

ANONYMOUS SOUTHJERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

OCTOBER 2012

Looking at Step Ten

Step 10: Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

When I think of Step Ten, one word has more weight than the others for me and that's "promptly". I don't like being wrong obviously, but it happens. It happens less and less these days but that's because I've been learning to keep my mouth shut more often, especially since I don't drink anymore. I used to think I was pretty witty at times and although some people did enjoy things that I had to say, a good deal of these remarks were cutting, regardless of how smart they appeared to me at the time.

"When I realize I've said or done something wrong it's usually immediate but not always. There is that brief moment where I'm analyzing what happened and how I responded and I'm weighing out my actions."

When I realize I've said or done something wrong it's usually immediate but not always. There is that brief moment where I'm analyzing what happened

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Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife

*The author of **Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife** talks with ASJ's editor about sobriety, writing a memoir, and alcoholism.*

The first time I met Brenda Wilhelmson, I was working as a radio producer—which means I booked the guests and generally made sure the live show went smoothly. I had just a few months of sobriety under my belt, and I was excited that she was going to be a guest on the program to talk about her new book. Normally I just skimmed the books we were sent by prospective guests, but I took hers home and read it in about two nights. It really affected me, and I wanted to tell her. When she arrived for the radio interview, we had a few minutes alone before the start of the show and I quietly told her that I was a "friend of Bill W.'s". Her face positively lit up when I said those words. We spent a few minutes chatting before she had to go on the air, and she told me to keep in touch when she left. I never forgot how kind and encouraging she was to me. In the nearly two years I've been sober, I have given her book to several friends in the program. Read it and you'll see another example of how our stories are all different, and yet the same. Brenda has nine years of sobriety and continues to regularly attend meetings.

"Nobody knew I was an alcoholic when I decided to get sober. My family looked good, my house looked good, I looked good, even though I was getting drunk most nights and waking up with a wicked hangover. I sporadically tried to quit drinking on my own but couldn't."

So...even though I've read your book, many people reading this interview won't be familiar with it. Tell us how the book came to be...and why you felt it might be worth publishing.

Nobody knew I was an alcoholic when I decided to get sober. My family looked good, my house looked good, I looked good, even though I was getting drunk most nights and waking up with a wicked hangover. I sporadically tried to quit drinking on my own but couldn't. I began going to 12-step meetings and everyone's story was worse than mine. Nearly dying, losing custody of children, mental institutions, jail—those were the

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stories. I drove my kids to soccer, made them school lunches in the morning, worked out at the gym, had a vibrant social life. I told myself I wasn't like those people, my drinking wasn't that bad, I didn't belong at meetings. But I couldn't stop drinking. I'd wake up hung over and promise myself I wouldn't drink for a couple of days, but I'd be drinking that night. One evening, after listening to a slew of horror stories at a meeting, I drove to a bookstore hoping to find an alcoholic story I could relate to, but the memoirs I pulled off the shelves were horror stories, too. I drove home and went to bed. As I lay there, it occurred to me that millions of people must be suffering like I was and I should write the book I was looking for. I began keeping a journal. I let it all hang out. And it became *Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife*.

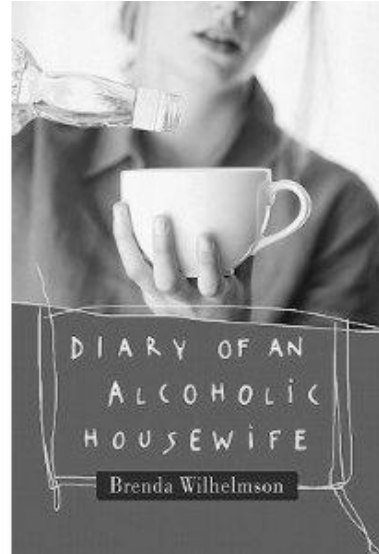
Were you worried about doing something that clearly breaks your anonymity, as well as others'? Did you change names, situations, or is this really what happened? Did you ask everyone's permission? Ever have second thoughts?

I was very worried about coming out as an alcoholic. Only my immediate family and a couple close friends knew I was alcoholic before *Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife* was released. While I was editing my journals into book form, I told myself it might not get published and found comfort in that. I stayed true to the facts, reported what happened and, except for my relatives and me, changed everyone's

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was released."*

name and identifying characteristics. I didn't name my support group or the people in it. We can say, "I'm an alcoholic," all we want, but we're asked not to identify anonymous organizations and members and I adhered to that. So, no, I didn't ask anyone's permission. But, yes, I did have second thoughts about putting my story out there. Right before my book was released, I sent an email to everyone in my address book telling them about it. I felt sick to my stomach pressing the send button. But right away, people emailed me back, many telling me that they or their family members had drinking problems. I was relieved to know I did the right thing.

