



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

November 2010

Volume 37 Number 7

December Meetings & Events

December 2nd SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

December 7th SIA Office
7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

December 11th
SCCC, Selden Campus, Parking Field #7
8:00 AM Speaker Exchange

December 13th
400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville
8:15 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

December 14th Cleary School for the Deaf in Ronkonkoma
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting
7:00 PM SIA Hotline Captains Meeting
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

December 15th SIA Office
7:00 PM Public Information

December 17th Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point
8:00 PM GSO Meeting

"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.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the 2010 S.I.A. Share-a-thon. It was a huge success for all those who attended. Thanks to the Share-a-thon Committee and all of the reps who participated. Your hard work and passion were quite evident in the outcome. Keep up the good work!

Do you want to do some service? The Corresponding Secretary Office is vacant and we are looking for members who are interested in volunteering for this position.

Come to the next S.I.A. Meeting (on Tuesday, December 14), and let one of the S.I.A. Officers know that you are interested.

Step Eleven – Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Tradition Eleven – Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Concept XI – The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

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SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2012
631-654-1150 www.suffolkny-aa.org

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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 December's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by November 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.org.

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 November:

- 1895, November 26 – Bill W. was born in East Dorsett, Vermont.
- 1934, November – Ebby T. carries message to Bill.
- 1937, November – Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober.
- 1939, November 21 – AAs in San Francisco hold 1st California A.A. meeting in the Clift Hotel.
- 1939, November/December – Akron group withdraws from association with Oxford Group.
- 1940, November 10 – First A.A. group formed in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 1940, November 12 – First A.A. meeting is held in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1940, November 14 – Alcoholic Foundation publishes first A.A. Bulletin.**
- 1941, November – First Mass A.A. Meeting in Oklahoma City, 8 present, 1 was drunk.
- 1946, November 18 – First Dublin, Ireland group met.
- 1947, November 1 – First A.A. group in Anchorage, Alaska.
- 1950, November 16 – Dr. Bob died.
- 1963, November 1 – Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies.
- 1966, November 9 – President Johnson appoints Marty M. to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.
- 1986, November – Big Book was published in paperback.

NECYPAA XXI in MAINE

New England Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
 December 31, 2010 – January 2, 2011 - Preregistration is \$15.00.

Please visit www.suffolkny-aa.org/events/aaevents.php for additional information and flyer.

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

ORIENT STEP GROUP, Congregational Church, 23045 Main Road, Orient

The Orient Group owes its existence to Hurricane Gloria in 1985. A longtime A.A., M.L., was in danger of being flooded out of her waterfront home and sought refuge at the local Congregational Church's parsonage. While waiting out the storm, she told her pastor of her history. He pleaded with her to start an A.A. meeting in the church.

She was reluctant to "talk it up" in her home community for anonymity reasons and so enlisted Herbert H., from nearby Cutchogue, to be the group's designated organizer. He showed up after a call from her and brought with him a sponsee, Donald, and Jack W., who was rehabbing a house in the next town.

These four held the first meeting of the Orient group in November 1985 in the basement of the Congregational Church. The basement, or undercroft, was also used for a playschool and, as the group grew larger, A.A.'s sometimes found themselves seats on the tiny chairs from the school .

After a year, Herbert left Long Island for a business venture in Tennessee, and Donald, now trained as a chef, left for Colorado, where he died tragically in an auto crash. M.L. moved away, then returned with a new husband, also a program member.

Meanwhile, the group gained members and stability with its one meeting, a step on Monday mornings. Jim. H. arrived in 1991 assumed, the coffeemaker and treasurer's roles, and has been doing them ever since. Around 1992, some members organized a second meeting, a Big Book on Friday mornings. Jim H. said, "I now have a meeting to get myself through the week and another to get myself through the weekend."

In 1996, a parishioner died in an auto crash, and the church decided to erect a new building in her memory. It also served to remedy the overcrowding and scheduling problems due to the expansion of A.A. and the playschool. The Orient group now meets twice a week in a building tailor made to its purposes.

