



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

April 2011

Volume 37 Number 12

May Meetings & Events

May 3rd SIA Office

7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

May 9th

400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville

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

May 10th Cleary School in Ronkonkoma

7:00 PM SIA Orientation

7:00 PM Share-a-thon

8:00 PM SIA Meeting

May 18th SIA Office

7:00 PM Public Information

May 20th Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point

8:00 PM SGS Meeting

May 25th SIA Office

8:00 PM Archives *New day and time



Something I heard at a meeting – “Suffering because life cannot satisfy selfish desire is like suffering because a banana tree will not bear mangoes.” (Buddha)

“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.

Unity Breakfast Report

Thank you to everyone who helped with making sure the Guest Books were signed. I appreciate all your hard work!

*175 people with 1 day to 9 years of sobriety totaled 713 years
165 people with 10 years to 24 years of sobriety totaled 2813 years
95 people with 25 or more years of sobriety totaled 2821 years.
435 people signed the books and the entire amount of sobriety recorded was 6347 years.*

I am incredibly overwhelmed with gratitude to have been in the room with that much sobriety. It truly is amazing.

As I also indicated throughout the breakfast, the other purpose for the Guest Books were to determine if the Unity Breakfast Committee did indeed meet the goal of being more inclusive than we have been in the past.

Obviously, with over 1100 people in the room, I believe it is safe to say that we were. But, the books do show that we had people from groups that I know had not been to a Unity Breakfast in many years. We had guests from Amityville and Lindenhurst, which has traditionally been an area that has not been terribly active and guests from Southold, Sag Harbor and Amagansett which is much further east than we have had before. We also had people from Baldwin and Huntington, Commack, Cutchogue, Babylon, Brooklyn, Bay Shore, Patchogue and Port Jefferson to name a few.

Hopefully, you get the point that we did indeed reach out to many groups and they responded. The breakfast was a success in terms of making sure that as many people from all over Suffolk County were able to attend the breakfast as wanted to!

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me at archives@asuffolks-ny.org

Thank you to everyone and I hope to see all of you next year!

Yours in Service,

Cyndy F.,
SGS Archive Chairperson

Step Four – Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition Four – Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. Unity.

Concept IV – At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

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 May's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by April 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.

The Things We Cannot Change

Tommy K. of the East Northport Serenity Group has joined that meeting in the sky. He was one of a kind and will be missed tremendously.

Until further notice, The One and Only Meeting will be held at the parish house of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown until the elevator is installed in the church. We meet every Saturday afternoon at 3:15. We are a small intimate meeting with gut level sharing and could use some support. Why not come join us?

6th Annual International Seniors In Sobriety (SIS) Conference

May 12 – 15, 2011

Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Highway, Ronkonkoma
 631-585-9500 - Hotel Reservations: 1-888-465-4329
 (Mention Seniors In Sobriety for discount rate \$99)

Conference Chair: Coni M. - cmot@optonline.net or 631-750-5156

Treasurer: Debbie P. – deb410@optonline.net or 631-921-1413

A.A. LITERATURE

Suffolk County Intergroup cooperates with the General Service Office to offer groups AA literature at cost. Literature can be purchased at the Suffolk Intergroup office during normal business hours; 9-3 Mon – Fri and 9-1 Sat. Call (631) 654-1150 or email books@suffolkny-aa.org to place your order or check availability. We accept cash or checks. Books are for sale at each monthly SIA meeting on a first come- first served basis. Advance notice on book orders is appreciated and usually accommodated.

Suffolk County Intergroup stocks Big Books, Step Books, Living Sober, Daily Reflections and much more. Most books are available in large print, pocket sized and foreign languages. We have all pamphlets as well as signage, audio/visual materials, committee workbooks, regional directories, and other service resources. If you are the literature representative for your group, make sure you have a copy of the latest AA Conference approved literature catalog, which can be viewed at http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/aacatalog.pdf. If your group does not have a literature representative, consider volunteering! "Let literature carry the message, too!"

We are now giving away copies of the 60th General Service Conference Report from 2010. (Originally \$2.00 each) for FREE! The 2010 Souvenir Book- AA Comes of Age, 75 years- San Antonio- Soft Cover- are \$7.00 each; limited quantities available!

Love & Service, Rose

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

SMITHTOWN GROUP, St. Patrick's Church, Main Street, Smithtown

According to long time group member Dennis, the group started in February 1973. It originally met at the Methodist Church. He related a humorous story of how the pastor at that church noticed the large number of cars in the parking lot on meeting nights. The pastor spoke to the group and suggested that it start charging \$5.00 a head. The members tried to explain that not everyone who showed up could afford to put anything in the basket much less \$5.00. Nevertheless over time the Methodist Church did raise its rent beyond what the group could pay and they were forced to seek out alternative housing.

Next stop was St. Anthony's High School where they met in the classroom complex next to the gym. One of Dennis' vivid memories of the St. Anthony period was about coffee-making. There were no sinks in the building so they had to use what was available in the gym to fill the coffee pots. "We used to hold the pots way over our heads and turn on the showers". Because the classrooms were smaller than what they were used to at the Methodist Church, attendance seriously dropped. As one person put it "the size of the group adjusts to the size of the room". At one point the numbers had dwindled down to three: Dennis, John S. and Mary F. When the suggestion was made to close shop, Mary said "As long as two of us are still meeting, we should continue". So they did. But a decision was made to return to the Methodist Church. With that move the numbers rose again.

Father Mark of St. Patrick's, where they meet to this day, "welcomed us", telling us we didn't have to pay rent. When the group explained the Tradition of being self-supporting, the solution was for the group to donate a monthly amount to the nun's outreach - which they have been doing ever since.

The group started meeting in Keating Hall but were moved to the classrooms over time. With that move, numbers went down slightly in keeping with "the size of the group, size of the room" philosophy. The group meets Tuesdays and Fridays and offers an array of meetings including a women's meeting. When the group first started, thirty some years ago, it met the same nights (and still does) as the then Smithtown-Kings Park Group, which created oodles of confusion, especially for incoming speakers (See Kings Park Group history for more on that). The Smithtown-Kings Park Group shortly thereafter changed its name to just Kings Park.

Interview with Dennis August 2009 SIA Archives Committee

Suffolk Intergroup Association Special Events invites you to

Sunday Serenity and Meditation Workshop



Sunday, April 17, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At the Suffolk Intergroup Office
113-8 Bay Avenue, Patchogue, NY

This is a free event! Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP – 654-1150.

Any questions, please e-mail Special Events Chair, Joanne Z. (specevent@suffolkny-aa.org).
Flyer can be found on the website (www.suffolkny-aa.org).

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.**

Is the history of your group waiting to be told, and immortalized for the rest of the world to know?

In an effort to complete our collection of Suffolk A.A. histories, members of the Suffolk County Archives Committee are reaching out for your support and contributions enabling us to preserve your groups' histories for present and future members of A.A. Each month we will publish a list of home groups, based on zones, whose history has yet to be recorded. (This means we have no history of those groups that are being printed.) We hope you will add to our collection by calling us at 631-654-1110 or emailing us at histories@suffolkaaarchives.com. After an initial contact from your home group, we will then make arrangements to collect your history and publish your information to our website located at www.suffolkaaarchives.com. Thanks for your cooperation. The Archives Committee

ZONE 1: AMITYVILLE - Amityville Group, Believe And Become, County Line, Dismas Group, Doing it Young, From There To Here, Gay Women Together, Serenity At Trinity, Share An Hour, Sobriety By The Sea, South Oaks Hospital, Sunrise Early Sobriety, T.G.I.F., Young People: **BABYLON** - Expect a Miracle, Lambda, Mid-Island, Off Main Street, Too Young To Die, Young And Powerless, Young At Heart: **BAY SHORE** - 38 Park Avenue, Bay Shore Afternoon, Hope For Today, Lambda, Latarnik, Love & Service, Luncheon Meeting, Midnight, Miracle On Park, Nite Time-Bay Shore, Probation Open Discussion, Room For Sobriety, Sobriety For Today, South Shore Young People, Staying Sober, Step By Step Workshop, Suffolk Afternoon, Sunday Sobriety, Sunrise Sobriety, Third Step, Thursday Afternoon, YMCA The Men's Room: **CENTERPORT** - 12 Steps To Freedom, Joy Of Living, Noon Group: **CENTRAL ISLIP** - Brentwood Sunday Morning, Hands Of Peace, Lifeline To Sobriety, NuHope, Renacer: **COPIAGUE** - Evening Group: **DEER PARK** - Deaf & Hearing Impaired, Primary Purpose: **DIX HILLS** - Alive Again, Dix Hills, Friends Of Marty Women's Group, Men's Smokers, Smoke Free, Sunday Sobriety, Women Wednesday Women's Group: **EAST ISLIP** - Brentwood Sunday Morning, Men's Step Discussion, Young People's Discussion: **HAUPPAUGE** - Deliverance Too: **HOLBROOK** - Ronkonkoma Men's Discussion: **HUNTINGTON** - A Vision For You: **ISLIP** - Islip Group, There Is a Solution: **ISLIP TERRACE** - High Noon, Islip Terrace: **LINDENHURST** - Lindenhurst Group, Rainbow Center: **NORTH BABYLON** - 12 + 12, Just for Today, Morning Glory: **NORTHPORT** - Big Book, North Shore Men's Group, Northport 12th Step, Veterans Over the Horizon: **OAK BEACH** - Serenity By The Sea: **WEST ISLIP** - Doing it Young, Easy Does It: **WYANDANCH** - El Milago.

Q. Who wrote Chapter 8 of the Big Book, "To Wives"?

A. Bill was the author of the 'To Wives' chapter. It is commonly thought that Lois wrote it. But, as *Pass It On* describes (page 200), Lois said, "Bill wrote it, and I was mad." She added, "I wasn't so much mad as hurt. I still don't know why Bill wrote it. I've never really gotten into it - why he insisted upon writing it. I said to him, 'Well, do you want me to write it?' And he said no, he thought it should be in the same style as the rest of the book."

This question/answer was found on www.aa.org and demonstrates the importance of one who "chronicles" an event in history. The actual documentation of an occurrence such as this, lends credence and continuity to our overall understanding of past affairs, adding historical perspective to our present beliefs and practices. It binds together the many facets of an events and in doing so presents to the viewer a solid foundation on which acceptance or change can take root.

If you find yourself interested in questions such as the one posted above, please join us in our pursuit to collect and document all of our collective journeys here in Suffolk County, by becoming one of our committee members.

SIA Archives

The Archive Committee Meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the SIA Office, which is located at 113-8 Bay Avenue in Patchogue, New York, 11772.