

**June, 2019**

**THE SUFFOLK INTERGROUP**

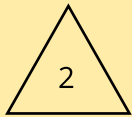
**Volume 47  
Number 2**

# **Bulletin**



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

*We Are Not  
Alone*



## The Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin

### New Meetings and Groups

Starting May 5th a new Sunday men's beginners meeting will be held at 9:30 am at Pax Christi in Port Jefferson Station. (near the railroad station) All are welcome

New group called Connect the Dots  
First meeting Monday May 6 at 7:00pm Christ Church 176 McGraw St., Shirley

### July Business Meetings

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
Tues. 7/2/19

SIA Business Meeting: 8:00 PM  
Archives Committee meeting: 7:00 PM  
New Group Rep Orientation: 7:00 PM

True North Community Church  
1101 Lakeland Ave. Bohemia

Public Information Committee:  
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH  
Wed. 7/17/19 7:00 PM  
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

SIA Officers & Chairs:  
LAST TUESDAY OF MONTH  
Tues. 7/30/19 7:00 PM  
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

Treatment Facilities Committee:  
THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH  
Tues. 7/16/19 7:00 PM  
SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

Suffolk General Service:  
THIRD FRIDAY OF MONTH  
Fri. 7/19/19 8:00 PM  
New GSR Orientation: 7:00 PM  
True North Community Church  
1101 Lakeland Ave. Bohemia

### Notice

**The Stony Freethinkers Group  
has a new mailing address:  
P.O. 345  
East Setauket, NY 11733**

### The Email Addresses of your Intergroup Chairs

Chair - Tom ....chairman@suffolkny-aa.org

Alt Chair - Jean Marie ....

alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org

Treasurer - Lee....treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org

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

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

Archives - Jack....archives@suffolkny-aa.org

Bulletin - Fran....bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Corrections - Mary....correct@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine-

Ruthanne....grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Hot Line - Benny.....phones@suffolkny-aa.org

Institutions - Carolyn

...institutions@suffolkny-aa.org

Literature - Corey....books@suffolkny-aa.org

Meeting List -

VACANT....meetings@suffolkny-aa.org

Public Info - VACANT pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org

Office Manager -

Michael....siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org

Schools - Mike... schools@suffolkny-aa.org

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

Special Events - Nick....

specevent@suffolkny-aa.org

Third Legacy - Dawn.... thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Webmaster - Steven websup@suffolkny-aa.org



## Institutions and Treatment Facilities Open Commitments

ST. CHARLES REHAB UNIT PORT JEFF - WOMEN  
SUNDAYS @ 10:00 am. 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th week of the month

ST. CHARLES REHAB UNIT PORT JEFF - MEN  
Thursdays @ 1:30 pm

ST. CHARLES DETOX UNIT  
2nd TUESDAY of the month

ST. CHARLES REHAB UNIT PORT JEFF  
WEDNESDAYS 1st 3rd 4th 5th week of the month @ 7:30 pm

PHOENIX HOUSE (WAINSCOTT) MEN SUNDAY @ 7:00  
1st, 3rd, 5th week of the month

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (COMMACK) Speakers  
MONDAY @ 11:00 am 2nd, 5th week of the month  
PILGRIM STATE MENTAL FACILITY (BRENTWOOD)  
3rd MONDAY OF MONTH @ 6:30 pm

2nd and 3rd WEDNESDAY OF MONTH @ 6:30 pm

NEXT MEETING May 21st 7-8 pm

SIA office in Patchogue  
INSTITUTIONS @SUFFOLKKNY-AA.ORG

## Notice

**The On-line Speaker Exchange  
will be disconnected shortly  
due to low participation.**

**See p. 7**

## Share Your Experience, Strength and Hope

**The SIA Bulletin invites you to share  
your experience, strength and hope  
here in the bulletin where it will  
reach your fellow alcoholics  
throughout Suffolk County. Sharing  
our stories is an essential part of what  
keeps us sober.**

**Send to Fran  
bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org**

**The deadline for the July issue is  
June 12th.**

## Around the AA Campus

Maybe for the first time in Suffolk AA history, there were back to back new groups started a day apart. First on May 5th a new men's meetings in Port Jefferson. Tentatively named Road Dogs, it will meet every Sunday at 9:30 A.M. in the chapel at Pax Christi. An impressive 17 AAs showed up for the first meeting.

