



Taylor Center High School (1953-1997)
John F. Kennedy High School (1966-2018)
Harry S. Truman High School (1974-2018)
Taylor High School (2018-Present)



Taylor Alumni Association Newsletter

February 2025

Taylor Schools Were in The News A Blast from The Past

Did you ever watch the television show Quiz'Em in the 1960's? It was on Channel 4 (Remember we had stations 2, 4, 7 and 9?)

The TV version of *Quiz 'Em* was franchised to a handful of stations around the country, including WWJ in Detroit. The rules were simple. Two teams of students representing their high schools were asked questions by Quizmaster Carl Cederberg, based on the local, national and international news of the previous week, as featured in *The Detroit News*. Correct answers were worth 50 points. If the first team was unable to answer the question correctly, the other team was given a chance. In the event of a tie, a tie-breaking question was presented to the team captains. Panelists were also asked questions by special guests, like sculptor of the Spirit of Detroit Marshall Fredericks, Detroit Red Wings captain Red Kelly, Corktown priest Father Clement Kern and wacky weatherman Sonny Eliot. Prizes like TVs and tape recorders were given to the winning schools, while hi-fi sets and encyclopedias were given as second prizes.



According to the Detroit Free Press Television Guide in the Sunday October 24, 1965, edition, a team from Taylor - John F. Kennedy High School competed against a team from Detroit - Osborn High School. The time of the show was 12:40 PM.

Do any of our alumni remember who won the quiz that day?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW??

We would like to make this a regular feature in our newsletter. Won't you send us "your story"? We would love to share it! Email the Alumni Association: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com.



Today we share Laura Collier Scaturro's (JFK '77) story.

High School graduation from JFK in 1977 was truly a launching point for me as it probably was for you, too. Only two years after receiving my diploma, I was invited by my friend, Corrine Wozniak (JFK '77) to move to the desert Southwest to begin another chapter in my life. That meant leaving my beloved hometown of Taylor, my family, my friends, and 19 years of great memories for parts unknown.

I went for it. Sweet youth, sweet nativity. Six suitcases, my guitar and a plane ticket uprooted me from everything I had ever known. Remember this was back in the day when you could take six suitcases on a plane!

Over the next 46 years I learned that with some effort I could keep my hometown family and friends in my life through letter writing, phone calls, in-person visits and class reunions. I loved returning home to Taylor to “touch base” with familiar sights and local restaurants specialties that were embedded in my tastebuds! During each return to the area over the years the memories flooded into my heart visiting my former home and neighborhood and seeing my beloved schools: Monroe Elementary, West Junior High and John F. Kennedy High School.

Thankfully in the early 80's, the Internet launched and brought us even closer; then again, in 2004, Facebook came along and, voila, even greater reconnection with family and friends was only a few keystrokes away.

When my husband and I decided to retire in 2021, we knew right away we wanted to see the sights in the U.S. that we had only experienced through television and limited vacations during the working years. Discussion about our future plans began and quickly turned into selling the house, motorcycle and all our stuff that we had acquired over the last 30 years together to buy a fifth wheel RV to live in full time as we made our way around America.

We went for it. Sweet youth, sweet nativity. At ages 61 and 65 at the time, we believed we were in the infancy of being elderly and took a chance.

Once again, that meant leaving our beloved Illinois home, our family, our friends and 30 years of memories for parts unknown.

We were on the road for three years and enjoyed the mobile lifestyle. Taking it slowly and treasuring the simple things. We loved visiting small towns, taking scenic drives, experiencing local foods and learning more about our nation's history, which taught us a few things about life, the past and our future.

We have since retired from RVing and settled in central Florida.

I find the adage, “you can't go home again” which was derived from Thomas Wolfe's novel of the same title, absolutely true. However, returning to Taylor and seeing the growth (Heritage Park), experiencing some of the same visuals from my past and enjoying some of the same tastes (Pia's pizza, Leo's Coney Island) brings me back to the wonderful years I spent growing up in Taylor, Michigan.

I was lucky enough to visit Taylor in August 2024, to enjoy some hometown baseball when the Junior League World Series conducted the week-long series of international championship games. And, since 2024 marked a special significant birthday for me and my fellow 1977 JFK classmates — a birthday lunch took place bringing together over 30 classmates to celebrate our 65th together.

