

16th ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING



**WE'VE COME  
THIS FAR BY**  
*Faith*  
**THE BEST IS  
YET TO COME...**

**Los Angeles Adventist Academy  
846 East El Segundo Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90059  
[laaa-alumni.org](http://laaa-alumni.org)**

**LAAA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**MARCH 13-16, 2025**

# Welcome

## Greetings,

Welcome to the Los Angeles Adventist Academy, 16th Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend. The Alumni Association Committee has worked tirelessly to create this moment for you to fellowship with old friends and classmates, to worship, and to support the community of LAAA. This year has been a season of highs and lows. Through our work, I was reconnected with my best friend from second grade at LA Union. Through much prayer and support for Adventist education we witnessed and celebrated the reopening of the High School beginning with Grade 9. Selah! Many of the alumni have overcome life threatening challenges, including myself. At the beginning of my term, I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer. Standing on the belief that God called me into service and that He would heal me for this reason and this season, I endured and served through three surgeries and 16 rounds of chemo. All Thanks be to God, I am standing strong. Chil'....I even gained weight during my treatment! Unfortunately, some of the alumni experienced devastating lows! Over 20 of our alumni lost their homes in the Altadena wildfires. The Friday evening Vespers and Agape Feast will be dedicated to prayers for strength and restoration. Our theme, for this year's homecoming is "We've Come This Far By Faith; The Best Is Yet To Come". Because of our faith, God has sustained Los Angeles Union, Lynwood Academy and Los Angeles Adventist Academy through 102 years of storms and trials that could have been the cause of our demise. But not so! As we shore up our forces to withstand another 100 years, we do so knowing that God will continually support us in providing exemplary education, a safe secure place where students can worship, study God's word, grow in confidence and form lifelong friendships. We are living in trying times. Many dark days have made our paths difficult to navigate, but we stand on the promises of God. We believe that "the fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much," we hold to the truth that the "good work that God has begun in us will continue until the end," we testify that "by our faith, we are justified" and proclaim that the world will be filled with God's Glory!!!! That's scripture y'all! Scripture that I learned growing and moving through these sacred halls.

It has been such an honor to serve as President of the Alumni Association. I applaud the Executive Board for their many hours of planning and orchestrating events during this term. Team work makes the dream work!! I am so grateful for the determination of my parents, Joseph and Lena Taylor to ensure all their children received a Christian education. Because of their commitment, they created a 74-year legacy of the Taylor tribe matriculating through SDA elementary, high school and colleges around the country. Do not let this weekend pass without picking up the mantle of stewardship to Los Angeles Adventist Academy. You can join the movement and strengthen this community. We are on a mission to create one of the finest educational agencies in the world. Take advantage of the many options to lend your talents, time and treasures and be a blessing to LAAA.

Our fundraising goal for this weekend is \$50,000. We encourage you to join the Alumni Association and also commit to the 25:4:25 Campaign. That's \$25 a month for the year of 2025. Additionally, there is a Wish List created by each teacher of items and resources needed to enhance classroom instruction.

Peruse the list and select which resources you can provide. They will be greatly appreciated. In closing, it is my prayer that goodness will reign on this 2025 LAAA Homecoming Weekend and that a renewed and refreshing fire will be ignited in our hearts and souls. We hope you will hang out with us for the entire weekend. Stay tuned..... because the 'Best Is Yet To Come!

- Carmen Taylor Jones





# HONOREE & BOARD MEMBERS



Alumna of the Year  
**Floretta Taylor Gasket**  
CLASS OF 1963



Alumnus of the Year  
**David Harrington**  
CLASS OF 1982



Family of the Year  
**Christopher and  
Lanis Miller Family**



Former Faculty/  
Staff of the Year  
**Ruth McCalman**



Former Faculty/  
Staff of the Year  
(Posthumous)  
**Harold Rich**



Former Faculty/  
Staff of the Year  
(Posthumous)  
**Herbert Nelson**



**Carmen Taylor Jones**  
President



**Janet Corbin**  
Vice President



**David C. Love**  
Executive Secretary



**David Harrington**  
Treasurer



**Kelli Smith Angus**  
Membership Secretary



**Carol Warren Todd**  
Principal



**Harold Burnett**  
Immediate Past President



**Paula Dudley**  
Member at Large



**Damon Madkin**  
Member at Large



**Darrylyn Peak**  
Member at Large



**Warren Todd**  
Member at Large



**Carolyn Taylor Maxwell**  
Member at Large



**Sheri Taylor Jones**  
Member at Large



**Christopher Miller**  
Member at Large

**LaKecia McCaleb**  
Member at Large

**Yolanda Moore Stewart**  
Member at Large

# Weekend AT A GLANCE

## Thursday

- \* **Presidential Opening Ceremony**

7PM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Auditorium

## Friday

- \* **Vespers and Agape Feast**

6:30PM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Lorenzo Paytee Pavillion  
*(Choir rehearsals follows immediately)*