The next day on May 6th, Connect the Dots met for the first time in Shirley. This will meet each Monday at 7:00 P.M. at Christ Church on McGraw Street. For it's first meeting an incredible 44 showed up! The riveting speaker was from Las Vegas and there were sandwiches and salads to feed the crew.

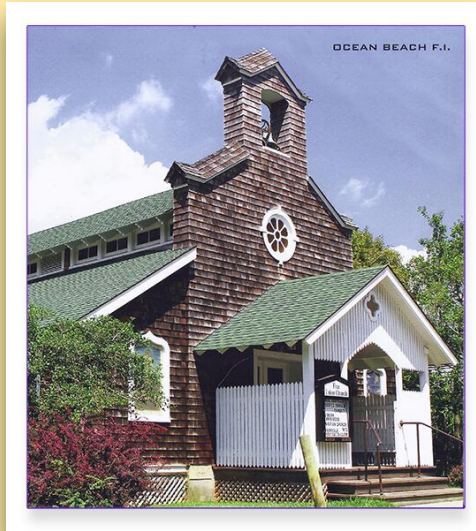
The Carry the Message Group celebrated its 5th anniversary with pizza. They meet every Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. in Holtsville.

Heard in the rooms: "If you want to put more God in your life, shrink you."

A little piece of Akron is now with us in Suffolk. During the 1990s, renovations were done at Dr. Bob's House. Broken pieces of brickwork were given away as mementos. Well, one of those pieces is now framed and on display. It joins all the other cool stuff on display at the Intergroup office in Patchogue. Stop by and check it out.

Two new interviews have been done and are available for listening. Maybe you have 30 years of sobriety and would like to share your memories with us, too. Contact the Archives Committee.

Finally, June marks the 84th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous. Great to sit back and reflect on the powerful fellowship two men started and now has grown into millions. If that doesn't give you a nice shot of gratitude, nothing will.



**Ocean Beach First Step Workshop  
Union Free Church  
Ocean Breeze Walk and Midway Walk  
Ocean Beach, NY 11770**

The bulk of the information gathered here has been gleaned from old Suffolk County meeting lists and Bulletins. As is true of all Fire Island meetings, those who participate aren't usually full time Suffolk residents so the lines of communication between Suffolk Intergroup and Fire Islanders aren't always fully in sync. There may be some lags in updates of meeting information. Progress rather than perfection, they say.

The first notice of an Ocean Beach meeting appeared in the August 1975 meeting list. This met in the Catholic Church rectory at 9:00 P.M. on Friday. By February 1978 it was deleted. It popped up again in August 1985 and according to the meeting list has been meeting there ever since.

As the years rolled by, the lineup increased: August 1985, it met once a week on Friday (8:30 P.M.). February 1987 a Tuesday 8:30 P.M. closed discussion was added. By February 1989 the schedule doubled in size with a new Thursday 8:30 P.M. open discussion and Saturday 7:00 P.M. open discussion. November 1989 saw a Sunday open discussion on Saturday as well as a noon time Step meeting on Friday.

Along the way there were various tweaks to formats; Big Books were tried and open meetings became closed ones. Suddenly, around the year 2000, the schedule was cut back to three days a week. That lull continued until November 2008 when it went back to five days a week. Perhaps, to honor the expanded line up, the group henceforth became known as Ocean Beach First Step Workshop. By July 2011, six days became the schedule and finally July 2014, found it at full capacity, meeting seven days a week.

For those planning to visit this island, it might be a wise idea to keep your meeting list close at hand. Things do get complicated. Depending upon what day, one meeting is at 7:30 in the morning while two other early meetings are at 8:00 A.M. Evening has three 7:00 P.M.s, three 5:00 P.M.s and to keep you on your toes, one at 8:30 P.M. For good measure, a noon meeting is also tossed in there. All meetings are held at the Union Free Church except the morning meetings which are held right on the beach. Some run from July to August while the rest are from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

The First Step Workshop might be the first step towards a new sober life for many. Bring your handy meeting list to sort through the variety of times and days, sit back and soak up some sun and some quality sobriety.

S.I.A. Archives Committee July 11, 2017

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

## The Truth Behind Tradition Three

Bill W.'s grandfather was a drunk. Grandfather Wilson, an innkeeper, had had alcohol turn against him. "One Sunday morning in despair he climbed to the top of Mount Aeolus and beseeched God to help him.

