



ReEchoes

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Union Springs Academy Alumni Association

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Inside This Issue

Page 2

Vote Constitution

Chapter Reunion

Page 3

Devotional

Page 4

Alumni Basketball



Page 5

Class Action

Solar Farm

Page 6

Hold Onto His Promises

Page 7

Centennial Memoria

MEMORIA

Calendar of Events

Glimpse of Centennial



Alumni Membership

Thoughts from Our Alumni President...

Greetings to all USA Alumni!

Sometimes seeing all that is wrong in the world keeps us from seeing all that is right. If we take the time to look, we can see God's hand at work in each of our lives.

Some of us, who have been around a while, have become keenly aware of how the Lord has blessed and taken care of us, our families, friends, and good old USA. The NY SDA Conference, and our faithful alumni, and others, have chosen to make Christian education available to all those who choose to attend USA by giving, investing, and sacrificing.

Seeing the 2021-2022 student enrollment increase from 51 students last year, to over 100 this school year, makes it clear our Father's blessing is on school. You can see His handiwork backing up this institution over the last 100 years, while others in the United States have had to close their doors.

It is safe to say that along with quality students, committed parents and sponsors, faithful staff, and faculty, that the academy alumni has played a key role in working with the Holy Spirit to continue the USA legacy.

I am pleased that the officers who are serving this term have looked over the agenda I have laid out and have unanimously voted to use it for the best use of their gifts, and abilities, to make good things happen for USA. Some creative ideas have been offered by our committee and together our plan is to strengthen the academy in any way we can.

Our goals for the 2021-2023 term are to affect things positively in the following ways:

- To see that the revised Alumni Constitution is approved by the membership and ratified by those on the Alumni Board.
- To update the Membership List.
- To work toward contacting those who did not have a positive experience at USA and build a "bridge of friendship and acceptance."
- To see that our ReEchoes publication is a consistent source of information and inspiration.
- To be successful in making strong ties with the student body, especially the seniors, so after graduating, they will feel a part of "our family" and encourage other young alumni to participate.
- To put projects and student recognition opportunities in place to enhance their overall experience at USA and show how much we support individual student's efforts and accomplishments. We are also striving to have more student involvement in what we do. We want to work together on the projects we present, so they can experience the support the Alumni Association offers.

Please pray for us as we represent you. We are committed and honored to serve our USA. God bless all of you as you serve Him where you are, and as you support our great school!

~Jeff Hunt '68

Vote Constitution

TOP PRIORITY!

With the approval of the New York Conference Board of Education, the Alumni Officers have finished their work of revising the Alumni Constitution. It is now more complete, simplified and user friendly. Now we need the alumni members to approve it so it can be ratified.

Your confirmation and encouragement will go a long way towards making our alumni goals and plans come alive and benefit our USA.

You can find the amended Constitution on the school website at unionspringsacademy.org on the Alumni Page or the Alumni Facebook group. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, please email our executive secretary and we can accommodate you. To vote just send an email to our Executive Secretary, at usaexecutivesecretary@gmail.com.

For any comments or questions please email Jeff Hunt, Alumni President at usaalumnipresident@gmail.com

Remember the deadline for all votes is:
April 4, 2022.

Thanks You, USA Alumni Association Officers



Howard Walker '52 leading out in a Sabbath Vespers program at the Decatur SDA Church



Left to Right: Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90, Rick Van Arsdale '65, Dave Everts '52, Jacquelyn Richards-Frimpter '55, Terry Greene-Dickerman '61, Marie Hall-Walker '51, Howard Charles Walker '52, Martha Rice-Ellis '84, Betty Richards-Rice '48, Peggy Parker-Blackmon '70 and Alliant Ndeze '19



ALUMNI WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2022 HONOR CLASSES

1942 ~ 80 Years	1982 ~ 40 Years
1947 ~ 75 Years	1987 ~ 35 Years
1952 ~ 70 Years	1992 ~ 30 Years
1957 ~ 65 Years	1997 ~ 25 Years
1962 ~ 60 Years	2002 ~ 20 Years
1967 ~ 55 Years	2007 ~ 15 Years
1972 ~ 50 Years	2012 ~ 10 Years
1977 ~ 45 Years	2017 ~ 5 Years

Chapter Reunion: Southern

Busy life?

