

JULY 2016

THE ATLANTIC UNION GLEANNER

PATHFINDERS Challenged to
Finish Faithful

Highlights of the 2016 Atlantic Union
Conference Pathfinder Camporee



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Cover: The cover design includes a photo of color guards participating in the parade at the Atlantic Union Conference Camporee on Sabbath morning. The photo was taken by Stephen Mcharo.

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The Power of Youth Mentoring

The Atlantic Union Conference unionwide “Finish Faithful” Pathfinder Camporee is now history (see cover story). I, for one, was the recipient of a massive amount of inspiration from more than 3,700 youth, young adults, and adult chaperones congregated at Burlingame State Park in Rhode Island. The experience was a moving expression of thanks to God for the commitment and involvement of young people in the life of the church, as well as the youth directors who planned and facilitated this awesome event.

And I thank God for each one of our Pathfinders, regardless of the huge distractions, challenges, and temptations with which their lives are constantly buffeted.

Having said that, it is no secret, however, that the church is also constantly battered by the disheartening statistics of how many of our teenagers will graduate from high school, never to darken the hallways of our church . . . probably ever again!

David Kinnaman, president of the renowned Barna group research company and author of the book, *YOU LOST ME, WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE CHURCH* and *RETHINKING FAITH*, makes a powerful point in an interview with a church youth leader.

Kinnaman explains that one of the reasons (a major one) many young people are leaving the church is a disturbing lack of mentoring which is

happening in churches in general, and youth ministries specifically. What we’re talking about here is the concept of mentoring. The idea of an older person simply taking a younger person and constructively and intentionally—for purposes of kingdom growth—helping to coach that young person in the life-changing truths of Jesus. He calls this the missing piece of youth ministry. He gained this insight from visiting many churches, doing countless surveys, and observing the current youth ministry landscape. Here was one thing—mentoring, says Kinnaman, that was so simple, so obvious, but so missing.

Does your church have a mentoring strategy to help its youth? Is there enough emphasis on this timeless and transformative disciple-making strategy? I’m sure some of you do have such a strategy. Could it be that such a plan could help turn back the clock even incrementally to chisel away at the heartbreaking increase of young people leaving the church? Today may be your day to start ramping up your mentoring strategy.

May God continue to bless your efforts as, together, we make the support and mentoring of our precious youth and young adults in the Atlantic Union Conference territory a priority. ☺

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.

“Does your church have a mentoring strategy to help its youth? Is there enough emphasis on this timeless and transformative disciple-making strategy?”



PATHFINDERS Challenged to Finish Faithful

By Roger Wade

More than 3,700 Pathfinders and staff from the six conferences in the Atlantic Union headed to Burlingame State Park in Charlestown, Rhode Island, to experience the Atlantic Union Pathfinder Camporee. Pathfinders from Maine to Western New York, and from New York City to Bermuda attended the Finish Faithful Pathfinder Camporee.

Each day the speakers challenged the Pathfinders to finish faithful. The speakers were Armando Miranda, North American Division associate youth director; and Ryan Simpson, Atlantic Union Conference youth director. Other guests included José Cortés, Jr., former Atlantic Union Conference youth director, who now serves as North American Division Ministerial Association associate director; Ron Whitehead, International Pathfinder Camporee and Lake Union youth director; Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth director; and Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president. In attendance also were special invited guests from the East Jamaica Conference who shared their drilling prowess and a bit of Pathfinder ministry from Jamaica, West Indies.

The Pathfinders enjoyed an Honor midway tent where more than 25 honors were taught, including Blacksmithing. Activities such as archery, canoeing, volleyball, basketball, mountain biking, a 5K Run/Walk, and the Henry Livergood Obstacle Course were available for the attendees. Each night THE RISEN ministry from Greater New York Conference thrilled many hearts with drama presentations that showed a glimpse of how Jesus finished faithful! The climax on Saturday night was seeing the depiction of Jesus' resurrection from the borrowed tomb.

Community service activities at camporee included cleaning areas around the park, facilities on North Kingstown beach, a nursing home on Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, and the yard of several elderly and disabled people.

On Sabbath the grand parade with color guards and drum corps gave the attendees an opportunity to see the many Pathfinders in the Atlantic Union. Each youth director led their conference unit into the general session area with much pomp and circumstance.

Camporees are a time which Pathfinders look forward to—a time to get away from the concrete jungle and commune with nature. It also gives them an opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones.

Four Pathfinders made commitments to follow Jesus through baptism at the camporee—New York (1), Northeastern (1), and Southern New England (2). ①

Roger Wade is the Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director.





Camporee Attendance Totals

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Bermuda | 15 |
| Greater New York | 724 |
| New York | 118 |
| Northeastern | 1,191 |
| Northern New England | 152 |
| Southern New England | 1,059 |
| Day Passes | 200 |
| Camporee Leaders | 200 |
| International (East Jamaica Conference) | 59 |
| Total | 3,718 |



The Northeastern Conference Pathfinders look forward to the next camporee, BAYDA Camporee “Ready 2 Serve” on August 9-13, 2017, at Lone Star Campground, in Athens, Texas.

Many more photos of the camporee can be viewed on the Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AtlanticUnionAdventistYouthMinistries/photos.

