



# SLA SPIRIT

AUGUST 2016

## Making Plans for Alumni Weekend

by Donna Burke Edmondson, '61  
SLA Alumni President

Another year has passed and it's time to bring out the purple and white SLA school colors. October 7, 8 and 9 will be here before you know it. The most wonderful part of Alumni Weekend is being with you, our classmates and friends.

Some of us make the pilgrimage to South Lancaster every year, whether it is an honor year or not. For others, this may be your first time back since graduation. No matter when or how often you have returned to SLA, you will be most welcomed by the Alumni Association Officers, your classmates and friends.

If you graduated in a year ending in a 1 or a 6, this is your honor year. Please contact your classmates and get as many as possible to meet you at SLA. If you have moved or changed contact information, share the new information with the Alumni Association and your classmates. We especially need your email addresses to send out our

newsletter, *The SLA Spirit*. As you may have noticed, we have gone electronic when possible. We also need address changes so that we don't have so many newsletters returned marked "undeliverable." We want to stay connected and are committed to doing so. Please forward your updated contact information to us at SLA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 864, South Lancaster, MA 01561, or by email at [www.slaalumni@outlook.com](mailto:www.slaalumni@outlook.com).

We have another fabulous weekend planned for you; exciting speakers, inspiring music by our most talented SLA students, and a Saturday night supper and program that you are sure to enjoy. Be prepared to laugh, sing and have fun.

As you can see, it does take a village and we are in need of more help. It is a tremendous undertaking to plan, prepare and execute the duties of the Alumni Association, and plan the programs and make arrangements for the next alumni weekend. In addition to the specific tasks listed above, each member of the association to regular teleconferences to contribute ideas, "leg work" and phone follow-ups to plan, arrange, and finalize the plans for the next alumni weekend. We make a great effort to make every alumni weekend interesting, exciting, and run smoothly for each of you who attend.

Our committee of dedicated alumni officers needs several volunteers on Alumni Weekend. Tables and chairs need to be set up in the lobby of the school on Registration Friday. We also need volunteers to set up and



Jean Timura Lawler '59, Donna Burke Edmondson '61, Dwight and Bernice Sommers, and Barbara Timura Johnson '56

take down our equipment in the College Church on Friday afternoon and after church on Sabbath. We always need lots of help after our supper/program on Saturday night. If you can assist in any of these needs, don't hesitate to jump right in and help. Don't wait for a call. All help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

We need volunteers to keep up with their classmates and keep and forward new contact information that they may gather, providing it is with the permission of that classmate. Next year we will need Class Representatives for Honor Classes ending in 2 and 7. Please step up and volunteer to be your class rep. It makes a big difference in the number of people from your class who will return, and your enjoyment of Alumni Weekend!

There are many other duties to attend to but keep in mind this is our school, our friends and classmates. We especially wish to encourage the younger alumni to get involved, so we won't have such a generation gap. We want Alumni Weekend to be enjoyed by all.

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## Greetings, Class of 1961

by Donna Burke Edmondson '61

Class Representative

Who would believe it is time for our 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion! In 1961 we never would have believed that we would be the "old people" sitting in the circle laughing and having fun. Well it's true, and the time is here.

I hope all of you are making your plans to join your classmates in October. That's October 7, 8 and 9. Some of you will be staying with friends and family, the rest of us will be making reservations. DON'T WAIT, do it now! The hotel, motel and local bed and breakfasts are listed in this newsletter, but the rooms are filling up fast.

I have made reservations for our class to have brunch at The Old Mill in Westminster. That landmark holds such fond memories for all of us. I need all of you to let me know how many of you will be coming with us, so I can give The Old Mill a final count. The cost of the brunch is under \$25.00 each. I will make final arrangements in September. There will be vegetarian meals available. Please contact me as soon as possible so I can complete my list. You can email me at [edmondson1@gmail.com](mailto:edmondson1@gmail.com), or private message me on Facebook. You can always call me on my cell phone at 615-714-7871.

