

Spring 2017

ReEchoes



A Publication of Union Springs Academy Alumni Association



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**USA ALUMNI
WEEKEND**

MAY 5th - 7th

2017

ALUMNI WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday:

- 2:00 pm - Registration Begins at the Church (purchase meal tickets)
- 3:30 pm - MacKenzie-Childs Tour and USA Campus & History Tour
- 5:30 pm - Supper in Cafe (Meal tickets available at registration.)
- 7:00 pm - Vespers - "REBUILD" Elder Miguel Crespo, '87 (In church)
- 8:30 pm - Bonfire and Afterglow with Refreshments

Saturday:

- 8:30 am - Registration Reopens at the Church
 - 9:00 am - Sabbath School- "We Were There" Testimonies
 - 10:45 am - Roll Call - Honor Classes, Alumni & Former Faculty
 - 11:00 am - Church Service- "RESTORE" by John Thomas, '77-89
 - 12:30 pm - Group Class Pictures - Beginning with Golden Years (Church)
 - 1:00 pm - Alumni Luncheon in Gymnasium
 - 3:30 pm - "Connections": in Gym - Handshake, Ad Building Tours, Military Honors, Memory Tree Dedications
 - 6:00 pm - Our Mission in Action Exhibits & Finger Food Supper
 - 7:30 pm - Vespers - "RECONNECT" Robert Gebhard, '88
 - 8:30 pm - Dinner & Talent Show~ In Gym (Menu food with students serving)
- Sign up on the school website alumni page or call USA Development and Alumni office at 315-889-7314.*

- 10:00 pm - Annual 'Alumni vs Student' Basketball Game- in Gym

Sunday:

- 10:00 am - Brunch in the Cafe (Meal Tickets Available on Fri./Sat. night)
- 10:30 am - Annual Alumni Business Meeting Commences (Meeting in Cafeteria following brunch.)

From the Ashes...

We Will Rise!

To say that the events of Sabbath, December 3, 2016 at Union Springs Academy were unexpected would be an understatement to the extreme. The evening before had been filled with lots of activity as we hosted our annual "Walk Through Bethlehem." In this event visitors are escorted through a series of stations that present the story of Jesus' birth in a unique way. It had been a great evening!

Sabbath morning continued as usual, with students attending Sabbath School and church, followed by lunch in the café. That was when things changed to the unexpected.

At 1:40 pm students and our maintenance man, Steve Fraker, saw smoke pouring out of the Administration Building roof.



"Ground Zero" across from Registrar's Office.

Emergency services were called, and then began the lengthy process of getting the fire under control, determining what caused it, and cleaning our way out of the mess it generated.

The fire originated in the worship room, which has four large archways that

open onto the main hallways of the school.

And even though the fire was contained in this relatively small space, the smoke and hot gases created by it damaged things in every corner of the building.



Administration Building ~ View from girls' dorm

Virtually every system of the building was damaged in some way, meaning we will need electricians, plumbers, computer network specialists, telephone system specialists, carpet layers, painters, etc.

Immediately plans began to form on how to continue having school, without our normal accommodations. The Union Springs SDA Church graciously opened their doors to us. We have set up office space, four classrooms, a computer lab, and are using the sanctuary as a chapel. It appears that we will be staying here for the remainder of the school year, while our building is put back to working order.

When things like this happen, it can seem that our losses might be more than we can bear. In reality this fire has helped us realize how many friends we really have. People from all over the country have contacted us sharing their support, through tangible ways whether with financial support or needed items that were given to the school.

The moral support through letters, phone calls, Facebook messages, and prayers have been of such encouragement to us, and we are so grateful. Through it all we have sensed the hand of God leading us, and we have come to know that we will emerge from this better and stronger than ever before.

Written by Jere Clayburn, Principal
Reprinted from March 2017 *Atlantic Union Gleaner*

Students Reflect on Changes at USA:

“Since the fire, it has been hard for my senior class to move forward with events and fundraising efforts we planned for the school year. I have been thankful for the staff who have helped our school get the things we needed. The teachers have worked hard to make things as normal as possible for us. Even though I won’t be here next year, I am thankful returning and new students will have a much better school experience enjoying the remodeled ‘ad building’.”— *Breanna Cenecharles, Senior*



Students reading the Bible during Chapel in USA Church.