Photos for this spread were contributed by the camporee photography team: Luis Sanchez, Bridgette Feliz, Errol Hunte, and Mcharo Stephen; and Rohann Wellington, Neville Lendor, and Debra McKinney Banks.





OFFICERS REELECTED

at Northeastern Conference Session

The Northeastern Conference convened its twenty-seventh regular constituency session (fourth quadrennial session) on Sunday, June 5, at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. Calvin Watkins, Southwest Region Conference president, presented the devotional message.

After much deliberation during the day, the administrative officers Daniel Honoré, president; Oswald Euell, executive secretary; and Edson Bovell, treasurer, were reelected to serve the conference for the next four years. Honoré posted the following message on the conference's Facebook page several days after the session: "I thank God and the people of the Northeastern Conference for allowing me to serve another term as president of this great conference. I pray that the Lord will grant me love, wisdom, and mercy in carrying His plans. May His people unite in order to accomplish the mission that He has entrusted to us."

Eight new churches were voted into the sisterhood of churches and their delegates participated in the session: Beth Elohim French, Brewster Hispanic, Canaan French, Faro de Luz Hispanic, El Buen Pastor Hispanic, First Hollis, Galilee French, and Jerusalem Hispanic.

Reports were received from the administrators and several of the departmental directors. Action was taken on the changes recommended by the constitution and bylaws committee.

The delegates also voted a new constitution and bylaws committee and a new executive committee to serve for the next quadrennium. Because of the lateness of the hour, all departmental director and language coordinator positions were referred to the executive committee. All other agenda items were completed.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference, including Donald King, president; Carlyle Simmons, executive secretary; Leon Thomassian, treasurer; Pierre Omeler, vice president

for Haitian and African ministries; Dionisio Olivo, vice president for Hispanic and Portuguese ministries; and the union directors, associate directors, and assistant directors were on hand to assist with the session. Representatives from the North American Division included Tom Evans, treasurer; and Alvin Kibble, vice president.

The Northeastern Conference administrators will serve the more than 56,700 members who are worshiping in 181 churches and 22 companies, the academies and elementary schools, the many community service centers, the summer camp program, and other entities in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

—GLENER editor



Daniel Honoré, reelected Northeastern Conference president, addresses the delegates with his wife, Fritze, standing on his left; standing behind him on his right are Oswald Euell, executive secretary; and Edson Bovell, treasurer, and his wife, Dellaverne; on the far right is Tom Evans, North American Division treasurer; and on the left are Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president; Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference treasurer; Alvin Kibble, North American Division vice president; and Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary.



Calvin Watkins, Southwest Region Conference president, standing right, presents the devotional message to the delegates at the Northeastern Conference regular constituency session.





By Astrid Thomassian

Educators, and Ministerial and Youth Directors Dialogue About How to Nurture Youth

In 2009, the Atlantic Union Conference ministerial and education departments led a Pastors and Teachers Convention in Providence Rhode Island. To plan this event, union and conference ministerial directors met with their counterparts in education, including the academy principals. These joint planning ses-

Four years ago, the youth department joined in this collaboration.

This year it was determined that the departments would establish specific objectives and assess their implementation during each of the subsequent spring meetings. Prior to the April 25 gathering in Ogunquit, Maine, the union departmental directors submit-

emphasize—e.g. the Sabbath, the second coming of Christ, etc.

- Plan joint programs that reiterate these values.
- Prioritize, using timelines, the values selected to focus on each year.

As we see the fulfillment of prophecy and recognize the closeness of Christ’s return, may God help us to remember, “The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand.”

—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 7, p. 64

sions became part of the spring education council for two years prior to the convention.

After the convention, the departments continued to meet each spring to dialogue about how ministers and educators can work together to nurture the youth in our churches and schools to have a personal relationship with Christ.

ted two objectives that would represent a unified approach to strengthening the spiritual lives of our children and youth. Following are the joint initiatives that personnel from each department pledged to undertake in this ministry partnership.

Education With Youth:

- Determine Adventist values to

- Coordinate calendars to facilitate joint activities.
- Determine a common creed to be used by all entities, e.g. the Pathfinder Pledge.
- Plan joint mission trips.
- Arrange joint social activities.

Education With Ministerial:

- Use required “service hours” to assist churches/pastors.
- Promote in churches the same Adventist values on which youth and education will focus.
- Organize activities for church youth, such as Bible Labs.
- Conduct in churches oratorical and essay-writing contests for church youth.
- Plan joint mission trips.
- Arrange joint social activities.

Ministerial Department With Youth:

- Dialogue with youth, listening to, and gaining an understanding of their views.
- Be intentional about including youth in church operation.
- Empower youth to take responsibility.
- Plan a youth evangelism year—with youth targeting youth.
- Model values for youth.
- Initiate coaching of adults by youth in the use of technology. e.g. using iPhones, iPads, etc.

Ministerial Department With Education:

- Encourage church pastors to support Adventist education by:
 1. Sending their children to Adventist schools
 2. Publicly promoting Adventist education from the pulpit

3. Providing financial support for the children of church members
4. Providing financial assistance to the children of new believers so they can attend Adventist schools
5. Emphasizing and promoting campus ministries
6. Providing a nurturing environment for Adventist students attending non-Adventist schools
7. Promoting Adventist education during evangelistic campaigns—have booths display information about the schools and resources associated with the schools.