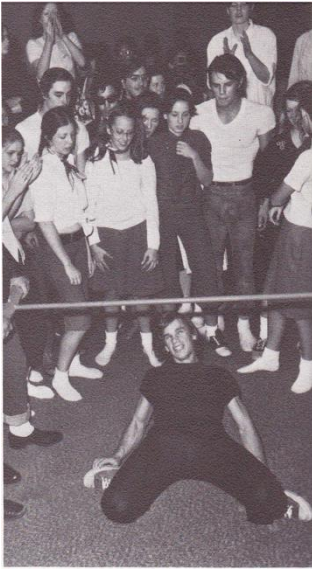
Thomas Wolfe also said, “Don't let them slow you down. Make your mistakes, take your chances, look silly, but keep on going. Don't freeze up.” What a great plan to follow!

Certainly, you can go home again. Just know that it will look very different. However, it may just feel very wonderful.

Laura Collier Scaturro, JFK '77

**DOWN MEMORY LANE
50 YEARS AGO AT TRUMAN HIGH**

Do you remember the 50's dance?



The entertainment consisted of dance, limbo, and costume contests as well as the classic 50's rock music. Also featured was comedian, Gil Pecina doing his "grease is slick" routine.

Prizes went to "Michele Scott & Jeff Boisineau for best dressed -Best at doing the "Twist" were Pat Curney & Dean Teaster-- - best jitter bugs were Cathy Lily and Buddy Gooden. The "Limbo Contest" was won by John Bacashihua.



A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

NEW ALUMNI LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sandy Thompson Barker - Kennedy 1974
Sandy Lantz – Taylor Center 1972

Want to become a lifetime member? It is only \$25. See the form at the end of this newsletter.

Taylor Foundation of Educational Excellence

The Taylor Foundation for Educational Excellence is starting a Wall of Fame. For more information go to the link below to nominate someone.

<https://taylorschoolsfoundation.org/events/taylor-education-foundation-wall-of-fame/>

Reunions

TC/Truman 1975 50th Reunion

The reunion weekend will be October 17th and 18th, 2025. On Friday October 17th there will be a gathering at Pia's Pizzeria. On Saturday the 18th the 50th class reunion will be held at The Lakes of Taylor at 7pm. As more details emerge, they will be made available to classmates via FB, Taylor Alumni FB page and Classmates.com.



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. Please Note: If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website, please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.

Taylor Center

Rob Avram – Class of 1984 (January 17, 2025)
Jeffrey Matkin – Class of 1982 (January 4, 2025)
Barbara Weigel Schultz – Class of 1958 (January 26, 2025)
Brian Cardinal – Class of 1985 (January 27, 2025)
Sally Boik Overholt – Class of 1968 (January 27, 2025)
Sharon Maudlin Carroll – Class of 1960 (November 29, 2024)
Sandra Goodwin Natt – Class of 1989 (January 5, 2025)

Kennedy

David Williams – Class of 1970 (January 28, 2025)
Stephen Engle – Class of 1978 (January 30, 2025)

Truman

Earl Betzing – Class of 1980 (January 20, 2025)

Staff/Faculty

Darwin Flucht – Maintenance/ Bus Driver (January 13, 2025)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit tayloralumni.org In Memoriam

Alumni Association



Taylor School District

Taylor School District Alumni
Association
11501 Beech Daly
Taylor, MI 48180

Visit us online:
www.tayloralumni.org

Email us:
tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Facebook:
TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation

Taylor Alumni Association Board

President:	Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC 73)
Vice Pres TC	Judith (Barnhart) LaFleur (TC 65)
Vice Pres JFK	Kenneth Renner (JFK 70)
Vice Pres HST	Shawna (Stein) Maynard (HST 90)
Vice Pres THS	OPEN POSITION
Secretary:	Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink (HST 77)
Treasurer:	Nancy Miller (JFK 67)
Past President:	Mary (Swartout) Rusnak (JFK 72)

Alumni Association 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.

Taylor School District Alumni Association Application for Membership

Alumni lifetime membership: \$25 per person.
Please print clearly:

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Maiden _____

School Attended _____

Graduation year _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Make checks payable to:

Taylor School District Alumni Association

Mail this form along with your payment to:
Taylor School District Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly, Taylor, MI 48180

Benefits of your lifetime membership:

Monthly newsletter

Website

Facebook page for info

email notices

Class reunion information

Alumni Museum

Social get togethers

Scholarship donations