Besides its regulars, Orient is host, when they are in town, to A.A.'s from Sweden, San Francisco and Vermont, as well as a large contingent of vacationers and second home owners. Perhaps our most unusual occurrence was when Big Matt, now a regular, arrived with a proof of attendance slip from the California Department of Probation.

Compiled by S.I.A. Archives January 2005

November Archives Notice

Well, the ghosts, ghouls and spookies are done prowling the neighborhoods for Treats. At least we of the A. of A. know better than to go alone into dangerous vicinities. Winter's almost here. The lights will dim, turkeys will be slaughtered and we'll all lick our chops and toast each other with soda. Now, before I get lost in the fictional narrative, let's get to the whammy. Ta-dah. It's just us at the Archives with the monthly notice.

Join the Archivists every first Thursday of the month on Terrell Street in Patchogue at 7 o'clock. What's an archivist? Oh, think Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter circa 1920's. Huh, you say. Come on. King Tut. The tomb. The gold and glitter. Doesn't ring a bell. Shoot, get out your history books. We're like archeologists of Sobriety. But cuter. Join us. Be a history buffer.

Shouting out to the sober denizens of the Suffolk County of Island of Long. Get over here! We're collecting historical news, group updates, and status reports [nahDon't ponder Service. Do it! Peruse our website at 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.

Be an Architeer. My name is ... and I am an A R C H I T E E R! And remember what Santayana said about history: "Those who don't know it are doomed to repeat it." So, do it with us on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM, SIA Office on Terrell Street in Patchogue. Bring your asps, ankhs and headdresses.

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.

Watch for the 53rd ICYPAA (International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) in San Francisco in 2011.

www.icypaa.org or www.baypaa.org are the websites to check for updated information.



Something I heard
at a meeting –

*"I am not a power of
example – I am an
example of power."*

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous' Alkathons Explained

Many alcoholics and other individuals in recovery often have a hard time coping with the winter holiday season. With Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah and New Years traditionally being holidays that are celebrated with large amounts of drinking by many people, some recovering alcoholics tend to become a little bit anxious and squirrely around this time of the year. Fortunately, many Alcoholics Anonymous groups across America hold events each year that are known as Alkathons. What are Alkathons, you might ask. These events, which take their name from the word marathon, are actually AA meeting marathons, wherein basically non - stop Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held in a designated location for a specified period of time.

The reasons why recovering alcoholics often do not cope well with the holiday season are fairly easy to understand. Please let me offer my own case in point. Although I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and have been sober for almost 11 years, I still get a little uptight around the winter holiday season. For many years, when the holidays rolled around, I would stock up on alcoholic beverages and the amount of my drinking would increase. At family get - togethers and other holiday social occasions, I would do just fine, as long as there was a large supply of beer or other alcoholic beverages on hand. Now being sober, I no longer have the option of drinking my way through the winter holiday season.

Enter Alcoholics Anonymous' Alkathons. These events are designed for people just like me, who might be struggling with making it through the holiday season. At AA Alkathons, participants can avail themselves of the benefits offered by attending several different types of AA meeting formats in one location. Additionally, participants at Alcoholics Anonymous' Alkathons can bask in the camaraderie and companionship offered by other members of the AA Fellowship, who can empathize with how they feel.

No matter how long a person has been sober, Alcoholics Anonymous' Alkathons are always beneficial. The support network that is present at these events is often crucial to many people in recovery. **Every recovering alcoholic is only one drink away from their next drink** and the holiday season frequently tests the sobriety of many of them. The steady format of AA meeting after AA meeting at these Alkathons means that at any time during a specified time period, usually 24 hours, anyone who desires to participate can do so. Whether it be for one 1 hour meeting, or to stay the entire 24 hours, Alcoholics Anonymous' Alkathons are designed to meet the needs of every person who seeks the services of the event. (Article by Thomas M.)