



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

September 2010

Volume 37 Number 5

## October Meetings & Events

**October 5<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**

**7:30 PM** SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

**October 7<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**

**7:00 PM** Archives

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville**

**8:15 PM** L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

**October 12<sup>th</sup> Cornell Cooperative Extension, Riverhead**

**7:00 PM** SIA Orientation

**7:00 PM** Share-A-Thon Meeting

**8:00 PM** SIA Meeting

**October 15<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point**

**8:00 PM** GSO Meeting

**October 20<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**

**7:00 PM** Public Information

Jack L. of the Hauppauge Touchstones Group passed away on 8/7/2010. He celebrated 29 years in March and will be greatly missed by all.

### "The Bulletin"

*Is published monthly by the Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 659 Patchogue, NY 11772. "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "AA" are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Quotes from AAWS literature and AA Grapevine are used with permission and gratitude.*



On Easter Sunday 2010, I took on the Hotline commitment for the very first time. It was a rewarding experience throughout the day, but on my way to my home group (Home For Dinner) in Deer Park, I truly experienced what it is to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm still not sure why I choose Easter Sunday for my day to do the Hotline, but today I believe it was God choosing this day for me. I was almost at my meeting when I received a call. It was Tim on the other end. He needed help. He was at the train station and not in very good shape. I told him to stay on the line with me. I immediately felt drawn to Tim. I felt his pain as he spoke. He reminded me of me. I kept talking with him and pulled in front of the church where the meeting was to be held. I ran inside and grabbed James and Eddie and gave them my cell phone and we told Tim we were on our way. Sit tight. We are coming.

I turned around as the meeting was going on, and there I saw Tim. Shaken and saddened, frightened and worried, but then he shared. He was willing to give this a shot. He needed help and couldn't do this alone. We stayed with him, got him some warm food, and then brought him to a place where he could get help.

I met Tim a little time later for the first time, face to face. I have never felt such a warm feeling overcome me as we hugged so tightly. I will never forget that feeling, to feel so connected to someone who I didn't even know. I felt blessed to be on the phone that day that he called for help. God gave me the strength that day for me to be able to help Tim. I speak to him often and he has just celebrated his 90 days of Sobriety. He has seen how A.A. has helped his life and in turn, I have been taught the same. Our Lives become a little more manageable "One Day At a Time". As for myself, "My name is Carolyn and I am an Alcoholic who has received a precious gift.....His name is Tim."

*Step Nine* – Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

*Tradition Nine* – A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

*Concept IX* – Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

**113-8 Bay Ave. / P.O. Box 659, Patchogue, NY 11772 (631) 654-1150**

**SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2012**  
**631-654-1150**     [www.suffolkny-aa.org](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Chairperson	Richie N.	Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org
Alt Chairperson	Liz T.	alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org
Treasurer	Maria C.	treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org
Corresponding Sec	Lisa M	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec	Vikki B.	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

**Committee Chairs**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Archives	John C.	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin	Debbie P.	bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
Corrections	Raymond	correct@suffolkny-aa.org
General Service	LC	sgso-liason@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine	Richard W.	grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Hotline/Answering Serv.	Janet O.	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List	Norbert M.	meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
Public Information	Bob W.	pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Krista K.	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	Chris W.	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Mike F.	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Dorothy F.	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Dean J.	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Karen D.	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org

If there is anything you want printed in the Bulletin, the deadline for submissions for the following month is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. (i.e., for October's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by September 25<sup>th</sup>). You can e-mail me at [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org) or call the office and leave me a message. Thanks.

*Glad to be in/of service. - Debbie P.*

**Correctional Facilities News**

Raymond is implementing a 'Bridging the Gap' Program on a small scale (only in Suffolk County) and wants to know if any groups would be interested in corresponding with inmates. If you are, please contact him via e-mail at [correct@suffolkny-aa](mailto:correct@suffolkny-aa).

Raymond is also looking for men to chair the Monday Meeting (5 – 6 p.m.) and the Wednesday Meeting (6 – 7 p.m.). Both meetings are at the Men's Yaphank Facility (not the DWI trailer). If anyone is interested in chairing these meetings, or speaking at any Correctional Facilities meeting, please contact Raymond with your full name and date of birth.