“Since the fire has happened I have wondered what will happen to my graduation this spring. I am glad to know the gymnasium should be opened so we can march there in June. Where I felt the fire was trying to stop us from being here, now I know through God nothing can stop us! I can’t wait to graduate here at Union Springs Academy and see my picture on the wall with all the other alumni!”
~*Jew Luis, Senior*

“Since the fire happened, life at school has changed drastically. Going to school in the church has been hard, since all my resources were in the ‘ad building’.

I came out of my comfort zone, which God challenges us to do, so He has taught me to lean on Him. Besides leaning on God, I can also lean on my wonderful friends.”

~*Wilkin Beltre-Romero, Junior*



Main hallway in Ad. Building after Phase 1
Update on the Ad. Building & Gym

The restoration process of the Ad. Building and gymnasium has been broken up into three phases:

~**Phase 1** was primarily the demolition and cleaning phase which was also coupled with the inventory of salvageable and non-salvageable items. Right now, most of our schools’ belongings are boxed and/or stored in 6-7 40-foot storage containers here on campus. **Completed** 👍

~**Phase 2** is the rebuilding of systems to include, electrical, plumbing, heating, roofing, ceilings, flooring, painting, structural issues, all of those things behind the walls and above the ceiling tiles that must be repaired, replaced, and tested before we enter. **In Progress**

~**Phase 3**, which is the unpacking and getting settled stage. **Waiting to Begin**

~As of March 1st the gymnasium is opened! It has been completely repainted and is ready for our spring events including Alumni Weekend!

~It is our goal to have most of Phase 2 and 3 complete by Alumni Weekend!

Get regular updates on the Alumni Facebook page or our school!



Thoughts from our Alumni President...

It's amazing to see how resilient people can be. Not only in respect to personal loss, which happens to us all, but also in relation to our interaction with institutions. The students and staff at Union Springs Academy were dealt a serious blow due to the administration building fire. It would not have been a surprise to see students choose to leave USA and go elsewhere to continue their education, and staff may have looked at the situation from a logistical standpoint and decided to hurriedly find employment elsewhere. Of course, that didn't happen.

Call it dedication, call it resiliency, call it whatever you like. Students and staff have remained steadfast. They have pushed forward. They have focused on the future rather than the present. With an outpouring of support from parents, friends, and alumni the goal to rebuild, restore and reconnect has been the focal point. Great progress has been made, and with continued work and many prayers answered we will see a marvelous rebirth unveiled during our upcoming Alumni Weekend in May.

I have a place in my heart that only Union Springs Academy can hold, as is the case for many of you. It is my desire that each of you continue to hold our school up in prayer; that you hold former classmates and friends close to your hearts and that we all come together in May for an amazing weekend of fun and fellowship!

~Robert Gebhard, '88



Do you remember the fun talent shows from when you attended USA? For our Saturday night program, we want to bring alumni back on stage for a night of entertainment, and laughter! Students and current faculty will be participating as well, so let's support them and join in the fun!

Please sign up NOW as space is limited! For more information and/or to sign up please email or call Janica Caster at 315-889-7314. Ideas for acts can be a vocal or instrumental song, poem, skit, reading, old class trio, or a good faculty roast! Single or group acts are welcome, especially alumni generations working together!

Students will be selling pizza, salad, and other items during the talent show. To support the school, we will also be selling a selection of artwork and handmade gift items made by alumni. The basketball game will take place right after the show.

2017

USA ALUMNI WEEKEND

Honor Classes

**All Golden Years –
Classes Prior to 1967
All Faculty and Staff**

Class of 1967 ~ 50 Years
Class of 1972 ~ 45 Years
Class of 1977 ~ 40 Years
Class of 1982 ~ 35 Years
Class of 1987 ~ 30 years
Class of 1992 ~ 25 Years
Class of 1997 ~ 20 Years
Class of 2002 ~ 15 Years
Class of 2007 ~ 10 Years
Class of 2012 ~ 5 Years



Alumni Weekend Lodging and Meals Information

Local Hotels:

- Hilton Garden Inn- (315) 252-5511, Auburn
- Holiday Inn - (315) 253-4531, Auburn
- Inn at the Fingerlakes (315) 253-5000, Auburn
*10% Discount for USA Alumni – please ask manager.
- Super 8 - (315) 253-8886, Auburn

USA Dormitories:

Limited rooms are available to rent. Please contact the girls' dean at 315-889-7285 and the boys' dean at 315-889-9012 for details and to reserve a room.

