



BULLETIN

Visit your Suffolk County AA Website at: <http://www.suffolkny-aa.org>

PARADISE LOST AND FOUND



Paradise or Shangri-La or Camelot or Eldorado

*Over the Mountains of the Moon, Down the Valley of the Shadow
Ride, boldly ride," the shade replied - If you seek for Eldorado!
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)*

James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon* (1933), was about a hidden paradise (Shangri-La), a mythical land of eternal youth and safety from war, supposedly situated somewhere in the interior of Tibet. Ronald Coleman starred in the movie version.

There is an ancient story of a man who had left his home village to live elsewhere. Arriving at one particular town, he asked the gatekeeper, "What is it like to live here?" The gatekeeper asked a question in return, "What was it like in the last place you lived?" The man replied, "It was a horrible place to live. People were vindictive, rude and untrustworthy." The gatekeeper told him, "You'll find this place to be very much the same." The man went sadly on his way to continue his search.

The very next day another man who had been planning to relocate stopped and asked the same question of the same gatekeeper and the gatekeeper asked him, "What was it like in the last place you lived?" The man responded, "I'm moving because of a change in employment. The last place I lived was delightful. People were kind, thoughtful, considerate and respectful of each other." The gatekeeper told this man, "You'll find this place to be very much the same."

Granted, this is only a story but the moral, if you will, seems simple enough: In our search for happiness we may choose to change our geographical location but we must still bring with us to the new location our thoughts, our belief system and our own judgmental attitudes. Personally, I think the story is also suggesting that people who are kind, thoughtful and considerate will perceive others to be like that also. What we think of ourselves is what we think of others. Our perception of the world is a reflection of how we feel about ourselves.

I've heard it suggested in program that "No matter where I go I take myself with me." Rather than being a geographical location, Paradise or Shangri-La or Camelot or Eldorado may only exist in the mind. Serenity, however, can be invited to take residence in the human heart, no matter where we are living at the time.

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**FIRST EVER BULLETIN PHOTO
CAPTION CONTEST**

The Bulletin’s doughty chief photographer, Russ M. of the Sag Harbor Group, is proud as Punch of his photo of his dog eating his Big Book. We were trying to come up with a caption for his picture when we decided to make it the subject of the first-ever Bulletin photo caption contest. Archives Bob, being present at the conversation, suggested, “You could have some fun with this and make up group names with dog-related names. Like Terrierville or Pup Jefferson. One bark at a time!” This suggestion so charmed Russ that we included it as part of the contest. So we are looking for a caption and a group name to credit the caption to. The name can come from one entrant and the caption from another or both from one entry, at the discretion of the judges. Enter as many times as you like. Each winner, caption and group name, gets a year’s subscription to the Grapevine. Judging will be done by myself, Russ and Bob. Send your entries to the Bulletin via post or email. Contest runs through August 20th; winners to be announced in the September Bulletin. Russ is sitting by the mailbox every day. Don’t disappoint him; it would be like kicking a puppy. Get your entry in today and put a smile on Russ’s sad little face .

Brian C., editor



**THIS BULLETIN NEEDS
YOUR HELP!**

We need YOUR participation!

Please help and send in

- your articles!
- your experiences!
- your announcements!
- your comments!
- your artwork, poems, photos, etc.!

Send to Brian at:

bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

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Paradise

Lost and Found

(Continued from page 1)

Some words were scratched on a wall in a Polish ghetto during WWII and it was translated as follows: *"I believe in the sun, even when it doesn't shine. I believe in love, even when I feel it not. I believe in God, even when He is silent."* That person, whoever he or she was, seemed to be aware that our happiness does not necessarily depend on the conditions that surround us. **Dare we say happiness is an inside job?**

It is not wise to seek happiness in a geographical location. It is an act of love, however, to attempt to bring happiness to a geographical location; we carry it within ourselves. Maybe the same thing can be said about love: We don't find love in the world; we bring love to the world because love is found only where we express it.