Youth Department With Education:

- Partner with the education department to plan annual academy leadership training with the goal to strengthen our youths’ commitment to become workers for God in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as well as their communities.

Youth Department With Ministerial:

- Foster a spiritual awakening among the youth and young adults in the church to rekindle a sense of alertness to the prophetic significance of the times in which we live and reignite the flames of hope in the soon return of Jesus Christ.
- Inspire youth and young adults in the church to live in active preparation for the second coming of Christ and to boldly share their faith with their peers.

To ensure the success of these initiatives, the support of all church members is solicited—“It takes a village!” As we see the fulfillment of prophecy

and recognize the closeness of Christ’s return, may God help us to remember, “The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand”—TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, vol. 7, p. 64.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” —EDUCATION, p. 271.

I urge you to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can participate in this effort to nurture the youth in our churches, schools, and youth gatherings. ☺



Astrid Thomassian is the Atlantic Union Conference education and children’s ministries director.

“To ensure the success of these initiatives, the support of all church members is solicited—‘It takes a village!’ ”

Leon and Astrid Thomassian Announce Their Retirement

After a combined total of 80 years of ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, and Astrid Thomassian, Atlantic Union Conference education director, have announced plans to retire, effective September 1, 2016.

Dozens of coworkers, colleagues, and friends celebrated the couple's ministry during a farewell banquet on May 10 at the Chan Shun Dining Commons on the campus of Atlantic Union College. Many guests expressed words of appreciation and love through tributes and gifts. Donald G. King, Atlantic Union Conference president, presented them with a pair of customized rocking chairs imprinted with the Atlantic Union Conference logo on behalf of the administrators and staff.

Leon Thomassian served as undertreasurer and treasurer for the Greater New York Conference before coming to the Atlantic Union Conference in 1993. Prior to that, he worked at the health systems in the Afro-Mideast Division, was controller of the Benghazi



Astrid and Leon Thomassian have announced that they will retire effective September 1 after serving a combined total of 80 years in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Adventist Division headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, and served as secretary/treasurer of the East Mediterranean Conference (comprised of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, and the island of Cyprus). For the past 23 years, Leon Thomassian has served as treasurer, stewardship and trust services director, and office manager for the Atlantic Union Conference. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Astrid Thomassian served as a teacher in Beirut, Lebanon, before going to the Greater New York Conference where she served as a first- and second-grade teacher. She later served as principal of the Jackson

Heights elementary school in New York. When the Thomassians moved to Massachusetts in 1993, Astrid Thomassian taught at Browning elementary school, and later went on to serve as the superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference. She joined the Atlantic Union Conference in 2001 as associate director for the Office of Education, and then became director in 2005.

The Atlantic Union educators thanked Astrid Thomassian for her service and shared their well

wishes during their April 25-28 spring meeting in Ogunquit, Maine. The early childhood community of the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences also had the opportunity to do the same at the Early Childhood Education Rally Day on May 7. She was recognized and presented with gifts and a trophy at the North American Division Spring Advisory in Portland, Oregon, on May 17.

King says, "Leon and Astrid Thomassian have given stellar service to the Atlantic Union Conference, both of whom, together, have given a total of 38 years in the union office. May God continue to bless them both in their retirement years."

We pray for God's continued blessings as the Thomassians move into the next phase of their lives in service to Him.

—Communication staff, Atlantic Union Conference



Leon and Astrid Thomassian, sit in the pair of rocking chairs that were presented to them at a farewell banquet on May 10.



Students at the May 7 Early Childhood Education Rally present Astrid Thomassian with tributes and gifts.

East End Holds Two-week Evangelistic Series

Members on the east end of the island of Bermuda came together in an evangelistic endeavor to spread the name of Jesus. More than 7,000 handbills were printed and distributed into the east end area, from St. George's to Hamilton Parish. The meetings were held at the Midland Heights church, because of its proximity to the island bus transportation system.

In preparation for the event, three joint prayer meetings were conducted, one in each church. An east-end concert was held to support persons in need, who live in the community. A rally was also held, and Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, provided the charge.

Evangelist Robert Davis from Denver, Colorado, presented the "The Story of Redemption" in a unique and powerful way. Beginning at Genesis 1:1, he shared how it was God's plan that man would live forever, having everything he needed in the Garden of Eden. But man sinned. Now he needed a Savior, and throughout history Jesus



The candidates prepare for baptism on the last Sabbath of the evangelistic meetings; on the front row from left are Nelson Outerbridge, Earl Robinson, and Stephen Ming; on the back row are Rosemary McPharlene, Merdene Blake (hidden), and Loretta Gibbons, retired local Bible worker.

provides Himself as Savior to all who accept His grace.

Nightly, each church's gourmet department provided meals to assist with getting people out to the meetings. Loretta Gibbons, retired Bermuda Conference Bible worker, along with five other Bible workers from Jamaica, West Indies, assisted in reaching

the people. They searched from house to house, in the byways and hedges, looking for the lost and pointing them to Jesus.

In the end 10 people were baptized, some of them approaching their employers, requesting and receiving Sabbaths off. On the final Sabbath, the three church gourmet department teams

provided lunch for those who attended. A special "thank you" has been extended to the evangelistic and Bible worker teams, and the churches, for what they did to share Jesus during these weeks.