USA Cafeteria:

All meals cost \$7.00 each. Family discounts available. Meal tickets are available for sale at Registration. Available Meals: Friday Supper, Continental Sabbath breakfast for dorm guests, and Sunday Brunch. (Other meals on Saturday will be in the gym.)

Future Alumni Weekend Dates

Opinion Poll on Ballot on page 7

As you know, traditionally, our USA Alumni Weekend being the first full weekend of May, coincides with other Adventist colleges graduation weekends (Southern, Andrews and Union). Some Alumni have expressed a wish to explore different options as to when our USA Alumni Weekend is scheduled for 2018 and in the future. Due to these conflicts, if we keep it as it is, many staff at these colleges, their families, or students themselves, who are our Alumni, can never come to our USA Alumni Weekend.

The Executive Officers of the Alumni Association want you to contact them with your opinion on this topic. We want to hear from you, especially on this topic. If there is a change of date, would you think it would increase our attendance and participation?

Generally, the Academy and the Alumni Assoc. believe that our Weekend should be consistent and also be scheduled when school is in session (rather than in the middle of summer, during NY Camp Meeting, or the weekend before or after Camp Meeting dates).

Here are suggested options:

- 1) **October**, perhaps during Columbus Day Weekend. This would be good for fall foliage and not too cold or blustery.
- 2) Move the USA Alumni Weekend backward one weekend to the **last weekend of April**. This might still be problematic for finals and students.
- 3) Move the Weekend forward to the **2nd weekend in May**. This might be close to the final weeks at the Academy and is usually Mother's Day, as well.
- 4) Keep it as is the **1st Full Weekend in May**.... no change, although it presents with these conflicts.
- 5) **Other**. We are open for suggestions!

There have been a few statements of thought on Facebook, but we want to have the widest membership range of input before a decision is made. Please call the Development and Alumni Office at USA and express your opinions or Facebook and state your choice and why.

We look forward to doing what the Alumni Members want to do, and we look forward to increasing our attendance and fun gatherings at our USA Alumni in the future.



Circle of Friends Brick Campaign

Buy a Brick!

The walkway will go from the Ad. Building to the school bell. Engraving available for a class member, loved one, a memory, celebrate your class year.

The next order deadline is June 1. Bricks cost \$75 each and can be ordered on the school website under the alumni tab or at Alumni Weekend or USA to place an order at 315-889-7314.

IT'S ELECTION TIME!



It is that time of year for the Alumni Association Elections: This year we will announce the results of the votes at the Annual Meeting Sunday at 10:00 am in the cafe.

Voting Options: Voting can be done the following ways:

- Union Springs Academy website on the Alumni tab
- Paper ballot from mailing-in form on page 8
- USA Alumni Association Facebook page from May 1-5
- At Alumni Weekend by Sat. night at 9 pm.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION:

There have been important proposed changes to the Alumni Constitution voted by the Executive Committee. Please visit the school website at unionspringsacademy.org and click on Alumni tab at link to see these changes.

In Loving Memory
We Remember Our Alumni and
Former Faculty

Kathryn Osterblom-Eusey, '34
 Alma Burnette-Duford, '41
 Don Gerald, '43
 Robert Gleason, '44
 Ann Bainbridge-Leubner, '48
 Carolyn Conibear-Tessier, '48
 David Johnson, '53
 Alice Lastine-Soderblom, '56
 Kim Peckham, '71
 Mark Tessier, '74 & 75
 Karen Mullins-Rayborne, '78
Former Faculty:
 David Hodge, '55-66
 Maurice Vincent, '91

If you know of other losses we missed hearing about in the past year, please email Jenni Carr, our membership secretary at littlebit8259@yahoo.com.