Happiness may simply be a byproduct of doing the right thing; of living the right life. If Paradise, Shangri-La, Camelot or Eldorado did exist in a geographical location, it could only exist if each inhabitant diligently practiced love and acceptance of one's neighbor. **It is not a mind that creates a community, it is a heart.**

Some years back the "Beatles" left England for America and John Lennon was a lead singer in the group. He was needlessly slain on a Manhattan street but he left us with these words: *"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one, I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one."*

Somewhere along the line, in the closing of my earthly life, my soul will find it's lost Paradise of rest.

Ed. H

OPEN THE WINDOW TO SERVICE



THE 20TH ANNUAL
BIG MEETING
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD
6 TO 8 PM
HOSTED BY SIA
GENESIS CHURCH
28 INDUSTRIAL BLVD
MEDFORD
FOOD FELLOWSHIP SERVICE
SPIRITUAL SPEAKER

Notice: SUBMISSION DUE DATE for September's Bulletin is August 20TH!
Send your submissions to Brian at: bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Group History

Quogue Love & Service Group

St. Paul AME Zion Church

Montauk Highway, Quogue

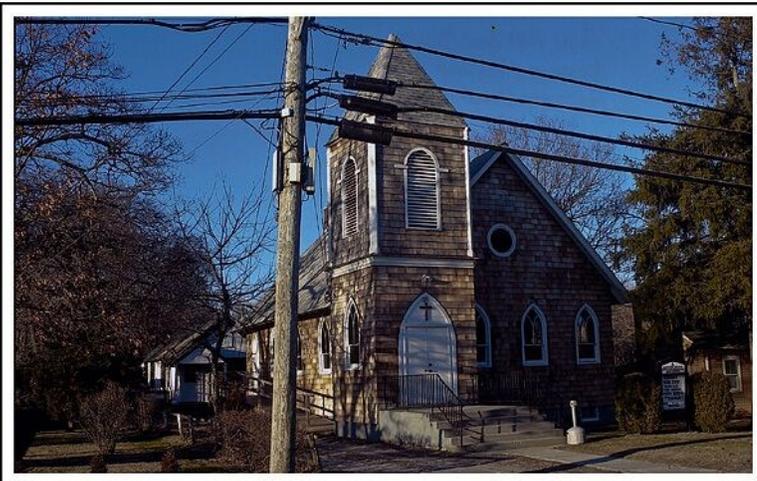


Love and Service Group has undergone some radical changes, to say the least. In 1990, a woman by the name of Barbara wanted to have a women's only group. She kept it fairly quiet and held meetings in her apartment. The original name of this women's only group was "Sisters in Sobriety". They later that year contacted the Zion Church since there was only one A.A. meeting there a week; they thought it would attract more women.

In the summer of 1996, the group was suffering from financial problems due to small attendance. This was mostly due to the fact that when summer came, a lot of the women were mothers, and their children were now out of school. To keep the meeting alive, the main group members - "Horse Linda" (nickname is for her love of horses), Barbara, and Adrienne - suggested it be changed to a co-ed meeting. Group Conscience voted yes and the group became known as "Love and Service" Group and was made an open meeting, again trying to attract as many people as possible. Today, Love and Service is strong. Roughly 12-15 people meet there every Wednesday and of course we have a mix of local people, professionals and laborers alike on lunch break and of course the summer people out for the season or for a vacation. Held in the bottom of the church, this meeting has a wonderful feel and the level of intimate sharing is phenomenal.

The Quogue Men's Tell It Like It Is group first appeared on the Suffolk A.A. meeting list in August 1996 and met once a week on Saturday morning at the St. Paul's AME Zion Church. It is a men's only closed discussion. Ray O. was the founder. Ray had attended a men's meeting while vacationing in Florida and was impressed by its format and dynamics. He was then challenged by a friend to return to New York and start his own A.A. meeting. He did.

The group went on to add another meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM starting in 1999. There was some talk at the time they added this second meeting that there may be issues with the Westhampton Beach group which also meets that night. That turned out to be unfounded. Both meet on Wednesdays and provide support for the alcoholics in the area.



Men's Tell It Like It Is
 St. Paul AME Zion Church
 Montauk Highway, Quogue

I Surrender

Out of the darkness and into the light
 Running on fear and full of fright
 At the end of the road with no place to turn
 I'm Worn out, beaten, willing to learn

Someone please help me
 I'm screaming out loud
 I Surrender, I give it up to you
 I Surrender, I give it up to you
 I Surrender, I Surrender
 I Surrender!

Year after year I keep running away
 From my past it haunts me inside
 The Guilt and Shame Too much pain
 I'm full of regret How can I ever forget

Someone please help me
 I'm cryin' out loud
 I Surrender, I give it up to you
 I Surrender, I give it up to you
 I Surrender, I Surrender
 I Surrender!

I drop to the floor
 I get down on my knees
 I look up and close my eyes
 Ask for forgiveness
 Along with some willingness
 If you're there show me a sign

Someone please help me
 I'm screaming out loud
 I Surrender n' give it up to you
 I Surrender n' give it up to you
 I Surrender, I Surrender
 I Surrender!

Edward C. 6/17

Conference Approved

Several years ago, the spiritual speaker at the Share-a-Thon, mentioned that early on in his sober journey he would read the books of writer Emmet Fox, particularly one called *The Sermon on the Mount*. I could hear a gasp behind me as someone whispered: "He can't mentioned that book, it's not AA approved literature." I have since heard many variations of that statement. Once when I spoke at a meeting I mentioned a new biography of Bill W. I was reading. Since AA World Services didn't publish it, I was forbidden to discuss it---at least I was told that by several people who approached me afterwards.

So what does "conference approved literature" mean anyway? In the simplest of terms, any written material that was designed for and by AAs. That means the general AA population identified some need, committees met, discussed and finally voted on and printed---all through AA World Services. There is no such thing as AA DISAPPROVED literature. The Bulletin you hold in your hands didn't go through AA World Services hence is it not AA approved literature Or our meeting lists. Or any other pamphlet or brochure we deem helpful in carrying the message. None of these have ever gone through World Services. Yet. there are very few who would argue that we in Suffolk County don't have a right to produce these.

Back in 1978, this was written in a piece of AA conference approved: "Any literature that pertains to the principles of AA or is approved by a GROUP CONSCIENCE - is perfectly acceptable to be read by any AA member or in an AA meeting." And this is something I experienced firsthand on my trips to Indiana. There was a meeting that I enjoyed so much. This Step meeting used a book called *The Steps I Took*, by Joe of Joe and Charlie fame. Since I was raised on Suffolk County AA's conservative outlook, initially I was shocked. Over time as I researched more on the subject. I learned that they had every right in the world to use this. Their members found the style easier to digest. Others prefer the Big Book's version while some use our *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Back in the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, according to Dick B., noted AA historian, "...over 500 Oxford Group and Sam Shoemaker books and pamphlets ...were read and circulated by Dr. Bob himself." Members read everything from the Bible to many other religious and medical books including those by a man named Emmet Fox. It is doubtful that people complained that this stuff was not conference-approved. There was no conference back then.

Bob R.



September's Business Meetings

> Public Information Committee:

3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH
Tues. 9/19/17 7:00 PM
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue

> SIA Business Meeting:

1st TUESDAY OF MONTH
Tues. 9/5/17 8:00pm
True North Community Church
Lakeland Ave.
Bohemia

>7:00 PM *Archives Committee meeting*
>7:00 PM *New Group Rep Orientation*
>7:00 PM *Share-a-Thon*

> SIA Officers & Chairs:

LAST TUESDAY OF MONTH
Tues. 9/26/17 7:00 PM
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue

> Suffolk General Service:

3rd FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Fri. 9/15/17 8:00 PM
>7:00 PM *General Service new Rep meeting*
True North Community Church
Lakeland Ave.
Bohemia

> Treatment Facilities Committee:

3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH
Tues. 9/19/17 7:00 PM
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue

> Big Meeting Committee:

3rd THURSDAY OF MONTH
Thurs. 9/21/17 7:00 PM
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

Contact your Intergroup chairs!