—D. Randolph Wilson, communication director, Bermuda Conference



D. Randolph Wilson, pastor of the St. George's church, stands with Diane Fox before her baptism.



Evangelist Robert Davis from Denver, Colorado, presents "The Story of Redemption."

Queens Church Closes Service for a Day to Assess Community Needs

More than 100 church members from the Queens Faith Temple (QFT) church gathered for a morning meeting on Sabbath, April 23, in order to conduct an opinion poll among neighbors. The church closed its usual Bible school session and main church service for the entire day in order to accomplish the task.

"This is a process we're initiating to hear from the community," said Hubert Wilkie, pastor of Queens Faith Temple. "The point is to learn from the community what their needs are and how we as a church can better serve them."

Months of planning were undertaken through the leadership of QFT's Personal Ministries team, which focuses on soul winning and an improved lifestyle through the Bible. Thirteen small groups, made up of

15 people per group, were established during these months with a focus on prayer and fellowship.

"QFT had done a similar effort in 2013 by praying with pedestrians and passing out Bible literature. However, this effort is different in that the members not only pray with others, but assess their needs and implement suggestions. This initiative was not about us, but others," Wilkie said.

Children, youth, and older adults participated in these small groups and, on the day of the outreach, were given a colored T-shirt with their group name. "We, as a church, are called to be the light of the world," said Joyce Pilgrim, program coordinator, "but in order to do that, we need to go out where the people are." Manuel Rosario, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries

for the Greater New York Conference, also visited the church and praised the members for their willingness to reach out to the community beyond the church's four walls.

After a brief moment in song and prayer, instructions were given to all participants, and by noon the church members took to the streets to meet with anyone they approached from 225th Street to 204th Street off Merrick and Springfield Boulevards.

"In addition to the survey, neighbors were asked if we could deliver care packages to anyone they knew, because we have a food pantry that delivers healthy food items every Sunday to those in need," said Pilgrim. After two hours, members returned to the church for a hot meal and shared their outreach experiences.

"We discovered that people have a lot to say when asked about their needs," said Pilgrim. "Some people didn't feel the church can help in any way, however, most people we met told us that the church should create more ways to reach the young people and be a church that is accepting of others."

A ceremony was held later that day to officially launch the establishment of the small groups, and the next steps of the outreach were discussed by Wilkie. "We have a five-year plan in place for the church and the community, but relationships in the neighborhood must first be established," he said. "As the mandate in Matthew 28:19, 20 states, the first task of our mission is to 'go.'"

—Kimi-Roux James, Queens Faith Temple communication assistant



Members from Queens Faith Temple showcase their brightly colored T-shirts they wore during the one-day community initiative.

Macedonia's Messenger Meets the Masses

Christ for the Crisis was the opportune theme of Macedonia's two-week evangelistic series, as presidential candidates now strive to gain the minds of the masses. Speaker Allan Hay hails from Georgia by way of Jamaica, West Indies. Hay is a mentor of Julian Campbell, pastor of Macedonia church.

Hay began with the subject of "Trump, Hillary, Bernie, or Cruz?" "Take-away" impressions varied—pianist Ruth Reid felt enriched by Hay's postulation that "Only God can save the country from increasing crises." Joy Towlers agreed that "Politicians promise

anything, but Christ empowers all men." Visitor Albert Campbell was reassured that "No matter who the president is, God is in control."

The next topic was in close alignment with the previous one: "Good News: Fox, ABC, CNN, MSNBC?" Sonia Johnson was assured that "only the Bible has Good News."

The "Affordable Care Act" discourse reminded Mary O'Garro of the gap between health care for the poor, and the well off. Ruth Reid concurred that "Most prevalent diseases today are associated with our diet and lifestyle, although Jesus left guidelines in the Bible." Lisa

O'Garro, a nurse, said she prays with her patients who are grateful for her prayers.

"Crime, Violence, Terror" elicited similar answers from respondents. Visitor Michelle Lewis reiterated that "Satan's wiles persist, but God guides us." Tricia Robertson, a flight attendant, prays for "God's protection against violence or terror."

The subject of "Abortion" brought accord among many members. Jean Simmons agreed that "abortion is so readily available it's considered a form of contraception." Ryan Anthony learned that "rejecting Christ is spiritual abortion," as did Sonia Peters, the church's hospitality hostess.

Other judicious topics included "Wall Street, Main Street," and "So Many Choices: One Right." Members and visitors continued their discussion of the sermons over lunch prepared by Sonia Peters.

The harvest reaped included two baptisms: Wayne Pitts and Bianca Burnett. Pitts said, "I've always wanted to know Christ, and now I've found a place to do that." This sentiment is gratifying to Macedonians who believe they "are known to be Christians by their love."

—Colsome Miah-Logan, communication secretary, Macedonia church

GNYC Church Communication Directors, Send Us Your Stories

We are looking for news and other inspiring stories from your church. How are the members sharing evangelism outside the walls of your church? How are the youth and young adults getting involved in your church?

E-mail your stories with the photos attached as separate files to the Greater New York Conference communication director.

For information on submitting articles, visit: www.atlantic-union.org/writing-guidelines.



Rohann Wellington
Communication Director
Greater New York Conference
E-mail: rwellington@gnyc.org



Calling All Greater New York Academy Alumni!