## Sabbath

- \* **Sabbath School**

10:00AM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Lorenzo Paytee Pavillion

- \* **Divine Worship Service**

11:15AM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Lorenzo Paytee Pavillion

- \* **Luncheon**

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Auditorium

- \* **AY/Rewards Program**

3PM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Auditorium

## Saturday Evening

- \* **Presentation: *Straight From Tha Underground***

6PM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Lorenzo Paytee Pavillion

## Sunday

- \* **Pancake Breakfast**

9AM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Cafeteria

- \* **Association Meeting**

11:30AM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Auditorium

- \* **Campus Tour**

2PM

Starting Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Auditorium

- \* **Basketball Tournament and Social**

3PM-5PM

Location: Los Angeles Adventist Academy Lorenzo Paytee Pavillion



# Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:00 PM - LAAA Auditorium

## Presidential Opening Ceremony

Opening Prayer.....	<b>Vanentri Daniels, LAAA Student</b>
Welcome.....	<b>Justice Taylor, LAAA Student</b>
Scripture.....	<b>Vanentri Daniels, LAAA Student</b>
Special Presentation.....	<b>LAAA Praise Dance Team</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Carmen Taylor Jones, President, LAAA Alumni Association</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Carol Todd, Principal LAAA</b>

**Introduction of Distinguished Alumni of the Year and Weekend  
Grand Marshal – Carson City Councilman Cedric Hicks**

**Sheri Taylor Jones, LAAA Alumni Association Member At Large**

Special Presentation.....	<b>LAAA Bell Choir</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Dr. Benita R. Knight, Founding President, LAAA Alumni Association</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Kristie Green, PTO President, LAAA</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Vicki Varnado, School Board Chair, LAAA</b>
Special Black History Presentation.....	<b>LAAA Junior High Students</b>
Remarks.....	<b>Elder John Cress, President SCC, Elder Royal Harrison, Vice President SCC, Elder Virgil Childs, Vice President Black Ministries PUC</b>
Closing Prayer.....	<b>Janet Corbin, Vice President, LAAA Alumni Association</b>

## Biography of CEDRIC L. HICKS



Cedric L. Hicks, Sr. graduated from Los Angeles Union SDA School in 1976. He also graduated from Los Angeles Harbor College, California State University Fullerton, and California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Master Degree in Behavioral Science. Lastly , he graduated from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA in the Johnson and Johnson Fellows program.Councilman Hicks has been on the

City Council since being appointed on April 19, 2016, and has been re-elected by the residents of Carson 3 times. His outreach and involvement in representing Carson has expanded to being on the Executive Board for California Contract Cities Association and Legislative Committee, Chair of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), Chair for National League of Cities, California Region 20 National Black Caucus of Locally Elected Officials, CSUDH Board member for Center of Innovation in STEM Education (CISE) & Executive Board member of Clean Power Alliance & Legislative Chair. Moreover, Cedric is a family man. He and his wife Philipta have raised 3 children and are now proud grandparents. For over 25 years, they have made Carson their home. He is committed to continuing to protect and elevate the good that make the Carson community a great place to live, work, and play.

Evening Vespers

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Special Music

Introduction of Speaker

Message.....**Dr. James Kyle, Pastor, Living Hope Church**

Agape Feast

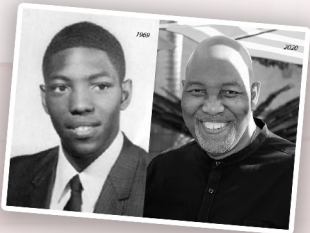
Biography of **DR. JAMES KYLE**



Dr. James Kyle graduated from Los Angeles Union SDA School in 1965 and Lynwood Academy in 1969. He earned his Bachelor Degree in Theology and Master Degree in Divinity. He pastored several churches in the Los Angeles area before returning to UCLA and earning his medical degree.

He has pastored the Delaware Avenue, Miramonte, Breath of Life, Berean, Tamarind Ave and Vallejo Drive

SDA churches. He has served in numerous leadership roles in Medical Education, managed care and healthcare delivery, including Senior Associate Dean at Charles Drew University, Dean of Public Health at Loma Linda University, and Chief Health Equity Officer at LA Care. He currently serves as the Senior Medical Director for Quality and Equity at Molina Healthcare and Senior Pastor of the Living Hope SDA Church. He is also an Army Medical Corp veteran. He is the husband of one wife and the father of two adult sons.