Improved Alumni Database

Jenni Austin-Carr, our Membership Secretary, has been working many hours to complete uploading most of our Alumni (Students and Faculty/Staff) names into a digital database for ease in communications.

There are over 5,000 students and faculty. Next, she needs to get updated information from the alumni members for their contact information: address, phone number, email and most importantly if you would like to have the ReEchoes come to your email so we can save on postage and printing costs of communication.

We thank Jenni in all her efforts in untangling years of duplication and lost records, and there is more work to be done.

Treasurer's Report

Here are the balances for the USA Alumni Association accounts as of April 1, 2017:

- General Alumni Trust Fund: \$826.63
- Re-Echoes Newsletter Trust Fund \$1,012.87
- Class of 1961 Scholarship Trust: \$1,580.00

Following Alumni Weekend 2017, a projected budget for the Alumni Association will be shared for the coming year in the upcoming newsletter. Thank you. ~Amy Foote '96



Maranatha Volunteers
International Comes to USA
this July!

USA is excited to announce a partnership with Maranatha Volunteers International to hold the fourth annual Campus Renovation Week—Operation USA, July 2-16.

This mission trip to our school will be comprised of volunteers from around the country, even internationally, joining USA alumni, New York Conference members, and people from the local community. Volunteers will work together on various building projects, repairs, and updates to make improvements to the campus buildings and grounds.

The primary renovation projects will be in both dormitories, although there will be other projects working throughout the campus including the cafeteria, church, campus grounds, and in the ad building. Maranatha only provides funding for the international mission trip projects so all funding depends on giving to USA.

To find out more information about how you can support Renovation Weeks, please visit the school website at unionspringsacademy.org or call (315) 889-7314. Registration is now full but you can sign up for the waiting list at maranatha.org. Praise God for all the willing hearts to come help our school! Operation USA is the largest state-side Maranatha mission trip this year (for a two-week project) with 100 individuals registered!

REMEMBER WHEN?

In the 70's & 80's, when Sabbath morning you had fresh-baked cinnamon rolls in your bag for breakfast?

Alumni Association Paper Ballot:



Vice President: (check choice)

- 1. John C. Schumacher-Hardy
- 2. Larry E. Hayes, Jr.
- 3. _____

Executive Secretary: (check choice)

- 1. Debi Everhart
- 2. Linda Nord-Ulrich
- 3. _____

Project Manager: John Cardinell, '78 Yes No (If ratified Constitutional Change to add)

VOTE: Ratify the Executive Committee's vote for changes on the USA Alumni Constitution that can be viewed on-line at UnionSpringsAcademy.org on the Alumni Tab. Check your choice:

Yes, I agree to the changes No, I do not agree to the changes

Opinion Poll: Choose preference for USA Alumni Weekend Calendar for 2018 and future:

October Last weekend in April Second weekend in May Keep Same Other

Your Name: _____ Class of: _____

Please mail to: P.O. Box 524 Union Springs, NY 13160 by May 1, 2017.



Larry E. Hayes, Jr
Class of 1998

Vice President Nominee

While attending USA I learned of my God-given gift of leadership and was encouraged to use it to honor Him! Meeting my wife, Kelsey (Hamm) Hayes class of '01, at academy was also

an important blessing of attending. Kelsey and I have been married for 12 years and have two beautiful daughters Regan (6) and Ella (2). After graduating from USA, I spent two years at Cayuga Community College followed by two years at Southern Adventist University studying business and accounting which I have used to run my own company over the last 10 years.

I believe that a strong Alumni Association is essential to not only the survival of the school, but its ability to be the pillar that it is meant to be. Our alumni need to be united by more than the fact that we attended USA and an annual weekend. Christ is the Cornerstone and each of us with our experiences are the brick and mortar that make "our USA" steady and strong for those within its walls!



Debi Everhart ~Class of 1990

Executive Secretary Nominee

Debi Everhart ('90) earned BA degrees in English and Music from Atlantic Union College ('95) and an MA in English Composition ('97) from Andrews University.