Please join us for our 95th Anniversary Reunion

Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5

Friday, October 7–Sunday, October 9, 2016

Beginning with a Welcome Table supper at 6:00 p.m.

For details and hotel information, contact us:

on Facebook on "Greater Nya", or
on e-mail at alumni@gnyacademy.org,
or **call GNYA** at (718) 639-1752

USA Commemorates 53rd Alumni Weekend

The Union Springs Academy Alumni Association enjoyed its 53rd annual alumni weekend May 6-8. Union Springs Academy (USA) was established by the New York Conference “near the shores of Lake Cayuga” in Union Springs 95 years ago. Since Pioneer Valley Academy of New Braintree, Massachusetts, closed in 1983, USA is the last remaining traditional Adventist boarding secondary school in the entire Atlantic Union Conference.

More than 200 alumni and friends attended. Some came from as far away as Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, and Florida. One of the eldest in attendance was Marguerite “Mary” S. Ross ’41, who traveled from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

and Samantha Runnals is a fourth-generation alumna.

Sabbath School was presented by members of the 25-year honor class (1991). Earl Holden ’91 gave the general lesson study.

Following the annual roll call, the worship service was largely presented by members of the 50-year honor class (1966) with special guest Bud Schermerhorn ’55, preaching a sermon entitled “Family—the Big Picture.” Schermerhorn was one of the founding members of the USA Alumni Association and served as the organization’s very first president. He and his wife, Joan (Bosworth) Schermerhorn ’59, visited from their home in Tennessee, where Schermerhorn came out of retirement and currently pas-

with help from students for the special music. John C. Schumacher-Hardy ’86 led a testimony period during which alumni were able to share school memories highlighting the spiritual significance of their time at USA. Dennis Nord ’44, Marguerite “Mary” S. Ross ’41, Herb Cox ’66, and Fred Parker ’68 all shared meaningful and entertaining stories from their school days.

Both the annual alumni association business meeting and the alumni-student guys basketball game were held in the gymnasium after the business meeting that followed the vespers program. During the game, alumni were treated to free ice cream sundaes in the Home Economics room. The weekend’s festivities ended after the Sunday afternoon alumni-student soccer games.

Alumni were encouraged to check for updates during the year by logging onto the Union Springs Academy alumni Web site (www.usaalumniassociation.org) and also by joining the Union Springs Academy Alumni page on Facebook.

Alumni were also reminded that this year’s alumni-sponsored USA Campus Renovations Week will be held July 24-29 and newsworthy information is always welcome throughout the year for possible sharing in the RE-ECHOES newsletter.

The association plans to issue more alumni newsletters this coming year, both online and with hard copies mailed to those without Internet access. Folks can sign up to receive RE-ECHOES via e-mail at the alumni Web site.

Due to recent resignations, there are two openings on the executive committee for which volunteers will be considered to fill: one member-at-large position, and the communications secretary position. Also, there will be an opening coming up for the vice president position during an election at next year’s business meeting. Anyone interested in any of these positions is encouraged to contact any of the alumni association officers for more details.

—Alumni Association, Union Springs Academy



Representing the Golden Years are alumni from the 50 year class and back.

Working together, the faculty and staff along with the alumni association provided a memorable weekend for all in attendance. Special events that took place included a tour of the Mackenzie-Childs Production Center, an on-campus tour of Union Springs Academy, and a special Friday-night vesper service hosted by the school’s music department where the senior class, 23 in all, were inducted into the Union Springs Academy Alumni Association.

At least seven 2016 USA seniors are multi-generational alumni: Emalee Ballweber, Laurean Blakes, and Kenneth Fraker are each second-generation alumni; Annelise Burghardt, Rilla Garlock, and Alyssa Walter are each third generation alumnae;

tors at the Graysville church (the oldest Adventist church in the South).

During the preliminaries, Janica (Kaltsas) Caster, class of 1990, was introduced as the new Union Springs Academy development and alumni director.

Sabbath afternoon was also full of activities for the returning alumni. Activities included an appreciation lunch, a program honoring the service of those alumni who have served in the military, and an enjoyable old-fashioned “handshake” event in the gymnasium, where current students and teachers also participated.

Saturday vespers was held in the student chapel area of the Newmyer administration building. The 30-year honor class (1986) organized vespers

Students Recognized at Education Fair

Every year the New York Conference holds an education fair as the conference grand finale of the school year. This is an opportunity for all the elementary students to come together to share one last event and, through projects, share what they have learned over the course of the year.

This year the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, located in Syracuse, New York, provided a special treat for the students through their "Zoo to You" program. Through this program the zoo brought a variety of animals for students to see and learn about.

At the close of the day a very special ceremony was held. All eighth- and ninth-grade students who will be graduating from New York Conference elementary schools were brought to the front of the gym for two



Jeremy Garlock, New York Conference superintendent of schools, talks with students graduating from the eighth and ninth grade in the New York Conference before offering a prayer for them.

reasons. First, they were recognized as members of the conference's "educational family" who would be leaving. Jeremy Garlock, New York Conference superintendent of schools, led out

in prayer for these students, encouraging them to stay close to God and to never forget the family they have been a part of. Second, Todd Coulter, Union Springs Academy principal,

extended a personal invitation to each of the students to attend Union Springs Academy, and thereby stay within the "family."