NY too far to drive to?

Want some excitement in your life?

You can attend a Union Springs Academy Alumni Meeting in your area!

On August 14, 2021 a small group of alumni met at the Decatur Church in Decatur TN for a small Chapter meeting. What a great feeling to stand with fellow alumni and sing the school song...On the shores of Lake Cayuga...and feel the connectedness with everyone in the room. Janica Kaltas-Caster was there to lead us on and let us in on the upcoming 100-year-celebration that took place this last September. If you missed the celebration, you really missed out on a wonderful event.

Think seriously of hosting an event in your own area. You would be surprised how many show up from USA. You will hear of all the great new happenings and plans for the future. Our school is growing and is becoming a source for creating workers for the Lord. There are so many new ideas and projects to learn about.

Contact Janica to set up a Chapter meeting near you.

-Terralyn Greene-Dickerman '61

Devotional: “Dents and Scratches”

In 2009, I was introduced to the social media device called “Facebook”. At that time, I lived in Virginia without any family in the state. My two adult children and their families were living in opposite directions from me -a 15-hour drive away: One in Chicago and one in Mobile, Alabama. Since I was teaching, time was limited when I could go and see them or when they could come to visit me.

Facebook seemed another way to keep in touch by seeing pictures and videos of my children and grandchildren and all the activities families attend to, such as school programs, gymnastics, birthday parties, etc. How great it would be to still be a part of all that in spite of not actually being present. Sounded like a great idea! After setting up my page and talking with my kids, I was ready to gain access to their page and vice-a-versa. I just had to ask to be their *friend* and then they could click onto a button on their end, giving me approval to see their pages. Or they could ask me to be my *friend*, and I could give the same approval for my pages. Then it happened! I was both horrified and surprised when, suddenly, all these old people showed up asking me if they could be my *friend*! What was that all about? I was already getting enough Medicare and retirement letters and emails that I kept throwing away or deleting. Was this some sinister plot from AARP?

Of course, I quickly realized that I knew many of these people from years gone by— people from academy days, some from college, graduate school, and some from other parts of the country where I had lived and worked. That was the first time it dawned on me that I was getting older.

The problem with these folks wanting to be my *friend* was I couldn't always remember who they were or even recognize them from their current picture. I found my Union Springs Academy (USA) yearbook, “Memoria”. Even then, comparing a current picture with the academy school pictures was still puzzling. Looking at pictures didn't always remind me of any past relationship with the individual. It was frustrating when I couldn't remember the person and especially upsetting when I couldn't remember what that person meant to me or I to them so many years ago. I didn't remember how I may have acted towards each person. Was I caring,

friendly, a self-righteous prude; had I said or done things that hurt that person; was I a good influence or a bully? I could have been any of those things. I don't remember! I'm not void of all memories, just have forgotten a lot.

The only thing I've been able to do about the past is to ask God to forgive me for anything I may have said or done in those days! However, God may forgive, but memories can still be profound in the people we harmed.

A reunion can be a new beginning. It is a time to remember, to forgive each other, to laugh at the funny times, to listen to each other's life experiences, to share, and to rekindle a long-forgotten friendship. I imagine, I'll be reminded of something that I said or did back in academy days and will need to apologize and that's okay. We're not the same people we were fifty plus years ago in academy. We now have dents, scratches and that worn old, tired look that didn't exist then. Never the less, we still have value, years of knowledge, and life experiences to add to the USA history.

One example, similar to what can happen at a reunion is every time I visit USA, I make my way by the band room to take a peek inside. I immediately look beyond the stands, instruments and chairs and locate the four beautiful tympani. They have very few scratches and dents on them. But that's not the ones I care about. I look for the two old beat up, dented, scratched, heads messed up, missing a leg tympani in a corner or hidden away. Those are the ones that cause me an emotional response of joy, longing, and nostalgia! I don't know if they're still there, but I know each time I've been to USA, I've asked to take them home with me. I have room for them and would give them the care and love they need.

This tympani relationship all started at the beginning of the summer after my freshman year at USA. My dad, Ray Couden, borrowed a snare drum from school and brought it home. He was leaving USA to teach band down at Union Springs High School, starting that September. He knew that the next band teacher (Lacy) would need percussionists. He also was aware that all my siblings played instruments, except for me. This was his last chance to get me involved in band. In the past he had tried to teach me piano. I hated practicing piano! Now he introduced me to a snare drum. I never needed prompting to practice again. If anything, I would hear “time to stop practicing and let folks in the neighborhood sleep.” By August, my dad got those two tympani for the USA band. He knew it would expand the band's potential. He also was eager to let me have at them!

Those two tympani were dented, scratched, and definitely had that worn old, tired look, but hey became my joy! No one had to beg me to practice. I would practice over lunch when most folks weren't in the administration building. One time, there was a knock on the

“Dents and Scratches” Continued...

music door and a student asked me to please stop playing. They were taking a test at the other end of the hall. I had to laugh because I was oblivious to causing a disturbance. There were other band members, Penny Sargent a percussionist and a tuba player (I don't remember his name) that would come in and play their part of the band piece with me while I hammered out the tympani part. We must have been an interesting trio of sound.

Because of access to those two tympani, I became the tympani player for the yearly music Festivals among the academies (three in all) till I graduated. My senior year, I won the talent show's grand prize by playing “Timpat”, which is a tympani solo with band accompaniment. My dad took the band score and made it for organ. Thankfully, Candace Luss, the organ teacher figured it out and accompanied me.

One summer, I played the tympani for the General Conference convention in Atlantic City with the SDA international orchestra. At college there was a young man majoring in tympani, but I (the nursing student) was the one to play the tympani for the band and orchestra. You can understand why those two pathetic dented scratched old tired looking drums cause me such an emotional response even now. I have a history with them from my father to the opportunities I had because of them...

Which brings me to my USA classmates, alumni, teachers, and staff. Fifty years ago, most of us had only a few dents and scratches. Now with time and plenty of life traumas we can look pretty banged up—we're much older models. No wonder I can't remember or recognize some of you. However, when Jesus looks at us, He remembers us! He sees only the people that He loved so much He gave His life for us. He just wants to wrap us in His arms and take us home with Him. He's got plenty of room and He can fix those dents and scratches. He doesn't care if our age is showing. He will take us just as we are because His love is so full of compassion. He has a history with us through all our ups and downs. He still continues to want us even after 50 plus years. Jesus sums it up best when He says, “Even when you are old, I will take care of you. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. I made you and will take care of you. I will carry you, and I will save you” (Isaiah 46:4, International Children's Bible).

I look forward to future reunions whether on this earth at Our USA or in heaven, where you can introduce yourself to me and remind me of the role you played in my life. I'll ether hug you and/or apologize if needed. We then can compare our dents and scratches and then thank God for His love that covers all our imperfections.

-Donna Couden-Trimmm '71

Annual Alumni Basketball Game



About 30 alumni and former staff came to enjoy some basketball on Saturday, March 19th! What a fun night it was having a nail biter game all the way through! Alumni were declared the winners in the end by one point with the final score of 50 to 49!!!!

Pastor Jonathan Baker '16 started the evening off with a wonderful devotional to close the Sabbath. It was good to see alumni again on our campus catching up!

Class Action

Dean Knox and his wife live in Florida. Three years ago, students from the classes of 1980 and 1984 got together and visited them. The following year on February 5, 2022, we met together again and because Dean Knox was turning 97, we decided to plan a two-day visit. There were several students and friends who were impacted positively by the position Dean Knox filled at USA. Our plan was to thank him in person for the dedication he provided while at USA. The boy's dean who replaced Dean Knox, Dean Santos was included in the plans to visit him. This was in the middle of the COVID crisis, and all were saddened by the news that Dean Santos had contracted COVID two days before our get-together. This didn't ruin the plans and we still managed to meet.

Mr. Thomas and his wife drove down from Texas to spend the second day with us.



