



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

December 2011

Volume 38 Number 8

## January Meetings & Events

January 3<sup>rd</sup> SIA Office  
7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

January 9<sup>th</sup>  
400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville  
8:15 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

January 10<sup>th</sup> Cornell Cooperative Extension,  
Riverhead  
7:00 PM SIA Orientation  
7:00 PM Share-a-thon  
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

January 20<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky  
Point  
8:00 PM SGS Meeting

January 18<sup>th</sup> SIA Office  
7:00 PM Public Information

January 25<sup>th</sup> SIA Office  
8:00 PM Archives

The S.I.A. Officers that were voted in for 2012-13 are as follows:

Chair – Liz T.  
Alt. Chair – Maria C.  
Treasurer – Vicky B.  
Corresponding Secretary – Ed L.  
Recording Secretary – Debbie P.

**Congratulations to those coming in and thank you to those leaving office.**

### Literature

Suffolk Intergroup offers A.A. signage, display materials, pamphlets, audio CDs, DVDs, regional directories, and other service resources. A.A. General Service Conference approved literature is available at all SIA business meetings. Literature is also stocked at the SIA office and available during normal business hours: Mon-Fri 9-3, Sat 9-1. Please call ahead to make sure office is staffed. For the 2011-2012 Literature Catalog visit [http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en\\_pdfs/aacatalog.pdf](http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/aacatalog.pdf). For more information about service resources available to you, visit [aa.org](http://aa.org), call 631-654-1150 or E-mail [books@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:books@suffolkny-aa.org).

Mobile Readers: Current "apps" available today are NOT A.A. General Service Conference approved, and do not support Alcoholics Anonymous. In December 2011, eBook versions of the Big Book and Twelve & Twelve will be available for purchase from the A.A.W.S. online store (\$6.00 ea). Once purchased, the eBooks can be read on a mobile device using the A.A. eReader (FREE) from the Apple Appstore and Android Market.



Look for the Copyrighted App!



**Something I heard at a meeting** – *"The road to sobriety is a simple journey for confused people with a complicated disease."*

### **"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.*

It has been a pleasure serving the alcoholics in Suffolk County these last two years. As the Suffolk Intergroup Literature Chairperson I have met and worked with many of you to provide service materials to your groups. I want to thank everyone who came out to the Literature Workshop on 11/20/11, especially Richie N. for appointing me to this service committee 2 years ago. It worked- I'm still sober. I've learned so much from this commitment and I'll be forever grateful.

In Love & Service,  
Rose

**Step Twelve** – Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Tradition Twelve** – Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

**Concept XII** – The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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

**SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2011**  
**631-654-1150**     [www.suffolkny-aa.org](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)

The Treatment Facilities Chair will be having a workshop on December 11 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Check it out and meet the new Chair of Treatment Facilities – Chris W.

<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	Ed L.	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec	Vikki B.	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Looking for something to do? Check out a new meeting (The Boho Group) starting on November 4 at the True North Community Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia. Fridays – 7:00 p.m. is a Beginners Meeting; 8:15 p.m. is a Big Book Meeting; and Sunday is an Open Meeting at 3:00 p.m. We will meet in the cafe.

**Committee Chairs**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Archives	John C.	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
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Grapevine	Richard W.	grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Hotline/Answering Serv.	Janet O.	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Rose	books@suffolkny-aa.org
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Public Information	Bob W.	pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Krista K.	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	George C.	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Mike F.	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Joanne Z.	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Dean J.	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Chris W.	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org

**Save the date!**

**Special Events presents a Square Dance on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 281 Phelps Lane Annex in North Babylon. Open meeting at 7 p.m. and Square Dance at 8:30 p.m.**

*Happy Holidays from the S.I.A. Officers and Committee Chairs to all of you in the A.A. Fellowship. Remember the holiday marathon meetings if you start feeling blue.*

**Looking for a service commitment?**

There are open Hotline Captain positions for the following Districts: District 100 - Centereach, Coram, Farmingville, Medford, Selden, and Terryville & District 200 - Cutchogue, Greenport, Mattituck, Orient, Southhold, and Aquebogue. Please contact Janet at [phones@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:phones@suffolkny-aa.org) if you are interested.

**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.**

**Broken Promises – A Family Disease**

The lonely nights I sat at that window  
As if frozen, there I stayed  
"Please bring him home safely,  
don't let him be dead"  
And many other wishes I prayed.

Fear overcame me more than I could bear  
In the stillness I was all alone  
Then out of the quietness, the sound of a bell  
"O my God is that the phone?"

Are they calling to say there's been  
an accident?  
Or I'm sorry he'll never come home?  
Oh it was just another wrong number  
Then sadly I hung up the phone.

"Mommy will you play with me?  
Mommy can I have a drink?"  
Two little babies needing my time  
But I only had time to think.

Oh here comes a car, I hope it's him  
With embarrassment I duck away  
Then slowly by my house it past  
Taking a piece of my heart away.

Time passed by, my sadness grew  
How can he do this to me?  
He promised never to be late again  
And he'd change this time – I'd see.

After nodding by the window  
I drug myself to bed  
And tried so desperately to fall asleep  
To stop these thoughts inside my head.

Then suddenly I heard a sound,  
It's him, he's finally here  
Thank you god he's alive, he's made it home  
safe  
And I'd hug him and pull him near.