One last note: don't forget to purchase your meal tickets for lunch on Sabbath. Lunch is \$11.00 each for adults and \$6.00 for children. You can purchase your tickets in advance on our website at [slaalumni.org](http://slaalumni.org).

We have a wonderful supper and short entertainment program on Saturday night. That also requires letting us know that you're coming. These meals are catered and we must let the caterers know how many to prepare for.

Don't forget to get your purple on. I love to see that sea of purple and white when I look out from the front of the church.

If you know of classmates that may not get this announcement for some reason, reach out to them, share and encourage them to come with you. If you know of a classmate that has moved or changed telephone numbers, encourage them to share their information with us, or allow you to forward their contact information. I want all of you to be there.

I am so looking forward to seeing you again. We have such good times, every time. God bless; safe travels. See you soon!

## Taking Stock in South Lancaster

by Anthony C. Spence '80

In November of 1883 Ellen White arrived in South Lancaster for a ten-day series of meetings. She had come because of concerns she had about the school. At the annual session of the New England Conference, at a campmeeting in Worcester, she spoke on behalf of the school. She had made a two-day visit to South Lancaster in August. Even though she was sick, she spent time with the school board. When she returned in November, she pledged to lend support for permanent buildings for the school.

Mrs. White was very impressed with the school and the students. The 5:30 a.m. meetings were well attended and so were the meetings on Thanksgiving Day. Stephen Haskell and members of the New England Conference came together to consider the future of the school. There was talk about the budget and how much it would be. The school needed a permanent footing established. Within a half hour about \$7,000 was pledged and by the end of the meeting about \$12,500 had been committed toward the purchase of property and the erection of new school buildings.

Mrs. White saw the commitment of the local Adventists, but also urged that Adventists across the country support the little school in South Lancaster. There was talk that the school in South Lancaster would threaten the one at Battle Creek. Ellen White stated that the work of God has to go everywhere and it was a good thing for the Eastern part of the United States. It was not designed to take the place of Battle Creek. Even though she didn't have much money, Ellen White set an example of buying 1,000 shares of stock in the school, which made her a stockholder.

As they moved toward incorporation for the school, meeting at Haskell's house, they approved the constitution and by-laws for the proposed corporation. They elected officers, Stephen Haskell, president, D. A. Robinson, clerk, G. Bell, auditor and Emory P. Farnsworth, treasurer. Then they elected themselves and C. E. Palmer as the board of trustees.

When they were talking with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to get a charter of incorporation, they had to think of a name. There are no records that told of a list of possible names but "South Lancaster Academy" became the official name on December 12, 1883 when Henry Peirce, the secretary of the Commonwealth, certified the incorporation of the school.



## Graduation 2016

by Phyllis Fales Sabol '65

Twenty-six fresh-faced teenagers posed for photos on the back steps of Haskell Hall. Their faces were full of hope as they exuberantly “cut up” for the cameras. Parents surrounded the group in a loose semi-circle snapping pictures and nodding to one another in congratulatory mode. Committed families all, they did whatever they had to do to give this child a quality Christian education. And the day belonged to all of them.

The graduates excitedly made their way down the center aisle in Machlan to a rendition of *Pomp and Circumstance* and took their places on the stage, the same stage most of us sat on many years ago. Different, yet the same. It was not hard to be transported back to my own graduation and to remember how I felt. This is what makes graduation so special, I think. Most of us have had one or more graduations but the high school graduation stands out as so very special. It is the first time we come face to face with our own future, the first time our future is to be shaped by ourselves, sort of like the first time you got the car keys from Dad, but even more important.

There was an invocation, welcome, and then a musical selection by three of the senior girls. Two young ladies were named in the Program but true to our spirit as seniors, they grabbed their girlfriend and told her she had to sing with them too. The address was given by Dr. Roger Bothwell. The graduates obviously connected with this man who they had seen and heard over the years. Bringing us up to date with what’s “new” to us in the cosmos, his message centered on being ready for the New World we all hope to inhabit.