# Saturday, March 15, 2025

## 10:00 AM - LAAA Paytee Pavillion

### Sabbath School

Opening Prayer.....**Paula Dudley, Class of 1985**

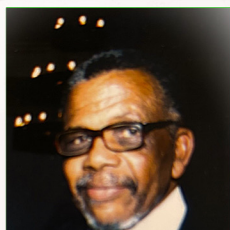
Special Music.....**Carmen Taylor Jones, Class of 1979**

Introduction.....**Jesselle Taylor, Grade 3, LAAA**

Lesson Study.....**Elder Jonathon Taylor, Watts New Hope,  
Class of 1969**

Closing Prayer.....**Paula Dudley, Class of 1985**

### Biography of **ELDER JONATHAN TAYLOR**



Elder Jonathan Taylor is one of eleven children of Joseph & Lena Taylor. He graduated from Los Angeles Union SDA School in 1965 and Lynwood Academy in 1969. He continued his education earning his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Education. He is a committed member of the Watts Hew Hope SDA Church where he serves currently as Head Elder/Lay Pastor.

Elder Taylor sees the blessing of Christian education at LAAA as his own five children and two of his grandchildren were students and graduates of Los Angeles Adventist Academy. Victory of the Holy Spirit at Los Angeles Adventist Academy is his continued prayer.





# Saturday, March 15, 2025

## 11:15 AM - LAAA Paytee Pavillion

### Divine Worship Service

Prelude.....	LAAA Bell Choir
Introit..... <i>We've Come This Far By Faith</i> .....	LAAA Alumni Choir and Platform Participants
Invocation.....	Barrington Taylor Jones, <i>Class of 1979</i>
Special Presentation.....	Elder Jonathon Taylor, <i>Watts New Hope, Class of 1969</i>
Welcome and Greetings.....	Marcus Alford, <i>LAAA Associate Student Body President</i> ; Carol Todd, <i>LAAA Principal</i> ; Carmen Taylor Jones, <i>LAAA Alumni President</i>
Praise and Worship.....	LAAA Alumni Praise Team
Scripture..... <i>2 Cor. 5:7 NIV, Haggai 2:9 NIV</i> .....	Dylan and Jayden Eaves <i>8th grade class of 2025</i>
Prayer of Intercession.....	Lawrence Dorsey, II, <i>GLAR Region Director</i>
Alumni In Memorium - Video	
Alumni Theme Song..... <i>Building A Bridge</i> .....	Debrina Sanchez – <i>Class of 1975</i>
Alumni Membership.....	David Love, <i>LAAA Alumni Executive Secretary</i>
Music Choir..... <i>The Best is Yet to Come</i> ” – Donald Lawrence....	LAAA Alumni Choir
Offering.....	Pastor Ira Barksdale, <i>Miramonte/Maranatha Church</i>
Introduction of Speaker.....	Janet Corbin, <i>LAAA Alumni Vice President</i>
Song of Meditation..... <i>Love Divine – Richard Smallwood</i> .....	Ladies of 1975 Los Angeles Union
Message.....	Dr. Marc K. Woodson, <i>Class of 1984</i> <i>President, Northern California Conference</i>
Benediction.....	Toya Brown – <i>Former Teacher</i>
Recessional .....	<i>The Best is Yet to Come (Reprise)</i> .....LAAA Alumni Choir

### Biography of DR. MARC K. WOODSON



Marc K. Woodson is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister who has served the Church in various capacities for over 36 years as a campus chaplain, youth pastor, senior pastor, youth director and conference administrator. He graduated from Los Angeles Union SDA School in 1980 and Lynwood Academy in 1984. He holds degrees from Oakwood University, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, as well as a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary.

In 2018, Dr. Woodson was elected to serve as the president of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, after having served for 11 years as the Conference executive secretary. However, his greatest passion still remains helping the local church become the agent of change and transformation so desperately needed in today's world. This passion has led him to work with many local congregations throughout the United States and Canada on strategic planning, church growth, gift-based ministry implementation and leadership development.