Then the sadness would turn to anger  
And the worry would turn to hate  
He smelled like alcohol and cigarettes  
Of course – it wasn't work that kept him late.

Then the screaming and yelling would start  
The accusing and calling of names  
I'd say "how could you do this again"  
He'd say – I was to blame.

If only I didn't nag him  
If only I left him alone  
If only I was that perfect wife  
He'd be more than happy to come home.

Then he'd stagger in to the bathroom  
And on his way to bed he fell on the floor  
And I'd cry and scream and yell  
And run out and slam the door.

But where could I go, it's so late at night  
I have no money and no way to live  
I guess I'll go back home, I guess he'll change  
And one more chance I'd give.

In the morning I was still filled with anger  
Of all the sleep and time I lost  
The only one that seemed to suffer  
Was me and look at the cost.

My little one has anger too  
She didn't know what else to be  
She just acted like mommy and screamed and  
yelled  
And anything else she'd see.

Then somewhere around noon he'd crawl out of  
the bed  
That I had so neatly tucked him in  
The sadness on his face I'd see  
And the love that was somewhere within.

Then we'd talk and we'd cry and we'd hug together  
Each get out the pain that was buried with in  
And we'd make promises now that things would be  
different  
And this moment a new life would begin

It's now a short time later  
Really only a few days have passed by  
And I'm at that window and I'm frozen with fear  
And I'm thinking he's gonna die.

The angers there, the sadness too  
The worry the guilt and the pain  
The children are crying, they're stuck in their beds  
I feel so stupid he's done it again!!!!

Submitted by Carol C. (Brookhaven Women's Grp.)

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

### **Rocky Point Serenity, Trinity Evangelist Lutheran Church, 720 Route 25A, Rocky Point**

According to Joan, who was 76 years old and 36 years sober at the time of this interview, the group was started by Dick G, Howie D. and her. In 1976, when the group was started there was not much A.A. activity between Rocky Point and Riverhead.

Traveling to Riverhead was a big deal. "The first time I ever spoke was in Riverhead and it scared the hell out of me." Dick and Joan had another lady from Centereach join them for this speaking commitment. Their female companion was first to speak and her entire drunkalog consisted of her standing up and saying "My name is alcoholic and I am a Mary" and then she sat down. Joan who was petrified was advised by Dick to "just stare at my tie and don't scan the room." Joan remembered Dick's tie was red. (Note: back then A.A.'s tended to get dressed up for speaking engagements, believing they were representatives of Alcoholics Anonymous and should look the part). Joan followed his suggestion and kept staring at his tie although at the very end she looked up at the clock. Needless to say she survived this ordeal and went on to speak many more times over the years.

Dick once owned a liquor store in Commack and Howie owned a store that rented U-Hauls and all sorts of other items. His store was on Route 25A in Rocky Point. Among other things his store rented were large coffee urns and Joan said to this day that she sees one on them stored on top of the cabinets at "Fish Church" in Rocky Point.

The meeting first met on Madison Street in a little white church whose name and denomination escaped Joan. What she did recall was that she was the only woman in the original group and made the coffee. This turned out to be a bit more complicated than normal. At that time the church was not hooked up to the water main so members had to lug water in. Howie from the group provided a 15 gallon jerry can from his store which was the conveyance for the water. The water was not only for the coffee but for washing the cups and saucers. Joan strongly emphasized the fact that there was no paper or Styrofoam cups in use for many groups back then. "We used real cups and saucers!" In addition, the water was used for washing the floors and for getting the toilet to work. As the only female, Joan had the luxury of being the sole person allowed to use the only toilet. "All the men had to go outside." Only after mopping the floors would they flush the toilet.

The group did move a few times over the years - in and out of Trinity Church and St. Anthony's. Around 1982, the group had its morning meeting split off and permanently move to St. Anthony's. As of this writing, it is one of the few A.A. groups that has meetings in two different locations and spread between morning and evening. Its evening meetings are held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Telephone interview with group co-founder, Joan D. 4/9/06



### **FROM THE ARCHIVES CHAIR**

TO ALL MEMBERS - Greetings on Our 10th Christmas (1944) (**AA Christmas greeting, from Bill W. 1944.**)

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.

But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World.

How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth.

Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos.

Great indeed, our blessings!

And so,-- Merry Christmas to you all-- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

Who has ever said it better!

Holiday Greetings from all the members of the Archives Team

Join us next year and share our blessings!

Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month

SIA building in Patchogue

8:00 pm

# U.B. TICKET SALE



*Only  
Through  
Unity*

## *2012 Unity Breakfast Tickets*

The First round of tickets will be available to all Suffolk County General Service Reps at the December 16th General Service meeting at Holy Trinity Church in Rocky Point. Ticket Sales will start at 7:00pm and resume after the general meeting. Tickets will be limited to 10 per group and cash payment is expected at time of sale. The ticket Price is \$22.

Full continental breakfast including Breakfast Breads with cream cheese and spreads, Seasonal Fruit, Granola and Yogurt, Scrambled eggs and French toast, Home Fried potatoes with Bacon and Sausage. Followed by a full morning of Fellowship with Sobriety Count down, Speakers, Jokes and maybe a few surprises.

**Come Join Us for the 15th Annual Unity Breakfast of Suffolk County General Services to be held at:**

East Wind Caterers 5720 Route 25A Wading River, N.Y. 11792-2033

On March 4th 2012 Breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM