



BULLETIN

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

Our First Legacy:
Recovery
sponsored by
Suffolk General Service

Save the Date
Saturday, January 27, 2018

for a presentation of
Big Book
UNPLUGGED®

Richard H. from Amityville, NY will take us on a journey through the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. Through the lens of the Big Book, we will learn about the events that led up to the concept of Alcoholics Anonymous and the subsequent composition of the book, and we will get to know the various people and institutions that played key parts in the creation of the program and the book that we know and love today.

FREE ADMISSION !!!

light breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be available at no charge

Seating is limited. Reserve your seats in advance!!

To reserve, email or call Steph at BigBookUnplugged@gmail.com

Doors open at 9:00 am
Program begins at 9:30 am and runs until 5:30 pm
Vail Leavitt Music Hall
18 Peconic Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901

Parking available behind building.

Inclement weather (snow storm) date: February 3.

For general information email Jim S. at alt-dcmc@aaasuffolkgs-ny.org



ACCEPTANCE

When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation – some fact of my life – unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment.

Excerpted from Big Book page 449

An unabridged dictionary offers several definitions for the word “acceptance” but in the sense that we use it in program, perhaps it can be defined as “the act of assenting or believing.”

If we were to initiate a philosophical discussion on the topic of “acceptance” we might pose the question, “Is this earth and the life upon it the result of an accident? If the agreed upon answer is “yes” then there would be very little to say on the matter of acceptance; except to say we might find it easier to function in this life if we were a little more accepting of things as they are.

If, on the other hand, we do acknowledge purpose behind our existence, we then would have to acknowledge there is sufficient reason for everything that occurs.

Does acceptance of things as they are mean we should not attempt to change things that are within our purview and within our power to change? Of course not! If we can change situations for the better, we would surely want to do so.

It can be a downer if we brood over the condition of the world. One of my sons was a NYC policeman and when the city was in turmoil I couldn't believe how my son was able to go to work every day and still remain peaceful. I asked how he managed to do this and he responded, “I have learned to accept me.”

I've spent a good deal of my life judging others and being totally unaccepting of conditions in the world. Today I fully acknowledge that there is a bit of good in the worst of us and a bit of bad in the best of us. In fact, some years ago I changed my phone message to: “Hello, you beautiful child of the universe; neither Ed nor Terry can come to the phone right now. Please leave a message at the beep and one of us will get back to you. Peace and love and have yourself a good day.”

“Accept something you cannot change and feel better” may sound like a mystical aphorism but, in fact, I recently read it on a Chinese fortune cookie. Hey, that's a pretty smart cookie.

Ed H.

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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A note from our new Chairperson:

I am responsible; How about you ??

Recently I was elected to the position of Chairperson for Suffolk County Intergroup. I stood for this position so I could keep giving back to the fellowship that saved my life; Alcoholics Anonymous. As I write this, my excitement and enthusiasm are tempered with the reality of having many committee chairs to replace. There is quite a bit to do and many people needed to help continue our mission of serving the still sick and suffering alcoholic. If you have two years or more of sobriety and a willingness to stand for a committee get in touch with me ASAP. No special skills are required. Talk to anyone who has chaired a committee and I am sure they will look back on their experience as a positive one, sure it's some work, but nothing good comes easy. Intergroup meetings are open to anyone to attend, however your group needs a rep to participate. Any group that does not have a rep, but is thinking about it should come down and talk to us, I would be willing to visit any group that would like to consider having a rep and a voice at the intergroup meeting. If your group has an SIA email address please check it on a regular basis as there will be quite a bit of info coming your way. I look forward to serving all of you over the next few years, please contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions to make intergroup better, after all we work for you.

Tommy M Alt-chair



Anyone with intergroup experience who would be willing to serve as a service sponsor should contact Tommy M, the alt-chair. The new committee chairs will need your help.

Around the AA Campus

- New meditation meeting, Soundness of Mind every Monday evening at 7:30 at the DAV 25 Union Avenue Islip
- Sad News-Our Journey in East Patchogue has stopped meeting after five years.
- The One and Only Meeting in Smithtown just celebrated its 400th meeting!

Remsenburg Basic Sobriety will be meeting 2 doors east of its regular location in the red brick building from 12/4 through 12/7

Notice: SUBMISSION DUE DATE *for January's Bulletin* is December 20TH!

Send your submissions to Brian at: bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Group History

**Shoreham Group
St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church
105 Randall Road
Shoreham, N.Y. 11786**

The Shoreham Group was started in 1978 by persons unknown at this point. When it did register with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services in 1982, the contacts of record were Nelson B. (Shoreham) and Dorothy H. (Sound Beach). Whether those were the two original co-founders is unclear.

St. Mark's Church has been its home for almost all of its existence. There was a two year period between 2001 and 2003 when the group met at the Shoreham-Middle Island Presbyterian Church. When that happened, the group nights switched from Sunday and Friday to Tuesday and Thursday. With the move back to St. Mark's in 2003, Shoreham cut back to only meeting on Sunday at 7:00. That has remained the schedule to this day.

Thirty-seven years and still counting is the rather fine track record this group has. By the looks of things they plan on adding more years to that.

S.L.A. Archives Committee, October 23, 2015

The Archives Committee is always looking for volunteers to help save our Alcoholics Anonymous history. Contact the SIA Office at 654-1150.



Widening Our Gateway

In 1957, Bill Wilson wrote in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (page 167) that “in Step Two we decided to describe God as a ‘Power greater than ourselves.’ In Steps Three and Eleven we inserted the words ‘God as we understood Him.’ From Step Seven we deleted the expression ‘on our knees.’ And, as a lead-in sentence to all the steps we wrote these words: ‘Here are the steps we took which are suggested as a Program of Recovery.’ AA’s Twelve Steps were to be suggestions only. Such were the final concessions to those of little or no faith; **this was the great contribution of our atheists and agnostics. They had widened our gateway so that all who suffer may pass through, regardless of their belief or lack of belief.**”

In *Pass It On* (pages 172-3), Bill is quoted as saying “We had to become much more inclusive and never, if possible, exclusive. We can never say to anyone (or insinuate) that he must agree with our formula or be excommunicated. The Atheist may stand up in an AA meeting denying God, yet reporting how he has been helped in other ways... we make no religious requirement of anyone. All people having an alcohol problem who wish to get rid of it and make a happy adjustment with the circumstances of their lives, become AA members by simply associating with us. Nothing but sincerity is asked of anyone. In this atmosphere, the orthodox, the unorthodox, and the unbeliever mix happily and usefully together, and in nearly every case great spiritual growth ensues.”

In that spirit, on November 11th, 2017, a motion to pursue an atheist and agnostic friendly AA Conference approved pamphlet was overwhelmingly passed at the SENY Area 49 General Service Assembly held in Carmel, NY. The motion, sponsored by Brooklyn District 404, is intended to fill a void in literature available to our more secular members, and to promote the principle that AA is always inclusive, never exclusive. This will be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee and added to the agenda for the US/Canada General Service Conference next spring. The committee will also consider making the “The ‘God’ Word: Agnostic and Atheist Members in AA”, a pamphlet that is already conference-approved by the United Kingdom’s General Service Office, available for distribution in the United States and Canada by the GSO. Our area delegate will be serving as the chairman of the Literature Committee at the upcoming General Service conference.

As the GSR for my group, I had the opportunity to participate in the SENY assembly and was pleasantly surprised at the level of support this motion received within our area. Several area chair’s and GSR’s openly backed the motion during the discussion, and I understand that this will be the first item brought by Area 49 to the conference in many years. I am personally very grateful to be a part AA’s service structure, and it was awesome to witness the process in action. In my opinion, participating in General Service is how we ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous is accessible and relevant to all alcoholics, and how we can safeguard the fellowship for future generations.

“Our very first concern should be with those sufferers that we are still unable to reach... Newcomers are approaching us at the rate of tens of thousands yearly. They represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion... How much and how often did we fail them?”

- Bill Wilson, General Service Conference, 1965

Roy

Stony Brook Freethinkers



January's Business Meetings

> Public Information Committee:

3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH

Tues. 1/16/18 7:00 PM

**SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue**

> SIA Business Meeting:

1st TUESDAY OF MONTH

Tues. 1/2/18 8:00pm

**True North Community Church
1101 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. 1/30/18 7:00 PM

**SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue**

> Suffolk General Service:

3rd FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Fri. 1/19/18 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. 1/16/18 7:00 PM

**SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.
Patchogue**

>Big Meeting Committee:

See what it's about!

A THIRD LEGACY Chair is needed!

PLEASE HELP!

email:

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

****ANNOUNCEMENTS****

From the Chair:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the chance to serve Suffolk County Intergroup. This experience has taught me a lesson in gratitude, humility, and how to put my ego and pride on the shelf. Since taking the job in January of 2016 I have been surrounded by a wonderful bunch of people that have volunteered their time and have done a fantastic job at preforming the tasks they were chosen to do.

First, I would like to thank all the committee chairs that not only took on the task but did an outstanding job. Lee with the Grapevine and Jails, awesome job. With everything you have been through, thank you. Bob from Archives, once again you have taken on a job that requires dedication and commitment. Cheryl, you have done wonderful as the office manager by keeping the office running smooth and scheduling the volunteers, well done. Rob and Jean Marie, between the Share-a-thon and the Big Meeting, outstanding. Ron has done an amazing job with the Hotline. Laurie has done a great job keeping the closet stocked with literature. Brodie has kept the meeting list up to date. Jack pulling double duty with schools and PI/CBC, outstanding. Patrick did an excellent job with special events between dances and ball games. Troy has kept the website running smoothly. Bridget thanks for stepping into the position for treatment. Brain the bulletin publisher thank you.

I would like to thank all the officers. Tara with the minutes, you have done a wonderful job. Dawn you were excellent at keeping the mailing list up to date. Wayne, you did a wonderful job with the money. You were stressed out at times but you hung in there and got the job done, thank you. Tom, you have performed wonderfully. You were the driving force with the online speaker exchange, planning the budgets, and orientating the new reps. You are awesome, good luck.

It was stressful, aggravating, time consuming, crazy, fulfilling, pleasurable, and most of all fun. I couldn't have done any of it if it wasn't for the people that stepped up and did the work.

Kevin D.

A WELL DESERVED THANK YOU

As the holiday season approaches I'd like to take the time to recognize and give thanks to all the volunteers that have showed up at 113 Bay Ave Patchogue every week for the past nearly two years.

These are the people who volunteer their time to field calls for all the chair people, do the monthly mailing of 400 plus pieces, greet visitors, keep the office clean and maintained for the most part, are responsible for sales of literature and books to your group, hand out meeting lists and keep a log of it all - Oh yes and be a magician banker too! We are supposed to be the business end of AA and that we are but what you may not realize is what else happens down there.

When the phone rings at "the office" it often can be an alcoholic or someone who loves one making initial contact with AA. The volunteer is instructed to direct them to the hotline, on line meeting list or will look one up right there but I've seen them arrange 12 step calls from their own home groups or

volunteer to meet the person on the other end of the phone at a meeting themselves. This is not in their job description but they are AA's. They all go above and beyond at some point in some area with rarely a complaint and believe me they could. The A/C is old the bathroom is freezing, they travel from near and far in all weather. We even have a guy who takes two buses to do a 3 hour shift!

I'd like to give a heartfelt Thank You to those volunteers, including those who have come and gone, for by being reliable and being team players have made my run much easier.

Adrian, Alan, Al, Aimee, Dean, Dominick, Fred, Jackie, Jeff, John, Kevin, Linda, Laura, Pat, Tom, Vinny - and all those who helped stuff envelopes or filled in.

Cheryl P., Office Manager at SIA



SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

presents its

21ST ANNUAL UNITY BREAKFAST

"AA - a Solution for All Generations"

Sunday, March 4, 2018

East Wind Catering Hall

5720 Route 25A

Wading River, New York

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Breakfast - Fellowship - Service Fair
Sobriety Countdown - Keynote Speaker**

Tickets: \$28

Contact: unitybreakfast@aasuffolkgs-ny.org

12 STEPS

12 TRADITIONS

12 CONCEPTS

