



## KAREN DEPRIEST CREATOR OF CHRISTY'S LEGACY OF HOPE

*Many know the story of Christy's Legacy of Hope (website is listed) but here is information regarding the founder of the Legacy, Karen Enesey DePriest, TCH 1980.*

My education in the Taylor Schools began at Johnson Elementary, and then Holland Elementary for 6th grade. I attended Taylor Junior High and then Taylor Center where I was honored to be The Homecoming Queen of our class. The teacher that left the biggest impression on me was Ms. Jan Olzewski. She was our cheerleading coach at TJHS and was so good to all of us. Her way of showing us how to work together was the best.

After graduating from Taylor Center, I worked at Masco Corporation. This is where I began as a Co-Op student through the business department. After marrying my husband, Jeff DePriest JFK 1979, we were blessed with three children. Joshua, Christy, and Benjamin who all attended Taylor schools. I was a "stay at home mom" while they were growing up and was involved with all their school activities as well as church. I was a private piano teacher for 12 years and then attended Henry Ford Community College where I received a medical assisting degree. I worked in the pediatric unit of Henry Ford Taylor and then at Myers Elementary School.



I now have a non-profit charity for abandoned children in honor of our late daughter, Christy called Christy's Legacy of Hope ([www.christyslegacyofhope.com](http://www.christyslegacyofhope.com)) We work with children in many places, including within the Taylor Schools.

In the years ahead, I hope to continue working on ways to help children through our non-profit and introduce them to the Lord. My husband and I hope to begin traveling as well in our retirement years.

## WE HEARD FROM

TAREQ A. RAMADAN, Ph.D.



My time as a student in Taylor Schools will always be cherished, as they represent some of the most vivid and enjoyable memories of my life, rivaling only those memories created at home, with my kind and nurturing parents and siblings. Kinyon, West, and Truman- names that will always resonate with me, are where some of my earliest friendships were formed, where my most inspirational educational experiences occurred, and where I was introduced to so much of the world, through reading, socializing, and class activities. Initially, I felt it would be unfair to name only a few of my former teachers, because all of them deserve recognition for the lasting impact they had on me, but I am particularly thankful for a number of them who profoundly

shaped so much of my young life. The classrooms of Mrs. Cheatham, Mrs. Tear, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Sinnott at Kinyon, the late Mrs. Minghine, the late Mrs. Black, Mr. Schwartz, and Mr. Holmgren at West, when it was a Jr. High and others were essential to the construction of my young, but developing worldview, and they helped to prepare me for life after graduation. The kindness and generosity of Kinyon staff like Mrs. Connie and the late Mrs. Novak are things I will always remember as well.

At Truman, I recall regularly attending basketball games as well as football games, learning how to type in Mrs. Volk's class, how to budget in Mr. Arsenault's class, sharpening my writing skills in Mr. Burnett's English class, learning Spanish with Mrs. Camacho, and understanding how government works with Mrs. Skop. I made long-lasting friends in Mr. Alcock's 'Industrial Tech' class and learned about the cosmos with Mr. Grimm. I am deeply indebted to them, as well as many others, who spent so much of their time and energy on teaching us, often with passion and excitement- things that I try to emulate and utilize in my own capacity as an educator. At Truman, where I also attended daycare/preschool in the mid-80s, I found comfort, joy, allies, and lifelong friendships that I will forever value.

The impact of my time as a student in Taylor Schools is difficult to quantify and adequately describe, in reality. Some of my childhood friends, whom I first met in those very schools, remain my friends until this very day. Whenever the opportunity arises, and we meet, we often reminisce about our childhood, with the school playground (the 'blacktop', in particular) where we played 'wallball' everyday, or the lunchroom, often being the backdrop, while sharing memories that are often accompanied with laughs and smiles, and sometimes, even tears.

Today, I am proud to say that I am a product of Taylor Schools and that my education, paramount to my intellectual development. After graduating from Truman, I continued my education at Wayne State University and completed a B.A. in Anthropology, an M.A....*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2...* in Near Eastern Studies, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology. I was fortunate to have had amazing professors there too who helped enrich my college experience and who played a pivotal role in my development during the latter phase of my academic life. For the past fifteen years, I have been an instructor and professor at Wayne State, and for the past six years as a professor at Henry Ford College as well. I was also fortunate enough to have worked with institutions like Brown University, on two separate archaeological undertakings overseas/ and I feel blessed that I have traveled to a dozen countries too; making stops at the pyramids of Egypt, the rock-carved city of Petra, in Jordan, Jerusalem's Old City, the Baptism Site of Jesus off the Jordan River, the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul, the Ottoman covered bazaar of Damascus, Syria, the beautiful Black Sea city of Constanta, Romania, and more sites and cities. Apart from teaching, I am also an immigration, cultural, numismatic, and educational consultant, while also serving as a project manager for a local, Inkster-based non-profit organization (Project We Hope).

*Ramadan's work appeared in the Detroit News February 18, 2023*

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Taylor High School student has the distinction of being the only representative from a Downriver school to participate in the Michigan All-State Band.

Senior Jackson Bolsley traveled to Grand Rapids where he performed with this prestigious band. No one could be more pleased than Brian Wieczorek, director of bands at Taylor High School.

"This is the highest honor that a high school band student can achieve on their own," Wieczorek said. "Thousands of students auditioned from all across the state to be a part of this band. Jackson was selected to the All-State band as a French Horn player."

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## THEATER OUTING

Taylor Public Schools Foundation funded 69 students from Music classes to a Night at the Theater. The students enjoyed "BeetleJuice" at the Fisher theater. There were students who saw their first professional theater.