—Communication department, New York Conference

Union Springs Academy

unionspringsacademy.org

You're Invited!

USA'S 10TH ANNUAL

Skills Week



REGISTER NOW!

This is a great opportunity for teens ages 12-17 to try out dorm life while engaging in fun hands-on workshops, participating in outdoor activities, meeting potential classmates and experiencing the spiritual warmth that fills the Union Springs-Academy campus.

Call now to register or visit our website for printable registration materials. Registration fee is \$99.

CALL 315-899-7314



July 10-17

2016

Annual William Miller Day

Sabbath, July 16, 2016



Featured Speaker:

Jud Lake

Professor

Southern Adventist University

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 9:45 am | Advent Hymns |
| 10:00 am | Sabbath School |
| 11:15 am | Worship Service |
| 2:00 pm | Afternoon Program |

Children's program provided!

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Phone: 518-282-9617

Email: williammillerfarm@gmail.com

Bring a covered dish to share for the fellowship meal

Come and join us for inspiring worship at the place where Adventism was born. Sing early Adventist hymns, and don't miss the opportunity to take a chapel history tour.

On My Bike Across America, God Answered My Prayers Three Times (At Least), Part 1 of 3

From May 1 to June 1 of this year, my son, Beniah, and I rode our bicycles across the U.S. We started our ride by dipping our rear tires in the Pacific Ocean at Bay Center, Washington, then took the “northern tier” route through to Camden, Maine, where we dipped our front tires in the Atlantic Ocean.

The trip was some 3,500 miles in length. It was a fascinating, beautiful, challenging, unforgettable trip and God was our riding partner. I know He was along, because He directly answered my prayers three times (that I know of), and I want to tell you about those times.

The first time was in Montana. We had been in Montana three days and had progressed along Route 200 to Lincoln, where we settled in a small hotel and obsessively reviewed weather forecasts and radar images.

The next day we needed to get to Great Falls, some 90 miles away, but there was a storm moving in and it was a significant one. Lincoln would get some 16 inches of snow starting in the afternoon the next day. If we stayed, we would probably be stuck for three days. If we did continue our ride the next morning, we’d better beat the storm to Rogers Pass (elevation 5,610), some 17 miles on.

Rogers Pass is the continental divide on that road but is also where weather gets a great deal fouler and the wind a great deal faster. We’d have to make it over the pass and quickly drop down into warmer air so that if we caught much of the storm, at least it would come as rain in air that was forecast to be in the mid-50’s. We made our decision: we’d sprint for Rogers Pass.

The weather radar in the morning was not encouraging. It showed the storm was coming in faster and colder than expected. It was already snowing at the pass. We layered on practically all the clothing we’d brought, but it didn’t amount to much. We simply had not packed for winter riding. Once we were underway, rain quickly started and we got soaked to the skin. The rain

turned to sleet and the sleet to snow before we were halfway to Rogers Pass.

A considerable headwind developed and soon we were shivering very seriously. I considered turning around, but I knew that we would soon drop some 3,000 feet and into much warmer air, so we pressed on. Near the pass the headwind became a gale and when we got to the pass all the thoughts of gleeful pictures by the elevation sign were discarded—we were shivering violently and couldn’t even hold a camera.

Once we were over the pass our new problem became apparent: the gale continued up the pass with just as much force. The road from the pass was a steep, steep drop, but against that wind and pedaling as hard as we could, we were managing only 10 mph. Worse yet, we were not dropping into warm air. The air seemed to be at or below freezing and getting colder. We were now shivering uncontrollably and were going hypothermic; and we were doing it on one of the most remote stretches of our whole trip.

I stopped and told Beniah that we needed to find shelter and he quickly nodded, saying, “I can’t feel my hands or feet.” In that area, there are a few widely scattered cabins along the road. We came to one in a couple miles and stopped to knock at the door. To my dismay, no one was home. I stood on their porch staring at their thermometer (29 degrees) for a moment before we soldiered on to the next cabin which, mercifully, was only a mile away. Again, no one was home.

I turned to Beniah and said, “Okay, we’re in a truly dangerous situation. We either call 911 or we try to hitch a ride.” Beniah reflected for only a moment. “Hitch, and if that doesn’t work soon, then call 911.” Thumbing a ride was actually not an unrealistic strategy for two cyclists, as it seemed that everybody—everybody—in Montana drove a pickup-truck and could easily put our bikes in back.

The problem was that we were on a sparsely-traveled road during a storm. Would someone come along in a



Scott Christiansen, Northern New England Conference communication director, at the border between Idaho and Montana.

reasonable amount of time? I nodded my agreement and said, “Let’s pray.” I prayed a three part prayer—that God would send someone quickly, that the person He sent would be going to Great Falls, and that we be able to encourage the person He sent and be a blessing to them.

Still shivering uncontrollably, we turned to look down the road. Amazingly, there was a pickup truck coming in the distance. As he neared we stuck out our thumbs. He pulled over and we explained we were hypothermic and in serious trouble. No problem, he said. He and his wife were headed to Great Falls, where were we going! On our drive into Great Falls, I was able to tell them how God had used them to immediately answer a very specific prayer and we were able to have a meaningful spiritual conversation. God answered every part of my prayer.