The ones who met were: (left to right)

David Murray '82
Barry Saxman '84
Wendy Tessier Hall '80
John Schumaker-Hardy '86
Bonita Desens King '82
Dean Harold Knox
Gordon Hudak '78
Jim Armstrong '83
Kevin Peck '82
David Ahles '81
John and Nancy Thomas, Former Staff
Cynthia Lake Peck '80 (not pictured)

There were spouses and a child who were included in our group of well-wishers. So many great memories were passed among our group...there was much jovial laughter and also some serious talks included. The friendships and forming of very close relationships are some of the wonderful experiences all classes seem to have kept running from the years spent together at USA. My closest friends are

from the years I spent at USA. USA was and is a very special place. USA seems to have created many groups of friends who have stayed in communication throughout the years after attending.

While together, Mr. Thomas showed us a video of their mission trip to Kenya. The video was a catalyst for an invitation Mr. Thomas presented to the whole group as they discussed what they had just seen. The Thomases had just returned from Kenya, and he challenged his group of former students to go back with him in April of 2023. So far nine people have committed to return with him.

Please pray that this goal will be reached, and many people can go with the Thomases to Kenya. Be looking for updates to this plan.

-Kevin Peck '82

Solar Farm Completed At USA!

Look what God hath wrought?!?

March 2022 is an exciting month for Union Springs Academy and the New York Conference. It will bring to completion two and half years of meetings, prayers and legal wrangling. But it was all worth it, because we got to see God's hands in the entire process.

The land surrounding Union Springs Academy has traditionally been leased for agricultural purposes. Its revenue has been modest but steady. This March will mark the beginning of something new; solar power generation on approximately 50 acres of conference land. This land lease represents a step into the 21st century in terms of being part of alternative energy creation in New York State and also bringing in more revenue to support the work of the Academy and the Conference.

The solar farm is just one of the many blessings/opportunities that God has provided to be able to more effectively and efficiently provide and manage for the ministry. He initiated it, He led it and He completed it. To God be the glory.

-Miguel Crespo, '87



Hold Onto His Promises

103-year-old Alice Capps Hudgins Shares Lessons from a Life Lived for Christ

The Bible sits open on her lap and she holds a magnifying glass over the page, but Alice Capps Hudgins doesn't need to read the words. She knows them by heart. Her voice is quiet, but the words are clear and her conviction unwavering as she recites Psalm 103 from memory. She begins, "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases..." As she concludes her recitation of the 22 verses, she shares that Psalm 103 is one of her favorite Bible chapters, and one she has had memorized nearly all of her life.

Born Alice Meleen on Jan. 15, 1919, she was raised in an Adventist missionary family in Bangalore, India. Alice turns 103 in 2022, and is one of the oldest Seventh-day Adventist members in the Southwestern Union.



Senior Picture from USA's 1939 Memoria

While she lived in India for her first 18 years of life and was homeschooled by her mother and tutors, she and her sisters also attended the missionary children's boarding school, Vincent Hills School, in India before she went on to the Seminaire Adventiste in Collonges, France, Union Springs Academy in New York and Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.

In the late 1940s she came to Texas to become a school teacher. While there, she met Sam Capps. They married in 1950 and had four children, David, Irene, Sammie and Julie.

Over the course of 57 years, Alice and Sam raised their children in the Keene, Tex. area, while Alice was a school teacher and they were active in mission work and with church community. Alice also enjoyed traveling the world and learning about various cultures.

When Sam passed away at the age of 84 in 2006, they were members of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Alice later married a fellow retired school teacher, James Hudgins, who passed away in December of 2020.

Alice dedicated her life to Christian education through her work in Adventist schools and she even wrote a children's book with Bible stories illustrated with children's drawings. Her book,

The Secret in the Acorn: A Kid's View of Fundamental Biblical Teachings, can be found at the Adventist Book Center.

Much has changed in the Southwestern Union, in the Adventist Church, in the United States and around the globe in Alice's lifetime, but her hope remains in the promises she finds in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy. She says she has hope for the young people of the church as they struggle with difficult questions in life, but encourages them to turn to the Bible and God for strength and wisdom.

Each morning, Alice sits with her caregiver, Amy, and a small Bichon Frise, Skippy, and they read the Bible together. They sit on a porch swing on the patio in her backyard and talk about God's goodness and promises as they watch Skippy explore flowers and trees.



Alice Meleen-Capps at 103 years old.