## INTRODUCING COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT



*"Coffee with the Superintendent is a way for parents of our students to join me for an informal discussion where they can share things that we are doing well, and where they can let me know areas we can improve," says Supt. Mills. "We really want this to be an event where we open it up to dialogue that will help move us forward as a district."*

West Middle School receives a lift to make the 2nd floor accessible to all. All students that attend West Middle School will now be able to access the second floor thanks to a lift that was donated to the school. Wheelchairs will now be easily accessible to the second floor.



## DEMOLITION OF JFK

The Central office tells us there is no single date when JFK will come down. It will probably be a six-week project starting with safely taking out all the asbestos. Your alumni newsletter staff received a question from an alum asking what are the oldest school buildings and are they still being used? Do you agree with the dates?

BUILDING	BUILT	ADDRESS
Board Office	1971	23033 Northline
Brake Middle School	1958	13500 Pine
Eureka Heights*	1950	25125 Eureka
Eurekadale	1958	14616 Duncan
Federal	1946	27280 Rowers
Fischer	1958	8882 Beech Daly
Holland*	1959	10210 Holland
Hoover Middle*	1973	27101 Everly
Johnson*	1962	20701 Wohlfeil
Kennedy High	1965	13505 Kennedy Dr.
Kinyon*	1961	10455 Monroe
Mcdowell*	1971	22929 BREST
Monroe	1959	8843 Monroe
Moody*	1956	8280 Hipp
Myers*	1973	16201 Lauren Dr.
Pine Maint.	1960	7275 Pine
Racho (Original)	1971	20995 Northline
Racho-(Bartlet)	1966	9550 Monroe
Randall*	1956	8699 Robert
Taylor High	1953	24715 Wick
Taylor Jr.(Annex)	1956	9551 Westlake
Taylor Parks*	1950	20614 Pinecrest
Treadwell	1962	6375 Inkster
Truman High*	1973	11211 Beech Daly
Wareing	1957	34800 Hayes
West Middle*	1957	10575 Williams

## WALKS DOWN MEMORY LANE

2023 MARKS THE 66<sup>th</sup> YEAR SINCE THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS FROM A TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

- In 1973, the first Hungry Howie's in the nation opened on Telegraph Road in Taylor, MI
- In 1973, 652 students graduated from JFK and 529 students graduated from TCH

### SIXTY-SIX YEARS AGO

Taylor opened its first high school, Taylor Center High School in September of 1953, starting with 9th graders only and then progressing with that grade until its first graduating class in June of 1957. In June of 1957, 299 students graduated from Taylor Center High School. The class of '57 was led by the following class officers:

**Bob Brodie-President**

**Dorothy Wisz-Vice President**

**Mary Maxwell-Secretary**

**Dorothy Giraud-Treasurer**



**The Class of '57 led the way for another 65,000 graduates that followed.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JFK Class of 1973 Reunion

- Date: Saturday April 22, 2023
- Time: 6pm -10pm \$60 pp
- Location: Taylor Meadows, 25360 Ecorse Rd, Taylor, MI
- Send checks NLT 25 March to Karen Salomone, 11588 Ernst, Taylor, MI 48180
  - OR Diana Vinco, 5036 Bullard, Fenton, MI 48430
- Send questions for more details to: [kennedy1973reunion@gmail.com](mailto:kennedy1973reunion@gmail.com)
- Roch Tolinski has agreed to make a slide presentation of pictures from the Class of 1973. Please send your pictures to his email: [rochsmac@gmail.com](mailto:rochsmac@gmail.com)
- Lodging – Contact Comfort Inn & Suites at 313.292.6730 to reserve rooms
  - Room block \$110
  - Available on 4/21 and 4/22
  - Block Under JFK Class of 1973

## Celebrate Taylor



Celebrate Taylor provides us the opportunity to open our doors to local businesses, organizations and members of our own district to showcase all of the great things Taylor has to offer.

Join us on Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 5-8 p.m., to see displays, watch performances and sample food from local businesses, organizations, and Taylor School District.

### Our goals are to:

- Provide an opportunity for schools to showcase student work and student talent with displays and performances.
- Increase the community's awareness of TSD programs and services offered in our school district.
- Allow local businesses and community groups to showcase their services, products and mission and offer exhibitors an opportunity to increase their exposure to the community.

### We are offering:

- Free admission
- School organizations on display
- Free parking
- Community organizations on display
- Local businesses on display
- Entertainment—TSD student talent



## 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 HIGH SCHOOL**

- Donny Harris, Class of 1996 (passed January 23, 2023)
- Robert “Bob” Pawelak, Class of 1960 (passed January 26, 2023)
- Norman Alred, Class of 1965 (passed January 27, 2023)
- Jerry Lee, Class of 1987 (passed January 29, 2023)

### **HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Robert James LaVoisne, Class of 1976 (passed January 31, 2023)

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- Mickey D. Bourassa, Class of 1976 (passed June 23, 2022)
- Nancy Hovorka Brophy, Class of 1970 (passed August 29, 2022)
- Dennis Bogart, Class of 1966 (passed October 15, 2022)
- Victoria “Vickie” Majchszak, Class of 1989 (passed December 27, 2022)
- Michael J Sauve, Class of 1972 (passed January 21, 2023)
- Joan Bridgens, Class of 1969 (passed February 9, 2023)
- Angela Croft, Class of 1985 (passed February 13, 2023)

### **STAFF**

- Nelson Willis, retired Teacher, and Coach (passed January 27, 2023)
- Ilse Denchfield, retired German Instructor (passed 2023)
- Elsie Belanger, retired Secretary (passed February 15, 2023)

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