What kind of a reaction did you get from people that are



Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife, published 2011 by Hazelden, was the Bronze Star Winner in the Autobiography/Memoir category of the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards.

mentioned in the book? How about your family?

Reactions from people who are in my book were mixed. A few of my friends don't speak to me now, but the vast majority are hugely supportive, especially my family. Except for one cousin who isn't too happy with me, my family is my rock.

I found that there was a lot you talk about that I could relate to...for me, especially, the whole "am I really an alcoholic" question. When did you finally admit that yeah, you were one?

Even though I kept telling myself, Maybe I'm not an alcoholic, I knew I was from the get go. That's why I worked at staying sober. If I didn't really believe I was alcoholic, I would have started drinking.

You express the feeling that you didn't belong with these people when you first started attending meetings...some you even call losers. I think all of us in the fellowship can relate to that...it was what kept me from going at first. I would think, I'm not as bad as THAT. What changed your mind?

My sponsor and a tragic story helped change my mind. I told my sponsor I was having trouble relating to people in recovery because they'd done things I'd never do. She smiled and said, "A lot of us think that. Then we start examining our behavior. Think of all the times you drove drunk. You were just lucky." A woman who'd gotten sober when I did was sent to jail for drunkenly crashing her car

Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife continued on page 4

Sponsorship: Some thoughts on this important A.A. relationship

What I need in a sponsor is one who is moving away from a drink, who actively works the Steps, and who is actively involved in the program on a daily basis. With these requirements, it is possible for me to find a large number of people with whom I can relate.

If a sponsor has to have fifteen-plus years, then I may be looking for some time. Having an ordinary sponsor helps me to achieve that noble goal.

-- Frank Z., Audubon Last Mile Step & Tradition

This is my experience. I really didn't know the point of having a sponsor when I first came to AA. But now I understand why it is important. There are things I can't share with my family because instead of doing them good I would just harm them.

With my sponsor, I can tell him anything. He has given me the ability to trust. Trusting others has been hard for me. I first knew I wanted this man to be my sponsor because I felt this really strong connection to him...He has shown me the value of things.

With my sponsor, I can tell him anything. He has given me the ability to trust. Trusting others has been hard for me. I first knew I wanted this man to be my sponsor because I felt this really strong connection to him. Suddenly I knew that I wanted him to sponsor me. He has shown me the value of things.

I have always known that I was different. And it has been really hard to accept it. Because my head tells me so many

things and I start to believe it. But when I share it with my sponsor he brings me down to earth from that cloud that I am in.

I always felt that nobody would understand me. I lived in a halfway home for three months in San Jose, Calif. That was where I met my sponsor. Soon, I returned to my home in Modesto. I got another sponsor since it was hard for me to communicate with the first one because I only had a house phone and I couldn't make long distance calls.

But I would go to San Jose to visit from time to time. While I was in Modesto, I would share with my new sponsor. But I would feel that she didn't get me so when I finally got a cell phone I would contact him and share and I asked him if he could sponsor me and he said yes.

I finally have someone who does understand me. We talk about anything. Things that I was ashamed of sharing with others I can be open about now because my sponsor has worked with me about that. He is helping me understand about my sickness. And also showing me how to love others and most importantly myself.

When he gives me suggestions and I follow them, it makes me feel good inside. He makes me feel like I can do just about anything if I set my mind to it. When I am feeling down I can talk to him and he tells me not to worry that everything is going to be ok, and it is at the end, it always is ok.

—Marcela Q., Calif., in the September 2012 online edition of Grapevine

Happy Anniversary, Last Mile!

The Last Mile Step & Tradition home group was founded in October 1992. The founders of this group wanted to make a step meeting available on Monday nights. This is a closed step/tradition meeting held every Monday night at 7:30 pm (traditions on the first Monday of every month). The group's first meeting place was at the 11th Step Store in Westmont. Over time, their location changed to Immanuel Church (Cedar & Johnson Avenues, Oaklyn). As their meeting attendance grew, they moved from Immanuel Church to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Lafayette St. & White Horse Pike, Audubon). Their current home is at the United Methodist Church, 314 Graisbury Ave., Audubon.

The group will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on Monday, October 29, 2012--desserts at 7:00, followed by two speakers.



into a car with two teenage boys in it. The boys were seriously injured. I could have been responsible for something like that. I could have been the one going to jail. All of a sudden, I wasn't on my high horse anymore.

What about the God/higher power question—how did you come to believe in a power greater than yourself? Would you describe yourself as spiritual versus religious?