Here are just a few interesting facts about Alcoholics Anonymous that happened throughout history during the month of September:

- 1930, September – Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.
- 1937, September 13 – Florence R. was the first female in A.A. in N.Y.
- 1939, September 1 – Earl T. started first the A.A. group in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1940, September – First A.A. group was started in Toledo, Ohio by Duke P. and others.
- 1946, September – First A.A. group in Mexico was formed.
- 1949, September – 1st issue of Grapevine was published in "pocketbook" size.
- 1975, September 19 – Jack Alexander, author of original Saturday Evening Post article, dies.
- 2001, September 11 – 30 Vesey St, New York, (the location of A.A.'s first office) is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.

**Event Name: 22nd Annual Northeast Woman to Woman Conference**

**Event Date: October 29-31, 2010**

**Event Location: Hyatt Regency - New Brunswick, New Brunswick, NJ**

**Contact: Sandi W., Conference Chair - [imani120@yahoo.com](mailto:imani120@yahoo.com)  
 Marie L., Conference Registration Chair - [new2w2010](mailto:new2w2010)**

*Event flyer/registration form can be viewed on the S.I.A. website under 'Upcoming Events'.*

**From the Archives** - This history and others like it can be viewed at [www.suffolkaaarchives.com](http://www.suffolkaaarchives.com).

**East Northport Valley 8 PM, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 106 Vernon Valley Road, East Northport, NY**

The East Northport Valley Eight O'Clock Group was started in May 1972 because a group of people from the Kings Park Group wanted a meeting in the East Northport at 8:00 PM. Original members were Virginia S., Artie M. and Becky K. Around 1973 the beginner's meeting was on Saturday. The step meeting was on Thursday. Eventually the beginner's meeting moved to Thursday before the 8:00 PM step meeting and a closed discussion meeting at 8:00 PM. Saturday night became the open meeting.

The first founders bought a 100 cup coffee pot. For weeks hardly anyone came. People began to trickle in. No one had long-term sobriety. Most had a year or two. Newcomers were told not to come because there wasn't much sobriety. Caroline H. says in 1973 there were about 12 members. The Valley meeting was the only one to meet at 8:00 PM at that time. All other meeting started at 9:00 PM. Membership picked up during the 1970s. By this time, parents brought their kids and watched them in the back room. Daycare was here!

In the 80's the Saturday night meeting would bring in 200 people. Young people came to socialize. In the mid-80's issues arose including non-smoking, and too much socializing and these issues cut the membership in half.

Just after Christmas Day 1985, a well loved spiritual member John H., "John the Baptist", collapsed and died during a Thursday night meeting. He uttered the words, "I feel a touch of eternity", before he fell. The Valley was left with small numbers, but stronger than ever. The group began to grow again. We continue to carry the message in the same church. We had a baby shower and a wedding shower for Simone and Lance after two Saturday night meetings. Jim K. proposed to his wife during his anniversary on a Saturday night. Jim C. was taken out of a meeting by a member in 1981 with anxiety.

Eventually the kids and their playing left the back room because they made a new room. Our main room has become smaller over the last 15 years due to school needs. Bright artwork adorns the room during the school year. In the late 80s, the entry was switched from the front door to the side door.

There are two funny stories. Steve T. was drinking and tried to drive his car up the front steps, breaking them. He also cooked a steak dinner during the meeting. Frank V. punched a drunk who wouldn't stop harassing him.

Sometimes we are meeting in the auditorium basement when we can't use the other building. Our group anniversaries have moved to the auditorium basement due to less room in the meeting building. Members form camping trips. We are also known for dining out after meetings!

Written for the SIA Archives Committee by Jim C. - May 2005

**S.I.A. Special Events  
invites you on a trip to Stepping Stones,  
the historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson, in Katonah, NY  
on Saturday, October 23, 2010.**

**Transportation will not be provided so carpooling is encouraged. You  
may bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds.**

**The tour is free and is approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours long. Please  
R.S.V.P to Joanne ([specevent@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:specevent@suffolkny-aa.org)) by Oct. 18.**



**Something I heard  
at a meeting –**

*"God needs an invitation,  
but the devil comes  
without one."*

**September Archives Notice**

It's back! Soon the light'll dim, and the dark days of fall'll be upon us. Oh, no! Sorry, to jump the gun. The monthly archive notice is here, I mean. Hey ya'll, come on: You budding writers, photographers, organizers and storytellers. Join the Archivists every first Thursday of the month on Terrell Street in Patchogue at 7 o'clock. What's an archivist? Well, we dig, and dunk, and dance around the office reeling off drunk-a-logs. No, we're dead serious, sober, staid, and stark people. OMG, the adjectives! Shoot the suckers! I just came back from a writer's conference and those are no-no's! Help! You like grammar and punctuation? Do ya speaks well? What's to stop you from being a history buffer? Ha! Nuthin'!

