school years and the great friendships I found there. And each year a group of those girls come to St. Louis and we have what we call a "Girl's Gone Wild" time. Some things never change and those friendships are part of them. 📝



Joan with husband Gary Simon

### **Joan Cleveland Graham**

### **TCH.**

My days at Taylor Center were some of the happiest times of my life. What I remember is the school spirit that we had and displayed for our alma mater. I remember the dances, football games, basketball games, school plays, concerts both choir and band. How proud we were of our marching band when it came on the field. Those were special times in my teenage years. But not only the social life our school gave us but I remember having some of the best teachers who prepared us for beyond our high school years.

cont'd from pg. 3 "Where are they now"

My family moved to Taylor in 1956 when I was 7. I started second grade in the newly built Clarence Randall Elementary School. In grade school I formed friendships that would carry me throughout my entire life to this day. Other life long friendships were made in junior high and in High school.

I met my husband Tim Graham while in high school. Although he lived in Taylor he attended Holy Redeemer High School (Class of 67) in Detroit. We married in 1968 while he was a student at Michigan State University (MSU). We lived in East Lansing for 2 years while he attended school. Loved MSU and its campus. We moved back to Taylor in 1970 and I had my first child, a daughter, in 1971. Adding a son to our family in 1975.

I worked most of my life in banking. As a part-time teller then on to Head Teller where I was in charge of the Teller line in addition to my other duties. I quit banking in 1997 when I stayed home to help care for my grand kids. Our family grew to 5 grandchildren and one great grandson.

But sadly Tim did not live to see our great grandson. For we lost him November 25, 2009 from pancreatic cancer after 41 years of marriage. The worst time of my life. I was so lucky to have been blessed with all those life long Taylor kids who were there for me and supported me through a dark time.

But then there is a rainbow after all. Seven years later I have just ( Jan 28,2017) remarried to Gary Simon. Gary was also a 67' TCH graduate.

Gary and I are enjoying life

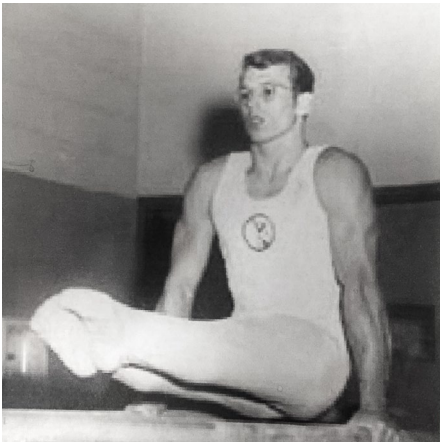
as much as we can for we know you cannot take life for granted. We are getting ready to leave for Hawaii in just a couple of days where we will celebrate our new life with some life long TCH friends and also some of my Redeemer friends.

What I remember about TCH was that we were children of the 60's. A time when big changes were being made in our country. We became socially conscious of the Vietnam War, Civil Rights the hippie movement. It was a time of big change for us just entering the world. We lost some friends in that war. Some came home and carried a burden inside for a long time and still do. But for me living in Taylor and attending TCH, well it was a good place to grow up. Friendships were real and our folks just hardworking parents giving us that American Dream.

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cont'd from pg. 4 "Where are they now"



### Lanny Mills, JFK.

I was always proud to be a graduate of John F Kennedy High School (JFK) in Taylor, Michigan; and that our class, the second, was the first to attend JFK for 3 years. High School gymnastics, thanks to Roger Bechtol, helped me earn a scholarship to Eastern Michigan University (EMU), which my single Mom would never have been able to afford having two younger brothers still at home. I graduated from EMU the summer of 1971 with a degree in Industrial Education. Although I was fortunate to have success in both gymnastics and academics the highlight of my college years was marrying

my high school sweetheart Brenda Shelton (also a 1967 Grad from JFK). Brenda taught Special Ed, working with Learning Disabled. We married between our junior and senior years at the Ann Arbor city hall. College gymnastics highlights included All American Honors, three time team captain and being inducted into the EMU Athletic Hall of fame.

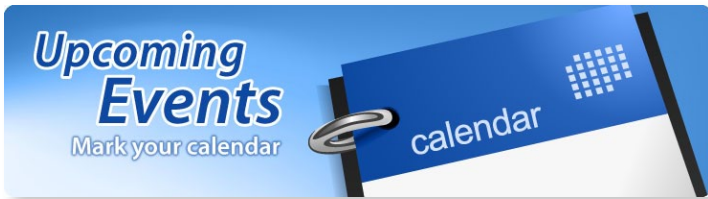
Upon graduation we both immediately found teaching jobs. I accepted a job in Trenton, teaching Middle School and coaching the Varsity Trenton high school Boys Gymnastics Team. At the end of my first year teaching an auto accident resulted in the loss of my right leg below the knee. Due to an excellent doctor and ever improving prosthetic technology it is has been barely an inconvenience allowing me to be on my feet up to 16 hours a day; my left foot does get tired though!

