

January 2019

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL



Our December 2018 holiday wishes to you featured our TFS classmate Keith Gardner in the role of Santa Claus in front of TF South. The Life & Times asked Keith to tell us about his passion for portraying Jolly Ol' Saint Nick.

On Being Santa

by **Keith Gardner** (Illinois)

It all started in 2009 when my daughter was marrying her boyfriend who she met 10 years earlier. The wedding day was Halloween. What costume should a grey-bearded old man wear to give away his daughter on Halloween? SANTA!

I started wearing the outfit at family get-togethers for pictures with the grandkids, Drake and Zak and Kayli and Laura.



Then other people asked me to come to their homes. Off we go, as more and more word of mouth appearances came about. Then came appearances at schools, daycares, restaurants, beauty salons, and stores.

In 2017 I went to a school of 250 children ages 5 to 7 years old and passed out bells like Santa in *The Polar Express*, so the children could hear the bell as the children in the story do.

A photographer had me sit for family photos. I had a cheat sheet with the names of the parents, pets, and also the Elf on the Shelf. Even the 8-year-old believed after that.



We go to Benny's Place in Lynwood, Illinois, for food and entertainment. Once I was wearing my suit to the restaurant as I was going to be Santa at someone's house after dinner. From then on, Benny's holiday event became Dinner with Santa, with me as part of the entertainment.

This past year, 2018, I was Santa at 13 places. I work very cheap or free because being Santa is so much fun.



Keith may be reached through his Facebook page [Keith E Gardner Jr](#)

A 50th Reunion Message and New Year's Resolution from John...

Dear Rebels,

The TFS Class of '69's Big 5-0 Reunion is less than a year away. Is everyone working on getting healthier and looking younger? OR just continuing as is?!?

Me, I'm trying to do more yoga, bicycling, and conscious breathing, but not giving up my whomp biscuits and sausage gravy! And...I am drinking more water...but will not quit coffee and beer.



—John Giles (Wisconsin)

TFS '69—50th Reunion Committee Next Meeting

Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7 pm
Water's Edge Gift, Pond, and Garden Center
18418 Wentworth Ave., Lansing, IL
Please RSVP to the 50th Reunion Committee if you plan to attend.
tfs69.50threunion@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

TFS CLASS OF 1969 50TH REUNION
Saturday, October 5, 2019
at VILLA CESARE Schererville, Indiana
with Friday and Saturday activities, too

Happy December Birthday!

Janet Claussen Venecz, Sherry Nondorf Bingham, Charlie Vignone, Pam DeYoung Bertalan, John Giles, Darlene Barzda Snell, Richard Kuske, Grace Demanuele Talbot, Linda Westerhoff Norton, Jack Yauger, David Meilleur

Happy January Birthday!

Pat Steele Gavin, Rich Krilich, Kristine Anderson Barrett, David Thomas, Pat Wozny, Marilyn Rea Beyer, Trudy Brouillette Szpyrka, Faith Van Kley, Michael Sailor, Barbara Sroka, Ron Hanchar, John Hansen, Cheryl Bailey Zima, Marion Luszyk Bunge, Ralph Corriere

Classmates Celebrated November Wedding Anniversaries

Maria & **Rich Krilich** (Illinois)—23 years
Sandy & **Rob Garrison** (Illinois)—38 years
Ben & **Michelle Linn Robins** (Utah)—19 years
Herb & **Nancy Horvatic Tschischik** (Florida)—25 years

Classmates Celebrated December Wedding Anniversaries

Warren & **Becky Bonnar Eck** (Minnesota)—46 years
Ellen & **Dave Dickinson** (California)—39 years
Philip & **Janet Claussen Venecz** (Indiana)—19 years
Ron & **Christine Markiewicz Paryl** (Illinois)—46 years
Sandra & **George Vincent** (Illinois)—27 years
John & **Kathy Miller Coughlin** (Texas)—48 years
Dave & **Carolyn White Scofield** (Illinois)—20 years

In the Military

Clayton George, grandson of **Bill George** (Kentucky), was sworn into the US Marine Corps in November. Bill says, "I am very proud of him and need everyone to pray for his safety while serving our country! Semper Fi!"



Life & Times Heard from...

Rob Garrison (Illinois)—**Marilyn Rea Beyer**, thank you so much for the story of The Ghost Army of World War II ["Honoring the WWII GIs Who Never Opened Fire," Nov. 2018]. Please bring as many copies as you can of Rick Beyer's book to the 50th Reunion. I can't wait to read the story and to have Rick autograph my copy.

Mrs. Judy (Kaufer) Lohr Safcik (TFS English Dept. teacher, retired)—Another great issue [Nov. 2018]. I have October 5, 2019 on the calendar and plan to attend the reunion. Thanks for including me in the mailings.

Glenn Wierzbicki (Illinois) —Nice article on **Marilyn Rea Beyer** & the Ghost Army. ["Honoring the WWII GIs Who Never Opened Fire" Nov. 2018] Waiting to see it on Netflix!

Robert Hanink (Illinois)—I would like to thank the volunteers that put this newsletter together for all of us to enjoy.

Sue Hasse (Florida)—When I open my TFS 69 newsletter, it's like I'm one of the '69 Graduates. I think I'm more excited than **Fred [Hasse]**. Thank you all for your hard work keeping us up-to-date. One thing that shocked Fred was the passing of **Bob Regman**. ["Remembering Bob Regman (1951–2017)" Nov. 2018]. Fred had been trying to locate him for years. May he rest in peace and may God be with his family.

Dean Groom (Indiana)—An exceptional issue. Well done Staff! Sorry to hear about Bob's passing ["Remembering Bob Regman (1951–2017)" Nov. 2018]. He was always cheerful and accomplished. RIP.

Darlene Barzda Snell (Florida)—Thank you so much for the birthday wishes!! Love hearing from everyone. When I was a kid we celebrated our birthday with family once, but now that I am old we celebrate with different friends for a week. Too much eating!!

Barbara Homans Schwarz (Florida)—To all of our wonderful classmates who give so freely of their time and creativeness to bring us the wonderful newsletter. You do so much to keep us informed as to the things going on with classmates. Sharing happy news and sad. Remembering birthdays and anniversaries. Planning our 50th Class Reunion. Hugs to all of you this Christmas 2018. May you all enjoy the blessings of the season. God bless you all.



We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Erica Zimmerman Ryan
Roger Yochem
Ken Yates
Judy Wrzesinski Cuffney
Dan Wooley

Sharon Alberson Scudder
John Albert
Gregg Abell
Denise Zygowicz Gordon
Mary Zych Malinsky

Stay in Touch

Help us keep our Class of '69 database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com

AND...Our 224 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed? Subscribe through our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com to sign up.



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Editorial: TFS **TEAM69** Communications
Photos: Keith Gardner, Artistique Couture
Portraits, John Giles, Bill George

Send Your News to the Life & Times

We love hearing from you and about you.
Email us TFSouth69@gmail.com
or message us at our Facebook
page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](https://www.facebook.com/TfsouthClassofsixty-nine)

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Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home.
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 [Our Website tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS

Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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