



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

October 2010

Volume 37 Number 6

November Meetings & Events

November 2nd SIA Office
7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

November 4th SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

November 8th
400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville
8:15 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

November 9th Cleary School for the Deaf in Ronkonkoma
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

November 19th Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point
8:00 PM GSO Meeting

November 17th SIA Office
7:00 PM Public Information

Evelyn S. of Our Lady of Consolation (West Islip Group) passed away on August, 14, 2010. She celebrated 54 years in February and always gave a smile and her wisdom to all who met her. She 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.

2010 S.I.A. Share-a-thon

"Living in the Solution"

Sunday, October 17

St. Josephs College, Patchogue

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Free Admission...Join US...

A day of workshops & fellowship

Day starts with Old Time Speakers

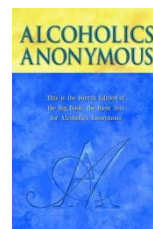
Ends with Spiritual Speakers



For more info contact the SIA office at (631) 654-1150 or e-mail the Share-a-thon Chairperson at share@suffolk-aa.org

Hot Lunch tickets available for \$11 each
See your group rep or call the office

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



Step Ten – Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Tradition Ten – Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Concept X – Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

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

SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2012
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If there is anything you want printed in the Bulletin, the deadline for submissions for the following month is the 25th of the previous month. (i.e., for November's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by October 25th). You can e-mail me at 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.

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 October:

- 1939, October – 1st central committee formed in Cleveland; 1st example of A.A. rotation.
- 1941, October 1– Local news reports 1st AA Group in New Haven, CT.
- 1942, October 24 – L.A. Times reports A.A. groups in 14 California cities.
- 1944, October – First non-American branch started in Sydney, Australia.
- 1945, October 3 – AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.
- 1947, October 13 – "The Melbourne Group" held its first meeting in Australia.
- 1954, October – The "Alcoholic Foundation" renamed the "General Service Board of A.A."
- 1957, October 1– Book "A.A. Comes of Age" is published.
- 1958, October – Playhouse 90 TV airs "The Days of Wine and Roses".
- 1969, October 9-11 – 1st World Service meeting held in New York with delegates from 14 countries.
- 1972, October 5-7 – 2nd World Service meeting held in New York.
- 1973, October 24 – Trustee's Archives Committee of AA has its 1st meeting.
- 1988, October 5 – Lois Burnam Wilson died.
- 1994, October 28 – National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence celebrates 50 years.

A letter from a group in Chicago which was mailed to Bill W. in 1960, taking his inventory and Bill W's response. Bill was 26 years sober at the time.

"That you seemed disillusioned with me personally may be a new and painful experience for you but many members have had that experience with me. Most of their pain has been caused not only by my several shortcomings but by their own insistence on placing me, a drunk, trying to get along with other folks, upon a completely illusionary pedestal; a station which no fallible person could possible occupy."

"I'm sure that you will understand that I have never held myself out to anybody as either a saint or a superman. I have repeatedly and truthfully said that A.A. is full of people who have made more spiritual progress than I ever, or can make. That in some areas of living I have made some decided gains but in others I seem to have stood still. And in others, still other ways I may have gone backwards. I am sorry that you are disillusioned with me but I am happy that even I have found a life here." Bill Wilson, 1960

From the Archives - This history and others like it can be viewed at www.suffolkaaarchives.com.

PATCHOGUE GROUP, St. Joseph the Worker, 510 Narragansett Ave. at Americus Ave., East Patchogue

Established in February, 1953, the Patchogue Group is among the oldest in Suffolk County. A.A. General Services records indicate that the group was begun by a man named Edward H. The group originally met in a wooden building on the grounds of the Methodist Church on South Ocean Avenue in Patchogue. This structure collapsed during an attempt to move it and the group relocated to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for a very brief time before moving to St. Francis de Sales Church, also on South Ocean Avenue in Patchogue. Throughout the years, the Patchogue Group subsequently met at the Methodist Church once again, a Lutheran Church on Jayne Blvd., and the Catholic Charities Building on 1st Street. In 1982, the group relocated to St. Joseph the Worker Church in East Patchogue, where it continues to meet and celebrated the 55th anniversary of the group in March, 2008.

In the early years of the group's existence, there were not very many meetings on Long Island. Speaking commitments were arranged through the New York City Intergroup (Suffolk SIA did not yet exist). The speaker exchange was conducted on the street in Manhattan and was very chaotic (not too different from the exchange meeting in Suffolk County today). It was not unusual in those days for members of the Patchogue Group to speak at groups in Nassau, any of the five boroughs of New York, and even Westchester County. One of the group's senior members recalls speaking at the Edgecombe Group in the city with George S. in the late 1960s during a time of violent civil unrest. After the meeting, members of the Edgecombe Group escorted the Patchogue speakers to their car as a safety precaution.