So, we're shouting out to you tee-totaling denizens on the Island of Long, in the towns and burbs of Suffolk in the grand old A. of A., to join us. We'll be chatting. About things like the up and coming Share-A-Thon, and getting more historical news, updates, clarifications, recommendations, certifications and verifications. No, wait. I was once a PT legal secretary, but that's a story for another time.

Don't ponder Service. Do it! Peruse our website at [www.suffolkaaarchives.com](http://www.suffolkaaarchives.com). There are pictures, histories, a slide show, links, an artifacts' page, and current events as well as information for any history gatherers among you as to how to write one. Free writin' classes! Sign our guest book or read the Twelve and Twelve.

Come and be an Architeer like in the Dumas story. Remember, One For All and All for one. So, do it with us on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM, SIA Office on Terrell Street in Patchogue. Swords optional! Cudgels and cross-bows available at no charge! *Submitted by Lucinda K.*

**Opportunities for some 12th step work:  
I Am Responsible...**  
**When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A.  
always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.**

Do you, or someone you know, have an interesting story about doing service? It seems to me that there has been a decline in AAs getting involved in service lately. I know that I don't get any volunteers when I am trying to recruit. Is this a sign of the times? How about responding to this? Tell me your experience with doing service the A.A. way. Whether it is on the hotline, or chairing a meeting, or doing speaking commitments, it really doesn't matter; take the time to write something up and send it in to [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org). I want to hear from everybody regarding their experience – the good, the bad, and yes, the ughlee!

**Ode to A.A.**

Our faces were flush  
Our noses were red  
Our eyes were bloodshot  
Our future was dead.

Then we found AA and we were shown the way.

Now our cheeks are rosy  
And our eyes are clear  
We have a new life  
Which we hold so dear.

Commitment and participation in the rooms of A.A.  
Have kept us sober to this very day.  
Isn't it wonderful? This thing called sobriety.  
It truly gives us a life that's happy, joyous, and free.

Thank you A.A., and all my friends too!  
To name you all here, I could never do.  
So let's work the program hard and sincere  
And we'll all be here together again next year.

*Submitted by Pete H. of  
Sunrise Sobriety, Center Moriches*

**The End Is Near!**

Don't forget to send in your group's contact/update  
information form to the S.I.A. Office.

The last thing anyone wants to see is a group  
removed from the Meeting List due to inaction.

Please send in the forms – fax them, mail them,  
bring them to the S.I.A. Meeting – just do something!

*If you have any questions, please contact Norbert.  
Contact info is on page 2.*

There will be a Recognition and Appreciation  
Meeting for those who chair treatment facilities  
meetings and for those who speak at them as well.

Date: Saturday, September 11  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: S.I.A. Office in Patchogue

There are many openings for chairpeople at various  
Treatment Facilities. Please contact Karen if you are  
interested.

*Contact info is on page 2.*

***The Amazing Power of Alcohol!***

An AA friend of mine says he read in a newspaper story that alcohol will remove stains from clothing. This is quite correct. But that is not all. Alcohol is very versatile!

It will remove winter, summer, spring, and autumn, and clothes from wives, husband and children, if used in sufficient quantity. Alcohol will remove furniture and rugs from a home, food from a table, lining from a stomach, vision from the eyes, and judgment from the mind. Alcohol will remove reputations, a good job, good friends, happiness from the hearts of children, sanity, freedom, man's ability to adjust and live with his fellow men, and remove life itself.

Yes, as a remover of things, alcohol has no equal.

*Mrs. Adeline H. Keystone News  
Manitoba Central Office  
Reprinted from "The Last Drop" Denver Newsletter July 2009*