Chair- Kevin chairman@suffolkny-aa.org

Alt Chair- Tom alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org

Treasurer- Wayne treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org

Corr. Sec.- Dawn corsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Recording Sec.- Tara recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Answering Service- Ron phones@suffolkny-aa.org

Archives- Bob archives@suffolkny-aa.org

Big Meeting - Jean Marie ... siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org

Bulletin- Brian bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Corrections- Lee correct@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine- Lee grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Literature- Laurie books@suffolkny-aa.org

Meeting List- Brodey ... meetings@suffolkny-aa.org

Public Information- Jack pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org

SIA Office Manager- Cheryl. siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org

Schools—Jack schools@suffolkny-aa.org

Share A Thon- Rob share@suffolkny-aa.org

Special Events- Patrick specevent@suffolkny-aa.org

Third Legacy OPEN! ... thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Treatment Facilities Jackie. ... treatment@suffolkny-aa.org

Webmaster- Troy websup@suffolkny-aa.org

See what it's about!
A THIRD LEGACY Chair is needed!

PLEASE HELP!

email:

chairman@suffolkny-aa.org

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

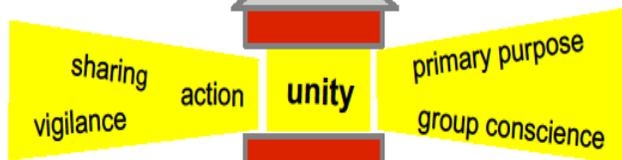
THIS BULLETIN IS LOOKING FOR A NEW LAYOUT ARTIST/EDITOR!

TRAINING AND SOFTWARE PROVIDED

PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN AT bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

A Safe Place to Share

Panel and Discussion



Friday
4 August 2017
6pm-9pm

True North Church
1100 Lakeland Ave
Bohemia NY

sponsored by suffolk county general service
contact: Christine D
dcm110@asuffolkgs-ny.org



light refreshments will be served

Around the AA Campus

New meeting at the THRIVE Center 1324 Motor Parkway Hauppauge meets every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. This is an open beginners meeting. Come give your support.



Known affectionately as the Monks Meeting. The Northport Wednesday 8 P.M. men's meeting could use your support. Let's keep this 52 year old meeting going!

42nd Annual SIA Share-A-Thon October 15, 2017 "A Way Out"

What is the Share-A-Thon?

The share-a-thon is a free open single day event that takes months of working together to plan.

During the day, over 60 workshops created by groups across Suffolk County, with various topics are available to attend.

Breakfast and lunch crews keep everyone fueled up while information tables are open for everything AA has to offer in service.

The day is topped off in the auditorium with a new "best home group" competition! Then our sobriety countdown and spiritual speakers from AA and Al-Anon.

As you can imagine help is needed at all different levels and times of the day, so sign up and be part of a wonderful event!

Any questions, please email us at:
Share@suffolkny-aa.org

SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS ITS 42nd ANNUAL

SHARE-A-THON

"A WAY OUT"

Sunday, October 15, 2017

9am – 4pm

St. Joseph's College

Patchogue, NY



- Free admission
- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided*
- No smoking will be **STRICTLY** enforced at the request of the College
- Volunteers needed: Please call the SIA Office at 631-654-1150 and leave your name and number or email share@suffolkny-aa.org

Schedule:

- Breakfast: 8:00-10:30
- Workshops: 9:00-3:00
- Lunch: 12:00-2:00
- Spiritual Speaker: 3:15-4:00
- New – Battle of the Home Groups!

**We are currently seeking monetary contributions to help with lunch. Please email share@suffolkny-aa.org with any questions. We Thank You in advance!*



Celebrating 82 yrs. of AA!!