Jared Allain’s president’s address was touching and sometimes funny as he used a one liner to describe every individual graduate. Since each student contributes something different, the delight of the seniors showed us how right on Jared was!



The Class of 2016 in the traditional photograph on the stairs of Haskell Hall. Welcome to the SLA Alumni Association!

The SLA Alumni Association awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to two juniors who will be able to use their award during their senior year. These awards went to Valerie Baez and Isadora Ferreira, and were awarded for outstanding citizenship, participation in community and school, and good academics.

Diplomas were presented by Jeffery Lambert, Principal and Theresa Robidoux, Registrar. Photos were taken and the Class of 2016 was welcomed into the SLA Alumni Association.

### New SLA Alumni President

by Donna Burke Edmondson '61

This Alumni Weekend I will resign as Alumni Association President having served two terms. I have greatly enjoyed my years as your president. Due to a new job and health issues I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties as President. I will still be involved, but not as president. This association does not run on its own. It takes a village.

Jan Kendrick '66 is an invaluable asset to the Association. Without her, we would not be able to get the Newsletter, *The SLA Spirit*, written, assembled, edited and to the printer. She is also responsible for many of us receiving our paper on line.

Deb Bernet Gifford '75 is our new treasurer. Deb is very organized and prompt in her new duties, taking over for our dear friend June Harris '65 who we lost in March of this year. She is greatly missed. We appreciate Deb for stepping in.

Phyllis Fales Sabol '65 has taken the Assistant Treasurer position. She is also keeping the master list for alumni contacts. Be sure to keep us updated with any new information you need us to know. Name change, address, phone numbers, and email address can all be forwarded to SLA Alumni at [slaalumni@outlook.com](mailto:slaalumni@outlook.com).

Nancy Johnson Wood '65 is our new Secretary. If you want something done quickly, Nancy is the one to do it. She is doing a marvelous job.

Anthony Spence '80 is our Historian. Look for Tony's very interesting articles on the history of our school in our Newsletters.

David Adams '66 is our Official Photographer and Webmaster. You will see David at all the events on Alumni Weekend. He then transforms his magic into our Newsletter and on the Website.

In addition to the individual responsibilities listed for the officers above, the officers meet to plan the next alumni weekend, working to make sure everything that we have planned goes as well as expected.



### **Go the Distance**

*by Jeffrey Lambert '02*  
*SLA Principal*

Each summer the Strand Theatre in Clinton, MA shows a weekly classic film. On one of those beautiful warm nights I went to see one of my favorite movies, "Field of Dreams." Questionable Biblical theology aside, this film's message never fails to resonate with me.

A regular farmer from Iowa named Ray Kinsella is out in his corn field one day, and hears a voice repeatedly saying "If you build it, they will come." At great expense to his own personal reputation and his family's future security, Ray steps out in faith each time the voice gives him a directive. There is something beautiful about the depiction of God in this film, as He uses Ray to bring the smallest bit of peace and comfort to a disgraced ballplayer, a disgruntled writer, and a man whose dreams never came to pass. Ray was willing to take on great feats to make a positive impact on others throughout the film, and in turn, he eased his own pain and found peace in the process.

Like Ray, God can work through each of us, in ways that may seem insignificant at first, to contribute to the peace and welfare of another. We may not see the results immediately, but we will see God's hand as time progresses. Our jaws will drop when we see how our seemingly insignificant acts of faith worked together for good in the lives of others.

I believe we can all step out in faith as we begin this new school year. Together, we can build a school that provides an environment of safety and happiness for our children. We each have a part to play in this, and God's still small voice can guide each of us to contribute to the makings of a beautiful community tapestry. If we love one another, hold one another up, and put others before ourselves, we will in turn find that peace that passes all understanding. God is waiting for us to work together to accomplish great things - and what greater feat can we be a part of than making South Lancaster Academy the epicenter of hastening Christ's return?

Just like Ray Kinsella, I believe that if WE build it, He will come.

### **Travel Plans for Alumni Weekend**

*by Janice Kendrick '66*

Anyone flying into Boston can arrange transportation from the airport to AUC or hotels with the local airport transportation companies:

**Knights Airport Service 800-822-5456**

**Worcester Airport Limo 800-660-0992**

**Enterprise Car Rental**, Main St., Clinton is nearby for local car rental. Call 800-736-8222 to make reservations.

If you don't have hotel reservations yet, please note that area hotels are nearing capacity and will soon be sold out, if not already full. It is a holiday weekend, and the weekend that most people come to New England to view the fall colors, so *make your reservations immediately, and reserve your meal tickets for the weekend by visiting the SLA Alumni website at [www.slaalumni.com](http://www.slaalumni.com).*

### **RV Parking available**

Parking is available for RVs on Sterling Road, South Lancaster. To reach this location, take Main Street from the school toward Clinton. Bear right on Sterling Road at the gas station, and pass the S.N.E. Conference Office on your right. Take the THIRD driveway on the right, which is a U. There are electrical hook-ups and spaces available there. Please call the SNE Conference Office for more details and to reserve your spot at 978-365-4551.

## **MEAL TICKET PURCHASE**

The meal ticket reservation and purchase process has moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Reserve and purchase your tickets in advance on the SLA Alumni website at [www.slaalumni.org](http://www.slaalumni.org).

Complete the form and click on "Pay Now," and you will be connected to the SLA payment page. Payments can be processed via charge, debit or PayPal accounts.

Not only will you be able to purchase tickets for Sabbath lunch, but also for the Saturday night supper. When you make your travel plans to return to SLA, please make sure that you use our advance ticket purchase process. It will also help us to plan for the appropriate number of alumni for these meals.

## SLA Alumni 50-Year Class - 1966

by Janice Kendrick '66

I'm sure that you are no different than I am in being shocked that we are already at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. I know I never expected to be this OLD and be one of "those old people" coming back for their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Well, like it or not, we're here, and "they" are now US!

The alumni committee has been working busily on plans for our 50<sup>th</sup> since last November, so we're just about ready, and it should be a great time. We are planning another excellent program for Saturday night in the Hootenanny mode, or "Back to the '60s," if that sounds better. We have two guitar players for some of the folk songs of our time, and a pianist, along with a core group of singers to keep us all on track, and in tune, so bring your voices, and dress in the clothes of the '60s if that's what floats your boat, otherwise, dress casually either way, we'll have a great time.

The final part of the weekend which will be set especially for our class is a Sunday brunch at the Old Mill in Westminster. Many of us have pleasant memories of dinners or banquets there with our respective date for the evening, which sometimes turned out to be our life choice. Those days in academy influenced us in so many ways, and we just want to celebrate, catch up, chat, and have a wonderful time with our old friends (not OLD, mind you!).

We also want to include those in the Class of '66 who defected to PVA for their final year. We still love you, and hope you can join us again. A few intrepid PVA graduates have joined us for earlier honor years, and it was great to see them again!



*Class of '66 in 2011 at their 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Let's get everyone here for our 50<sup>th</sup>!*

We've been hearing from some of you in the Class of '66, and it has been great talking to you, either on the phone, email

or Facebook. Linnea Johnson Mesaric-Davis has been doing a bang-up job of tracking down those few who we didn't have on our lists, and we still want to hear from each one of you who attended SLA with the Class of '66. We want to make this alumni weekend a wonderful experience for each one of you, and leave you with pleasant memories of your one and only 50<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend.



*Larry and Diane Falldorf '66 Brown, Beverly Johnson Waterman '66 and Charlie Waterman '62 enjoy lunch at Thayer in 2011.*

Here's where we need something from you. In order to plan for these events we need to know if you are coming, and what you plan to attend. We would appreciate it if you would reply with your plans for the weekend, what meals you will want (Sabbath lunch, Saturday night supper, and Sunday brunch are the choices). This would help us a lot, and it will get us excited knowing we will be seeing you very soon. You may email this information to our email at [slaalumni@outlook.com](mailto:slaalumni@outlook.com), or on the SLA Class of '66 Facebook site.

So, here's what's going on in my life . . . well, let's save it for alumni weekend! I want to hear from you, and hopefully you will be here to enjoy our 50<sup>th</sup>!

### SLA Officers and contact information

President	Donna Edmondson '61
Vice-President	Janice Kendrick '66
Secretary	Nancy Wood '65
Ass't Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Deb Gifford '75
Assistant Treasurer	Phyllis Sabol '65
Historian	Anthony Spence '80
Webmaster	David Adamson '66

### SLA Alumni Contact Information

Email: [slaalumni@outlook.com](mailto:slaalumni@outlook.com)

Facebook: SLA Alumni Association

## ***SLA Building Project***

*by Donna Burke Edmondson '61*

Another school year has flown by and we are almost ready to start the new session at the end of August. By now, we are all aware, or at least have heard something about the "Building for Eternity" Campaign. This is not just talk or rumors. This campaign is real, the need is most urgently real and we, as alumni, must respond.

Go to the SLA website and take a look at the new Case Statement. The building committee has worked hard at developing this new statement. It is very well done and should answer any questions you may have about this project. Share it with your friends and family.

South Lancaster Academy has served all of us well. We have nothing to be ashamed of or to be embarrassed by. Some of us have gone on to an institution of higher learning, colleges and universities and beyond. We have done well in all areas of professional careers and job opportunities.

We have had and still have, highly qualified teachers, staff, principals and updated curriculum. They have dedicated their lives to ensuring that all students receive an education that prepares them for life's journey, not just preparing them for colleges and universities.

There is something very special about a small, private school. You know that students are not in crowded classrooms. Special attention is given, whether it involves areas of classroom needs or personal needs. Students get to know each other and their families and the staff has the opportunity to really know their students. They are getting a quality education.

SLA has received highest accreditation for a private school from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The students have updated their method of studying by doing most subjects on their computer or sharing on line classrooms. This means they are staying current with most other schools across the country. SLA is now in need of a physical plant that can be updated, expanded and safe to meet the growing enrollment and needs required by the Commonwealth. The present facility is just plain worn out. It's over 50 years old. Let's fix it Alumni!

This is a HUGE undertaking, but a very necessary one. Most school capital improvement plans are funded or greatly assisted by their alumni. We must do the same for our Alma Mata.

The Alumni Association Committee has set a goal for us, as alumni, to raise \$2,000,000 as our part of the total campaign project of \$8,200,000. Alumni, we can do this!

Some of you may not be able to give large amounts at one time, but you can give a larger amount over 1-2 years. Some of you have been very blessed and may be able to give donations in the \$10,000- \$100,000 amounts.

Don't gasp, some of us will spend that much money on other things that may not be as satisfying as knowing you have helped put YOUR school back where it should be and where it must be, and very soon.

Another suggestion for getting our goal sooner, as opposed to later, is for each alum to share the Case Statement and ask 10 family members or friends in your circle to donate \$100.00 or more. If you all did this right away, we would have over \$1,000,000 raised in a couple of weeks.

Our Alumni Association Committee has a goal of raising these needed funds by Alumni Weekend, October 7-9, 2016.

Classes of any year, challenge each other to see who can raise the most by class. I am challenging the class of 1961 to lead the way.

Make your donations to:

South Lancaster Academy  
P.O. Box 1129  
South Lancaster, MA 01561

Mark it Building Campaign or Building for Eternity. SLA is proud of you, and asks that you put in place, a plan to make SLA, your school, a school you can be proud of. Thank you, Alumni. We can do this. Yes we can!