Before they call I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear—Isaiah 65:24.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

NNEC Sells Camp Cedar Haven Family Campground

In 2011, the Northern New England Conference made two significant and almost simultaneous real-estate investments: it purchased its current headquarters building in Westbrook, Maine—a truly large investment—and purchased the Camp Cedar Haven campground in Freeport, Maine, a much smaller acquisition.

The two purchases have returned very different results, with the conference headquarters experiencing extraordinary appreciation far in excess of its price, while Camp Cedar Haven has consistently struggled and required additional investment. Early this year, the conference board decided to sell the campground, and that sale was finalized on April 15.

The sale of the 7.1 acre campground was a difficult decision to make. The campground is located close to Pine Tree Academy and is therefore an ideal satellite location for



The sale of Camp Cedar Haven in Freeport, Maine, was finalized on April 15.

some camp meeting attendees (especially those with pets, which are not allowed on camp meeting grounds).

More importantly, under the conference the campground was designed to be a Christian witness and outreach to a unique sector of the population, and the extraordinarily dedicated camp staff had worked to make it just that. Under the guidance of camp manager Rodney Johnson, member of the Woodstock, Maine, church,

not only had the camp and its various plumbing, electrical, and other systems been radically overhauled, but a consistent and precious Christian witness was maintained. Selling the camp would mean extinguishing a light, an agonizing thing to do, which is exactly why the conference was delighted to find a middle path.

“The Lord led to a solution where we could return our management attention completely to the challenges

of the conference while, at the same time, the camp was sold but remained a Seventh-day Adventist Christian witness in the community,” said conference president Bob Cundiff. “The camp has been sold to Ted Crooker, businessman and member of the Topsham church in Maine. He not only has the business experience and investment capacity to maintain and even expand the vision, but he also sees the campground as an outreach and witness. We couldn’t be happier with the arrangement.”

Crooker has been quick to begin investment and expansion at Cedar Haven and those who have visited have been impressed at the vision and plan that are on display. For more information on the campground, go to www.cedarhavenfamilycampground.com.

—Communication Staff, Northern New England Conference

Washington New Hampshire Annual Meeting

August 6, 2016



Guest Speaker

Merlin Knowles

*President, Montana Conference
and
Designer of the Sabbath Trail*

Sabbath School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Potluck Lunch and Afternoon Activities

www.firstadventistchurch.org

A Tribute to Waldo Farnsworth



Waldo Farnsworth (1885-1960)

Washington New Hampshire Church

Friday, August 5, 2016

Summertime Sugar on Snow
3:00 p.m. in the Pavilion

Evening Concert on the Pond
Featuring Merlin Knowles on the Saw

www.firstadventistchurch.org

Chip Health Is in Town

The Village Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, held a CHIP facilitators workshop on the weekend of March 19-20, sponsored by the Health Ministries department and hosted by Marie Barthelemy Sylvain. Thirteen people attended and are now certified to facilitate a CHIP program in their church and their community.

CHIP stands for Complete Health Improvement Program. It is a community-based lifestyle intervention program founded by Hans Diehl from the Lifestyle Medicine Institute in Loma Linda, California. There are 18 sessions to the program and it promises to help people “flip the table” on chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and more, for optimal health.



Thirteen people attended the CHIP facilitators workshop at the Village Church and are certified to facilitate a CHIP program in their church and their community.

Make plans to attend a CHIP program as soon as one is available in your area. To locate a program, visit

adventistchip.org or chiphealth.com.

—Health Ministries department, Village Church

SLA ALUMNI WEEKEND

October 7-9, 2016

- Friday:** 3:00 p.m. - Registration
7:30 p.m. - Vespers, College Church
- Sabbath:** 9:30 a.m. - Sabbath School
11:00 a.m. - Church
1:00 p.m. - Lunch
3:00 p.m. - Class Meetings
5:30 p.m. - Vespers
7:30 p.m. - Supper and Program at Thayer

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Sunset Table

| August 2016 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | Eastern Daylight Saving Time |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|
| Bangor, ME | 7:53 | 7:43 | 7:32 | 7:20 | |
| Portland, ME | 7:56 | 7:46 | 7:35 | 7:24 | |
| Boston, MA | 7:57 | 7:47 | 7:37 | 7:25 | |
| South Lancaster, MA | 7:59 | 7:50 | 7:39 | 7:28 | |
| Pittsfield, MA | 8:05 | 7:56 | 7:45 | 7:34 | |
| Hartford, CT | 8:02 | 7:52 | 7:42 | 7:31 | |
| Providence, RI | 7:57 | 7:47 | 7:37 | 7:26 | |
| New York, NY | 8:05 | 7:55 | 7:46 | 7:35 | |
| Albany, NY | 8:06 | 7:57 | 7:46 | 7:35 | |
| Utica, NY | 8:15 | 8:05 | 7:54 | 7:43 | |
| Syracuse, NY | 8:18 | 8:09 | 7:58 | 7:47 | |
| Rochester, NY | 8:25 | 8:15 | 8:04 | 7:52 | |
| Buffalo, NY | 8:29 | 8:19 | 8:08 | 7:57 | |
| Hamilton, Bda | 8:10 | 8:03 | 7:55 | 7:47 | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK

A mission trip to Chad, Africa, is being organized by Susan and Joe VanGelder, for Oct. 24 through Nov. 7. Anyone who would enjoy helping

children at Bible school (teaching) and malnourished children at the Nutrition Center, helping with carpentry work with repairs of buildings, or the other needs of the mission, are welcome on this trip. Needed for leaving the U.S. are a passport, Visa, vaccines—yellow fever (mandatory) and typhoid. Suggested

are hepatitis A and B, and malaria treatment. The cost is \$1,500 - \$1,800 depending on the airfare. Anyone interested and has a talent that is needed in Bere, Chad, please contact Susan VanGelder at (607) 776-3740 or e-mail: svgservinggod@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

JACOBS, Marva Yvonne (nee Headley)–66; b. March 24, 1949, in St. Peters, Barbados; d. Dec. 29, 2015, in Queens, N.Y. She was a member of the Lebanon church in Queens, N.Y. She enjoyed cooking and used her culinary skills to work as a chef. She was the “choir mother” for Lebanon’s Ambassadors for Christ and Divine Praise choirs. She traveled with the choirs and cooked for them during their trips. She is survived by her husband, Alton Jacobs; two daughters, Kareen and Valerie; and siblings Bullah, Margaret, Jacqueline, Joseph, and their spouses.

THOMAS, Asbury R.–78; b. July 17, 1937, in Abbeville, S.C.; d. Dec. 5, 2015, in Bronx, N.Y. He was a member of the Bronx church in Bronx, New York, and served on the deacon board, usher board, as a member of the Personal Ministries department, and sang in the gospel choir. In 1984, he became a literature evangelist for the Northeastern Conference and earned numerous awards for his work. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lucille Thomas of Bronx, N.Y.; two sons, Barry Thomas and Anjola Thomas, both of Bronx, N.Y.; seven daughters, Aiesha Thomas of Bowie, Md., Jerrilyn McCrary of Albany, N.Y., Shaquana Thomas, Awele Thomas, Shakkia Brown-Thomas, Jennifer Thomas, and Karen Williams-Thomas, all of Bronx, N.Y., two sisters, Doris Warden of Jamaica, N.Y., and Addie Perry of Newbury, S.C.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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EMPLOYMENT

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS BIOLOGY ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SCIENCE. The successful candidate must possess a doctorate from an accredited

institution of higher education. Teaching experience at the college level in the health sciences is most desirable. Must share our love of teaching and interacting with students, be an active Seventh-day Adventist who affirms our teaching on creation. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For more details visit: www.auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks Assistant Dean of men. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience; minimum two years in support services. Candidate must be a Seventh-day Adventist in regular standing and be committed to the values, principles, and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, a copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu; for details visit www.auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks Information Technology and Services (ITS) Director. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty

satisfactorily. Master's degree in Computer Science or equivalent; or four years related experience and/or equivalent combination. Candidate must be a Seventh-day Adventist in regular standing and be committed to the values, principles, and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, a copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu; for details visit www.auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks Administrative Assistant to president. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Associate degree or equivalent from two-year college or technical school; five years of increasingly responsible secretarial and clerical experience is required. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, a copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit www.auc.edu.

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO seeks Maintenance Director for Guam station. Key roles include upkeep of buildings, vehicles, and grounds. HVAC certification preferred. It is the policy of the GC to hire only Seventh-day Adventist

church members. Send resume to Kent Sharpe, sharpek@gc.adventist.org.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist P.A. faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. An appropriate master's degree is essential; prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2017. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for NAD teaching certification. Primary responsibilities include: teaching curriculum and instruction courses and supervising elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience, including lower grades and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2017. E-mail letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

PACIFIC PRESS seeks full time manufacturing employee, experience in operation of printing and/or finishing machines preferred. Must be able to work in standing position for full shift and be able to lift loads up to 40lbs. Candidates should possess a mechanical aptitude, a desire to follow safety procedures and be depend-



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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Nursing Department seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; M.S.N. considered. Experience in mental health, medical/surgical or pediatrics preferred. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Sallieann Hoffer (shoffer@swau.edu).

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has two faculty openings in Music, and one in Psychology for Fall 2016. To view the respective job descriptions and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. We invite you to share this announcement as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: www.wallawalla.edu.

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Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff
E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

Editor: Ednor A. P. Davison
Circulation/Back Pages/Proofreader: Debra McKinney Banks
Copy Editor (off-site): Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design (off-site): Haziel Olivera

Contributors

Bermuda: D. Randolph Wilson, drwilson@northrock.bm
Greater New York: Rohann Wellington, rwellington@gnyc.org
New York: Jeremy Garlock, jeremy.garlock@nyconf.org
Northeastern: JeNeen Lendor, jlendor@northeastern.org
Northern New England: Scott Christiansen, schristiansen@nnecc.org
Southern New England: David Dennis, skypilot@sneconline.org
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Atlantic Union Conference Departments

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Public Affairs/Religious Liberty, Assistant: John Ashmeade
Publishing: Donald G. King
Revolving Fund: Violet Bidwell
Sabbath School: Dionisio Olivo
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Trust Services/Inner City/Loss Control: Leon D. Thomassian
Women's Ministries: Lois King

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Greater New York: G. Earl Knight, President; Henry Beras, Secretary; Ebenezer Agboka, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Web site: www.gnyc.org

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