Our marriage produced two wonderful children; daughter Carrie and son Chad. Both have made us very proud.

Fast forward 25 years and considering



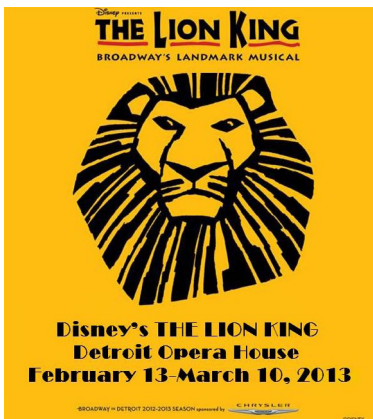
what to do in retirement, anticipated in 5 years, we decided to open a small gymnastics school as a retirement hobby. That "small" gymnastics school will soon occupy 47,000 sq. ft. with a regular enrollment of over 1,500 kids/week and 54 employees. Must admit...never saw that coming! Brenda and I enjoy spending time & traveling with our three grand children from Carrie, along with other travels, especially to Southern California to see Chad! If not at the gym or traveling, my hobbies include Scuba diving, reading and spending time with our group of fellow JFK 67 and other year graduates. Go Eagles; JFK & EMU!



- March 15th West Jr. High Dinner Concert 6-8 PM Kennedy cafeteria.
- March 18th West Jr. High Spring Band Concert 7 pm
- March 23rd West Jr. High Spring Choir Concert 7 pm
- March 25th Taylor Foundation Fundraiser Dueling Pianos. The Taylor Public Schools Foundation raises money to support projects that will benefit the students. A very important fundraiser will be held March 25th with the Dueling Pianos as the entertainment. There will also be door prizes and auctions. It will be a night of fun with the children of Taylor benefiting from the proceeds. The cost is \$25 per person. In addition to the entertainment your ticket will include pizza provided by Karl's Pizza in Taylor. Invite a group of friends and reserve a table for a fun night to benefit our youth.
- July 29, 2017 JFK class of 1967 50th reunion. 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 pm Taylor Meadows, \$45 per person. Questions contact Linda Pilous 248-478-4145, Gloria Villet 734-775-6167 or Nancy Mascaro 313-291-3556.
- October 7, 2017 TCH Clases of 1966, 67, 68 & 69 Reunion. Holiday Inn Southgate. \$75 per person. Dinner, Dance, Open Bar & Souvenir. Make checks payable to TCHS and mail to TCHS Reunion at 25143 Lyncastle, Farmington Hills Mi 48226. Please direct questions to Joan Cleveland Graham (248) 476-3558 or email to jngraham2@aol.com

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## LATEST FOUNDATION PROJECT



The Taylor Foundation just sponsored a trip to the Detroit Opera House to see the production of "Lion King". The Foundation funded the theater outing for 140 students from Kennedy & Truman High schools to see the show. What a great experience for students in Music and Drama classes.

# OBITUARIES



*The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.*

## **John F Kennedy High**

Mary Majchszak Pitock, Class of 1984 (passed January 23, 2017)

Michael Aune, Class of 1968 (passed June 14, 2016 – just reported)

William Hilliker, Class of 1968 (passed November 21, 2016)

Eunice Maley (passed February 5, 2017), (Eunice was preceded in death by husband James Maley, first Principal of John F Kennedy High School).

## **Taylor Center High**

Clarence "Phillip" Downey, Class of 1973 (passed December 5, 2016)

Donald (Don) Pearson, Class of 1959 (passed January 29, 2017)

Linae Wiley, Class of 1991 (passed February 6, 2017)

Marcia Cornett, Class of 1976 (passed January 2, 2017)

Keith Merwin, Class of 1976 (passed February 16, 2017) Keith a Teacher at both TCH& JFK.

## **Harry S Truman High**

Joseph Paul Morba, Class of 1979 (passed January 18, 2017)

## **Faculty**

Robert Clements, (passed February 15, 2017) Robert taught and coached Debate team at John F Kennedy, was administrator at Hoover and Taylor Center High

For more information about the deceased and there families, please visit the alumni website [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".