### **2016 Honor Class Representatives:**

1961 – 55-yr. – Donna Burke Edmondson  
1966 – 50-yr – Linnea Johnson Mesaric-Davis and  
Janice Kendrick  
1981 – 35-yr – Leon King

Having a designated class representative makes all the difference in your enjoyment of your honor class weekend, and, pivotally, in the number of classmates that show up for the weekend. Even at this late date you will find that it is helpful to make a few calls to your classmates to get a good turnout. You can make it happen and have a wonderful alumni weekend with your classmates. Contact us. We will help you get started in finding your classmates and planning your special weekend of memories at email [slaalumni@outlook.com](mailto:slaalumni@outlook.com) or on our Facebook page.

## Where to Stay – RESERVE EARLY!

**Best Western Royal Plaza Marlboro**  
181 Boston Post Road  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
508-460-0700  
\$150-170

[www.rplazahotels.com](http://www.rplazahotels.com)

**Charlotte's House B & B**  
96 South Bolton Road  
Bolton, MA 01740  
\$105-120  
978-779-5005

**Chocksett Inn**  
59 Laurelwood Road  
Sterling, MA 01564  
978-422-3355  
From \$140 – 4 night minimum  
[www.chocksettinn.com](http://www.chocksettinn.com)

**College Town Inn**  
12 Old Common Road  
Lancaster, MA 01523  
978-368-7000  
\$85-150  
Reserve EARLY!

**Colonial Hotel**  
625 Betty Spring Road  
Gardner, MA 01440  
\$170  
978-630-2500  
[www.colonial-hotel.com](http://www.colonial-hotel.com)

**Day's Inn**  
482 N. Main Street  
Leominster, MA 01453  
\$73  
978-537-2800  
[www.daysinn.com/hotels/massachusetts/leominster.com](http://www.daysinn.com/hotels/massachusetts/leominster.com)

**Double Tree by Hilton Leominster**  
99 Erdman Way  
Leominster, MA 01453  
978-534-9000  
\$140-160  
\*Train pick-up  
[www.doubletree.hilton.com/leominster](http://www.doubletree.hilton.com/leominster)

**Hampton Inn Marlborough**  
277 Boston Post Road West,  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
508-787-9888  
\$140-190  
[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
59 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434  
978-772-0600  
\$108-199  
[www.Hiltoninn.hilton.com/Devens](http://www.Hiltoninn.hilton.com/Devens)

**Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods**  
242 Adams Place, I-495, Exit 28  
Boxborough, MA 01719  
\$120-200  
978-263-8701  
\*\*\*\$149 special/10 rooms held  
[www.Holidayinn.com/Boxborough](http://www.Holidayinn.com/Boxborough)

**Holiday Inn Hudson**  
121 Coolidge Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-462-1001  
\*Train pick-up  
\$120-150  
[www.hiexpress.com.Hudson](http://www.hiexpress.com.Hudson)

**Springhill Suites Devens**  
27 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434  
978-772-3030  
\$129-199  
\*Train pick-up  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

**Stowaway Inn B&B**  
271 Great Road  
Stow, MA 01775  
978-897-1999  
\$95-105  
[www.stowawayinn.com](http://www.stowawayinn.com)



*Back in the day – no slacks, no short skirts, stockings or socks required, “proper shoes” . . . lots of rules!*

SLA Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 864  
South Lancaster, MA 01561

**Return Address Requested**

Visit us on Facebook at the SLA Alumni Official Facebook Website

And on our website at [www.slaalumni.org](http://www.slaalumni.org)

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**October 7-9 Weekend At A Glance**

**Oct. 8, Friday**

- 3:00 Registration, SLA
- 3:00 Spaghetti supper, Fundraiser for SLA
- 7:30 Vespers, College Church  
Musical Meditations

**Oct. 9, Sabbath**

- 8:30 Registration, College Church
- 9:30 Sabbath School, College Church
- 11:00 Worship Service, College Church, Larry Brown
- 1:00 Luncheon at Chan Shun Dining Commons  
Tickets in advance or at the door
- 3:00 Class Meetings, SLA
- 5:30 Vespers, Village Church, Class of '81
- 7:30 Evening Dinner and program at Thayer
- 7:30 Basketball games, SLA

*The Class of 1961, 50-year Honor Class in 2011*