She currently lives in Eau Claire, Michigan, and is Editor at Andrews University Press. She has served in the position of secretary for the Scholarly Publications and Andrews University Press Board, the Dowagiac Adventist Church, and a local chapter of the honor society Phi Kappa Phi.

John C. Schumacher-Hardy
Class of 1986

Vice President Nominee

John C. Schumacher-Hardy is from South Lancaster, MA area. He attended Union Springs Academy from 1983 to 1986, when he graduated, and next went on to Atlantic Union College. He graduated from AUC in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in religion and minors in history and psychology. He has written several books on local history and has served as an elected official on Lancaster's Thayer Memorial Library Trustees committee since 2003.

John is an active member of the South Lancaster Village Church of SDAs. He has been a member of the USA Alumni Association Executive Committee since 2001 when he was elected to be its vice president. He served as USA Alumni Association president from 2013 to 2015. He dabbles in antique paper, photographs and books, is a freelance writer, genealogist and tour guide.



Linda Nord-Ulrich
Class of 1975

Executive Secretary Nominee

Linda was a 4-year student in the Class of 1975. She currently lives in Sugar Grove, PA that is just south of Jamestown, NY, her home town.

She has been involved with the Alumni Association for about 20 years and has organized several large Reunions for the students and faculty of the 1972-1976 era and helped her parents in the 1943-1947 era in 2005. Linda has helped our Membership Secretary in upgrading and developing the Alumni Database. She is currently an interim Member-At-Large for the Executive Committee and has willingly covered for some Executive Secretary duties in the past few months. She is willing and happy to continue in that role for the USA Alumni Association.

Alumni Executive Committee Officers:

- President: Robert Gebhard, '88
- Vice President: Netta Smith-Blakes, '82
- Treasurer: Amy Foote, '96
- Communications Director: Vacant
- Executive Secretary: Terry Greene-Dickerman, '61
- Membership Secretary: Jenni Austin-Carr, '78
- Past-President – John C. Schumacher-Hardy, '86
- Member at Large A: Judi Bentz-Eells, '65
- Member at Large B: Linda Nord-Ulrich, '75
- Academy Liaison: Janica Kaltsas-Caster, '90

*Contact information for Officers can be found on the Alumni page of the USA website at unionspringsacademy.org.

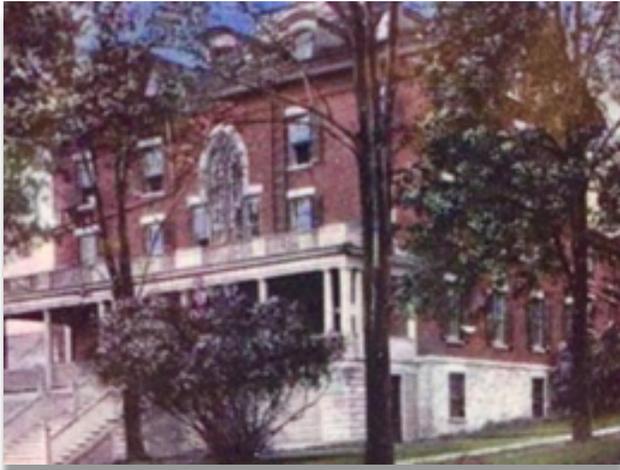
Other Special Volunteers:

- Project Coordinator: John Cardinell, '78
- Alumni Website: Evan Martin, '76
- Military Rep: Terry Schermerhorn, '62
- CR/FR Coordinator: Linda Nord Ulrich, '75
- Photographer & Archivist: Ed Runnals, '73

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**We hope to see you Alumni Weekend  
May 5-7, 2017!**

You can RSVP on the calendar event on the Alumni Facebook or by emailing [development@unionspringsacademy.org](mailto:development@unionspringsacademy.org).



Union Springs Academy ~ Original Building 'Coolidge Hall'



Ray Vreeland '44, Joel Williams '44, Dennis Nord '44, Bob Robinson '45 Rec. Hall (Wreck Hall ☺) in the background.



Union Springs Academy  
Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 524  
Union Springs, NY 13160

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**Please share this  
ReEchoes issue with  
as many Alumni as  
you can! Thank you!**