Woodson is married to his best friend, Marlene Rodriguez, who serves as an associate pastor at Gracepoint Adventist Church in Rocklin, CA, and together they are raising "Tahoe"—a lovable Bernese Mountain Dog. Dr. Woodson has a variety of interests, which include reading, all things historical, model building, traveling and exploring Civil War battlefields whenever he gets the opportunity. He has recently written an interpretive biography on the spiritual leadership development of Elder Eric C. Ward, an iconic figure in Adventist history; the book is being published by the Pacific Press and due to come out soon.

# *We've come this far by faith*

**We've come this far By Faith,  
Leaning On The Lord.  
Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet.  
Oh, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around,  
We've Come This Far By Faith.**

**I will trust in the Lord. I will trust in the Lord.  
I will trust in the lord 'til I die.  
I will trust in the Lord. I will trust in the Lord.  
I will trust in the lord 'til I die.**

**I am going to stay on the battlefield . . . 'til I die. (repeat)**

**I am going to treat everybody right . . . 'til I die. (repeat)**

# *We're are building a bridge*

## **Verse**

**We are building a bridge together.  
We are building a bridge together.  
Holding hands working side by side,  
the Lord Himself, He will be our guide.  
We are building, building a bridge.**

## **Bridge**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
And lean not to your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him  
and He shall direct your path.**

## **Coda**

**We will shout, "Hallelujah!" when the work is done  
And thank the Lord for what He has done.  
We are building, building a bridge.  
Until He comes again, we'll build a bridge.**

# Support OUR SCHOOL

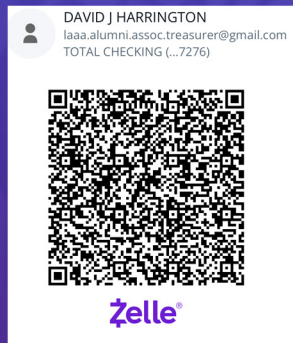
The LAAA Alumni Association has established a goal of \$50,000 to be raised during the Homecoming Weekend to assist in capital improvements. During the past 17 years, the Alumni Association has completed the following projects:

- Contribution to worthy students tuition
- Playground repairs
- Recognition of graduates
- Repainting the hallway of the administration building
- Cafeteria refresh (lights, windows, painting, mural)
- Contribution towards electronic marquee
- STEM project classes for 5th – 8th grades
- Wireless microphones for the theater program

## Items of Interest on the Alumni website

- History of Los Angeles Adventist Academy
- History of Lynwood Adventist Academy
- Charter Member List
- Pictures of Past Alumni Homecomings
- How to Join the Alumni Association
- How to give to the Alumni Association
- Documents for the Alumni Association Meeting

**\* Have you lost your yearbook? You may have the opportunity to replace it. Please visit the alumni table to see vintage yearbooks available for a \$25 donation. Transactions can be made on Thursday night, Saturday night and Sunday.**



QR code for Zelle



QR code for Alumni website

*(Make checks payable to **LAAA Alumni Association.**)*



# LAAA YEAR IN PICTURES



## ABOUT LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Los Angeles Adventist Academy (LAAA) is a Christ-centered, Kindergarten through 9th-grade school with an exceptional record of high student achievement. LAAA is dedicated to providing exemplary, holistic, and individualized education to each student. Our teachers are experts in the field of education, love Jesus, and are dedicated to helping every student through the learning process. This is evident through our test scores, alumni success in college and beyond, and most importantly, the Christ-centered lives of our students. We offer a variety of programs and extracurricular activities. Please browse our website [www.loadventistacademy.org](http://www.loadventistacademy.org) and feel free to contact or visit us.

## ABOUT LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST ACADEMY

### Foundation

Los Angeles Adventist Academy exist to accomplish a fundamental scriptural directive which clearly mandates "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord...."

### Philosophy

The Academy is a Christian learning environment that educates service-oriented leaders and scholars for eternity. It is established on the principle of God as Creator and human beings as His accomplished masterpieces who seek the Lord's divine purpose for their lives. The school, which perceives that every human being is of inestimable value, is also founded on the premise that all true knowledge and wisdom come from God whose plan for building Christian character involves the harmonious development of mind (mens), body (corpus), and spirit (spiritus). The academy therefore seeks to fulfill its basic conviction that the Lord grants knowledge and wisdom for use in service to God and to humanity in both this world and the world to come.

### Mission

The mission of **Los Angeles Adventist Academy** is to cultivate academic excellence in a nurturing Christian environment where students build integrity, exercise faith-based and servant leadership to prepare for positive local and global impact. Students are expected to glorify God through excellence as:

**Positive, maturing Christian leaders**  
**Confident, effective communicators**  
**Critical thinkers and problems-solvers**  
**Responsible, productive citizens**  
**Service-oriented, lifelong learners**