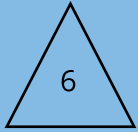
He saw a blinding light and felt a great wind, and rushed down to interrupt the service at the Congregational Church. Demanding that the minister leave the pulpit, Wilson described his experience to the congregation... Emily [Bill's mother] loved this story about her husband's father, and she told it to her son and husband as often as they would listen. In the eight years that he lived after that experience, the elder Wilson never had another drink." (Cheever, *My Name is Bill*, p. 17) During Bill's final stay as a patient at Town's Hospital, perhaps the familiar tale of his grandfather's miraculous recovery came to mind. Bill's description of his 1934 "spiritual experience" was remarkably similar to that of his grandfather. When Bill later told the story of his recovery, it was in the form of a 19th century Protestant redemption story of the sort he would have heard repeatedly from his mother. He resurrected that style when it came time to write about the Third Tradition.

In the essay on Tradition Three, Bill tells the story of "Ed", an obstreperous atheist/agnostic, who vociferously and repeatedly disagrees with the predominant religious tone of AA. Ed falls off the wagon while on a sales trip and his pleas for help are rebuffed by his fellows at home. (Bill later was to denigrate the exclusionary attitude and quest for respectability of early AA. Only "pure alcoholics" were to be admitted, he reports. "They could have no other complications. So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers (sic), plain crackpots, and fallen women were definitely out" (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 140) and so, apparently, were atheists and agnostics.) Bill relates that, after a couple of weeks, Ed did return to Brooklyn chastened and, Bill implies, freshly converted to the ranks of the religious.

Part of this story is true. "Ed" was really a fellow named Jim Burwell, one of the first ten AA members in New York. Jim did work for a company owned by Bill and Hank selling car polish. He did go out of town on a sales trip and got drunk. He was rebuffed by the other members. He did sober up and return to New York. Jim, by his own admission, was thereafter less contemptuous of the religiosity of the other members. Bill gets a bit creative in returning to the conversion story format by adding a mysterious interaction with a bible in a hotel room and has Jim appear in the home of an unnamed fellow AA asking if the family had had their "morning meditation", implying Jim had abandoned his disbelief. These parts did not happen. The home in which Jim appeared was Hank's. Hank was also an atheist; the chances that he would have been having a religious meditation are small. Jim never mentioned a bible in relating his story, nor did he ever abandon his disbelief. According to Clarence Snyder (an early AA member from Cleveland): "Jimmy remained steadfast, throughout his life and 'preached' his particular [non-God] brand of AA wherever he went." Jim died in 1974, sober 35 years and still an atheist. Jim was responsible for the "God as you understand Him" and "Higher Power" wording of the Steps. Jim B.'s contribution to Alcoholics Anonymous is considered by many to be second only to that of AA's two co-founders,

Bill, in later years, regretted his earlier position. In 1957, writing in *AA Comes of Age* (footnote, page 232), Bill said, "Nothing, however, could be so unfortunate for AA's future as an attempt to incorporate any of our personal theological views into AA teaching, practice or tradition. Were Dr. Bob still with us, I am positive he would agree that we could never be too emphatic about this matter." In a Grapevine article in 1961 ("The Dilemma of No Faith"), Bill went further: "In AA's first years I all but ruined the whole undertaking...God as I understood Him had to be for everybody. Sometimes my aggression was subtle and sometimes it was crude. But either way it was it was damaging – perhaps fatally so – to numbers of non-believers."

Brian C.



## The Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin

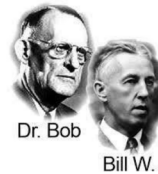
The SHARE-A-THON Committee is looking for volunteers to help with work needed to be done during the event, i.e., breakfast, lunch, smoking police, clean up, greeters, set up etc. Volunteers will work in different shifts so they can also attend workshops and meals at the event.

We need all groups in Suffolk County to make sure they have a representative attending this year's SHARE-A-THON meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. If they want their group to have a workshop but cannot participate in the monthly meetings have them email

Mary at:

[share@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:share@suffolkny-aa.org)

### **SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE PRESENTS**



Dr. Bob

Bill W.