"I look forward to heaven. To being with my family again. To seeing God," she says. Alice shares another favorite passage, this time from Ellen G. White's *Steps to Christ*: "It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Savior, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned."

"If anyone needs encouragement, I would tell them to read *Steps to Christ* and their Bibles. Read Psalm 103," she says. "Remember that through Him, we can be accepted as though we have never sinned."

By Jessica Lozano Photos by Tammy Prieto

Alice's story was originally published in the Southwestern Union Record magazine available at SWURecord.org

Do You Have Your Centennial Memoria Yet?

Either you attended and experienced it, or you have probably heard from ones who made it to the USA Centennial Celebration. Yes, it was amazing!!! There were so many stories and memories shared of ones' experience at our dear old Alma Mater! There were many tears of sadness as we learned of friends passing, but there was much laughter and joy that could be seen, felt, and heard, all over the campus.



The pages are filled with over 100 years of great experiences at USA. Many of them were captured on film over the years. The Alumni Association has taken pictures from all the yearbooks from the 100 years of Memoria's' and has condensed them into one classic, informative, and fun-filled, 200-page yearbook for us to enjoy.

This Centennial Memoria Edition is available right now! You can purchase one for yourself, a friend, your church library, or child/parent. You get 200 pages that include each class roster and many other interesting tidbits about your class. For \$60 you get the yearbook and a centennial tee shirt!

Here is how to order your copy:

- 1) Go to the academy's website at unionspringsacademy.org and click on the ALUMNI tab, where you will see Centennial Yearbook information with a link to purchase and order online.
- 2) Simply call USA at 315-889-7314 and ask the alumni office to send you one.
- 3) Attend an Alumni Event they will be for sale while supplies last.

2022 Calendar of Events

All WELCOME to the following events at USA

April 15 & 16 - 7pm	Passion Play
April 22 - 7pm	'Thank You' Student Concert
June 3-5	Graduation Weekend
June 24-July 2	NYConference Campmeeting
June 25 - 5pm	Strawberry Shortcake Feed
July 3-10	Maranatha Renovation Weeks
July 10-16	Skills Week (for grades 7-12)
September 23-25	58th Alumni Weekend

2021 Centennial Celebration

Just so you know...

There is so much to share regarding our 2021 Centennial Celebration. ReEchoes: "A Look At Our Centennial Year" edition will be coming out soon. For those of you who were there, it will bring back great memories. For those who couldn't make it, we share these moments.



Former food service directors Mrs. Ethel Carr and Mrs. Marion Tyler Vincent being honored with the Centennial cake.

This beautiful 1922 Model T Ford gave many alumni a joy ride around the campus thanks to John Schumaker Hardy '86



Alumni Membership

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!

The Alumni Association has a new Membership Secretary! We're excited that Jessica Johnson Travers '01 has taken the reins, but she, and the membership overall, need your help! There are so many changes each year, so helping with your class information, will allow her to do a "superb job"!

The pandemic has affected so many. Resulting circumstances have many changing jobs, moving across town, or moving across the country! You are the ones who have the information our membership secretary needs. Whether it's changes in your home or mailing address, phone number, email address, or any other info we can list, or if, unfortunately, a death has occurred to an alumnus, we need to keep all that updated.

Please send your changes to Jessica Johnson Travers at

jessicatravers2020@gmail.com



Alumni Association Executive Officers

President: *Jeff Hunt '68*

Vice President: open

Membership Secretary: *Jessica Johnson-Travers '01*

Academy Liaison: *Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90*

Past President: *Karen Weber-Reynolds '75*

Executive Secretary: *Terralyn Greene-Dickerman '61*

Member-at-Large: *Judi Bentz-Eells '65*

Member-at-Large: *Ingrid Satelmajer-Pelley '88*

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Treasurer: *Netta Smith-Blakes '82*

Communications Director: open

Projects Coordinator: *John Cardinell '78*

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ReEchoes Layout Editor: *Amy M Foote-Main '96*, Marketing/Graphic Designer: *Mary Htoo '19*, Assistant

Membership Secretary: *Kim Runnals '19*, Alumni Facebook Coordinator: *Patty Hitchcock-Dunham '85*

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Union Springs Academy

Alumni Association

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