In 1968, members of the Patchogue and Sayville groups attended a picnic hosted by Bill Wilson at his home in upstate New York. The previous year, when the Patchogue Group had only about fifteen members, at least six group members and their wives attended a convention at a hotel in Manhattan at which Bill Wilson was the featured speaker.

Throughout the years, members of the Patchogue Group have been active in A.A. service. George S. was a SENY delegate. Roberta and Gene were instrumental in the establishment of Suffolk Intergroup Association and Suffolk County Telephone Hotline. Glenn B. was an SIA Chairperson. Larry E. was one of the first chairpersons for the Suffolk County Treatment Facilities Exchange Meeting. Other members of the Patchogue Group who have had a significant impact on the group and their fellow alcoholics include: George Z., Bob T., Clarence, Madeline, and Tom B.

One story may help to illustrate the character of the Patchogue Group. In June, 1966, members of the Patchogue Group made a twelfth step call on two alcoholics. The two newcomers were picked up at their homes, placed in the back seat of a car, and taken to a meeting. Both of these men made a silent pledge to themselves; each decided he would not drink before the other did. Both of these men are still sober today and one of them, Bob T., has been a member of the Patchogue Group since that time. Bob is not the only member of the Patchogue Group who has belonged to the group for the entire duration of his sobriety. There are currently at least four group members with between twenty and thirty years of sobriety (Eddie B., Nancy H., Regina B., and Wayne L.) who have belonged only to the Patchogue Group and there are others with fewer years who have not found it necessary to change groups from the time of their first meeting in Patchogue.

Last Chance!

This is your last chance to send 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!

The last date that Norbert will be collecting the Group Update/Change Forms will be at the S.I.A. Meeting on Tuesday, October 12, at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead.

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

**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.**

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) by Oct. 18.



**Something I heard
at a meeting –**

*“The longer you stay
sober, the closer you
get to a drink.”*

LITERATURE

Dear Readers,

The SIA office has all AA Literature for sale, at cost. Office hours are 9-3 Mon – Fri and 9-1 Sat. Call (631) 654-1150 or email books@suffolkny-aa.org to place your order (Cash or Check only). We will not have an entire book store on display at the monthly SIA meetings. So if you wish to place an order, please do so by emailing or calling 2 weeks before the meeting and I will do my best to accommodate. Otherwise you can pick up your order at the Suffolk Intergroup office during normal business hours. We have Big Books, Step Books, Living Sober, Daily Reflections and much more. Most books are available in large print, pocket sized and foreign languages. We stock all pamphlets and also have signage, regional directories, and other service resources. If your group doesn't have a literature chairperson, get one!

Love & Service. Rose

If your meeting typically meets on a holiday, such as, **Thursday, November 25; Friday, December 24 or December 31; and Saturday, December 25 or January 1**, please contact the S.I.A. Office at 631-654-1150 and leave a message for Debbie if you are going to be meeting on these upcoming holidays. You can also e-mail Debbie at Bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org and give her the information.

The S.I.A. Office intends to post a list on the website of all meetings that will definitely be meeting on these holiday dates so that those in need of a meeting will not be roaming from meeting to meeting looking for one that meets on holidays. Remember – this may not be an issue for you personally, but not everyone has fond memories of gourmet dinners and Santa on the holidays.

October Archives Notice

Okey-dokey folks of the A. of A., it's oval! The summer I mean. Pumpkin time. Get your pumps, crowns and gowns [well, tuxedos and slicked back hair] cause fall is here. At least, it's not snowing. Not yet. And better, we're not chinking our glasses to the New Year. Nope. We are not. Actually, it's just us at the Archives with the monthly notice coming atcha! Yeah, looka tha gramma. Wanna hep? Really, we need you. Can you spell? Or take a photo? Or organize? Dust? Vacuum? Fold? Wait, my SO does that.

Join the Archivists every first Thursday of the month on Terrell Street in Patchogue at 7 o'clock. What's an archivist? Like an archeologist only cuter. Much. Just as Smart. We do dig, dive and dunk. Sometimes we have parties and dance around. We don't drink though. Water, Izzlies [you know those delish bottled sodas that have pop? You don't? Well, then, join us, we'll show ya!] and regular stuff like soda. You like language and punctuation? Do ya speaks well? What's to stop you from being a history buffer? Ha! Nuthin'!

So here's the shout out to the sober denizens of the Suffolk County of Island of Long. Get over here! Stuff is happening: like the Share-A-Thon, and collecting historical news, group updates, and status reports [nah]. We have a National Archives Workshop happening in Macon, Georgia this year. You get a free Civil War commemorative sword upon completion. Nah, you don't. That was a are-you-paying-attention test.

Don't ponder Service. Do it! Peruse our website at www.suffolkaarchives.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! Be an Architeer. My name is ... and I am an A R C H I T E E R! Hoo-ray! So, do it with us on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM, SIA Office on Terrell Street in Patchogue. In case you are weary of the silliness, we have serious folk here too. Waiting for you! *Submitted by Lucinda K.*