### **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BRUNCH**

#### **Celebrating the 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday and History of Alcoholics Anonymous**

Date: Sunday, June 23, 2019

Location: Polish Hall Of Riverhead

214 Marcy Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00 per ticket

See your GSR, DCM, or SIA rep for more information on acquiring tickets

To order tickets online please visit <https://aasuffolkgs-ny.org> or email Debbie L., Birthday Brunch Chair at [bbbrunch@aasuffolkgs-ny.org](mailto:bbbrunch@aasuffolkgs-ny.org)

Speaker: Bill C.  
Nassau County  
James D. Archives with  
a PowerPoint  
Presentation of the  
history of AA

### **SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHARE-A-THON "ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE"**

#### **WHEN**

**Sunday Oct. 13, 2019  
9am – 4pm**

#### **WHERE**

**St. Joseph's College**  
155 West Roe Blvd. Patchogue, NY 11772

#### **SCHEDULE**

**Breakfast: starts at 8am**

**Workshops: 9:00am-3:00pm**

**Lunch: 12:00pm-2:00pm**

**Spiritual Speakers: 3:15pm-4:00pm**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

Light breakfast and  
lunch provided

**NO SMOKING  
ANYWHERE ON  
CAMPUS**

**PLEASE EMAIL  
[SHARE@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:SHARE@suffolkny-aa.org)**

With any questions,  
list of items needed  
for donation and all  
registration forms





## The On-line Speaker Exchange to be disconnected

The On-line Speaker Exchange will be disconnected shortly. We brought our SIA communities groups into this program as a companion offering to the in-person exchanges. The goal was to expand the groups abilities to exchange speakers in another more convenient way throughout. Over the last two years we saw great traction with the on-line program, but over time groups changed commitments and involvement slowly and steadily declined.

Despite all of our best intentions and efforts we had to come to recognize that the program, as it is now setup, isn't the best or most ideal solution. Although, it did offer many groups with speakers and opportunities for groups to send out their members to other locations. We have tried relentlessly to encourage other groups to spread the word and expand the participation levels in-order to make the program more practical.

Unfortunately, despite all the best intentions and efforts put forth we have found ourselves with the reality that the On-line Speaker Exchange in its current form just doesn't seem viable.

This doesn't mean that the On-line Speaker Exchange will be gone forever though. We have learned valuable lessons about what works or doesn't work from this first version.

The best part of what this OSE program has given SIA is "Group Emails" for every group in our

Sponsored by the General Services of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the Hispanic Districts.  
Hosted by Nassau County.

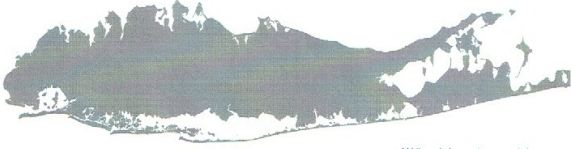
## LONG ISLAND SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SERVICE 2019

Long Island Spirituality Through Service ("L.I.S.T.S.") aspires to affirm the spiritual practice of Unity & Service to recovering alcoholics.

### SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL  
110 ANCHOR AVE.  
OCEANSIDE, N.Y. 11572

Directions:  
Driving East: Southern State Parkway Exit 17 south. Ocean ave. to Atlantic Ave. right to Long Beach Rd. 2 blocks turn right on Anchor Ave. St. Anthony's parking lot will be 200 ft. on the right.  
Driving West: Southern State Parkway Exit 17 south and follow the same directions as above.  
Train/Bus: Long Island Railroad to Rockville train station. Bus # N15 to Windsor Pkwy. Walk west on W. Windsor Pkwy toward Damby Ave., turn right on Damby Ave., turn left on Anchor Ave. and St. Anthony's will be 200 ft. on the right.



Recovery & Refreshments    Service & Song  
Food & Fun    Meditation & Music  
Round Tables & Service Fair

Wheelchair Accessible  
ASL (if requested in advance)  
English and Spanish Translation

county. If your group hasn't yet received yours, you can contact the

Webmaster @  
WebSup@suffolkny-aa.org to get all set up.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in this program and truly gave it a chance to work. Additionally, a BIG THANK YOU goes out to Tracy K, Tommy and our helper James whom I had the pleasure to work closely with on creating / managing program and its tools.

Stay tuned, other new tools will hopefully be available soon.

Sincerely,  
Steven – Webmaster & Meetings Chair

# AA Takes Over...



**Where: 2245 Broadhollow Rd.  
Farmingdale, NY 11735**

**When: Saturday, 9/14/19**

**6:30 - 9:30 pm**

**Cost: \$26/person**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS  
(BUY EARLY)**

**\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME \*\*\***