Throughout my life I've vacillated on the God issue. I was brought up to worship in a rigid fundamental church. In my twenties, I considered myself agnostic. By the time I got sober, I'd wrapped my mind around a concept of God that worked for me, and my concept of God keeps evolving. So, yeah, I consider myself a spiritual, not religious, person.

Wednesday, December 25

"I woke up without a hangover, which was nice. . . . [I] decided that last night's little drinking episode was just a slip. Today I was back to no drinking. December 25 would be a good sobriety date. What a gift to Jesus. . . . When we walked in, his brother, Chris, offered us eggnog. What the hell, it was Christmas. I finished the eggnog and had a glass of wine. What the hell, I'd already consumed alcohol. . . . I'll give up drinking tomorrow."

from Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife

You write about your father being an alcoholic. He never went to an AA meeting. That touched a chord in me—my father was the same. That must have been hard—do you feel that maybe alcoholism runs in your family?

I do feel alcoholism runs in my family. My father was an alcoholic, his father was an alcoholic, I'm an alcoholic. It's interesting how alcoholism hits some and skips others.

Your husband continued to drink while you were struggling to stay sober—how did you manage that? I see many women in the fellowship who are in the same situation. . . . and some marriages make it, some don't. Does he drink now?

My husband was very respectful when I stopped drinking. Not everyone is so lucky. My husband asked if it bothered me to have alcohol in the house and said he'd stop drinking at home if it did. I didn't want to be someone who couldn't be within spitting distance of liquor. I told him he could have beer in the house but not vodka or

wine. I loved vodka and wine. Having those in the house would have been a problem. Nine years later, my husband keeps his beer in the basement refrigerator. A six-pack often lasts him a week or two. It's no big deal.

What has been the response from the fellowship at large to the book? What kind of feedback do you get? And I guess, what are you hoping people take away from the book?

Again, the response has been mixed but more positive than negative. I really don't hear a lot of negative feedback. Certain people just keep their distance. I hear the good stuff, though. People tell me they were just like me. A lot of them have highlighted passages in my book, read it more than once, given it to friends, and given it to sponsees.

The book was recently honored. Tell us about that.

Yes. The Independent Publishers Book Awards gave *Diary of an Alcoholic Housewife* an IPPY, a bronze in the memoir category. I was so happy!

What is your next project?

I'm working on a novel, a piece of fiction. I started writing another memoir but couldn't do it.

You've been sober for a while now. Any tips for newcomers? How do you keep it green for yourself?

Don't lie to yourself. Remember an anesthetized life is pathetic and boring and reality is way more interesting. Dump your problems, all of them, on your higher power. When you don't know what to do, do nothing until the answers come. And if you keep doing the next right thing that's put in front of you to do, your life will unfold beautifully.

How do I keep it green? After attending meetings for years, I started feeling like I wasn't getting much out of them. I considered not going. Then I thought, How selfish. Instead of taking, I can give. Life is loaded with ups and downs so sometimes I'm in a position to give, sometimes to take. And after nine years, meetings still help me screw my head on right.

--Patty H., newsletter chair

Tradition Ten: Keeping Outside Issues Outside

Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Recently I was asked to give a lead at a meeting on Tradition Ten and like any good alkie, I got out the "Twelve and Twelve," started to read and was once again awed by our miraculous, God-inspired program.

Tradition Ten says that Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy. No AA group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate AA, express any opinion on outside controversial issues, particularly those of politics, alcohol reform or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters, they can express no views whatever.

Tradition Ten brings good news for me as a member of my AA group, reminding me that I should not get involved with any outside issues because I could offer some real bad advice. If I go back to this Tradition, it tells me the answer—share your experience, strength and hope and try to keep keep your opinions to yourself.

What a tall order for a know-it-all alcoholic of my type who likes to throw her opinion around—even when I don't know what I am talking about! Sure I think I know, good intentions and all, but I have learned over the years that what I believe to be the truth at one point in my life may not be the same at another time because I am continually changing and growing. I have also learned that my experience is not going to be a cookie cutter version of someone else's. We all have our own personal paths when it comes to our recovery. Tradition Ten brings good news for me as a member of my AA group, reminding me that I should not get involved with any outside issues because I could offer some real bad advice. If I go back to this Tradition, it tells me the answer—share your experience, strength and hope and try to keep your opinions to yourself. Tradition Ten protects our meetings from going off course. I've seen it happen. At fellowship one evening, talk about a political candidate came up. It was obvious some were passionate about this person, but not all of us. I was not "for" this particular figure, but I

didn't say anything so as to avoid a heated debate. The tone of the conversation was already heightened without adding fuel to the fire. It is a clear-cut example of why outside issues belong outside. If this was going on during my first-ever AA meeting, I may not have come back.

I also am grateful that when I came into Alcoholics Anonymous the group did not ask me about my religious beliefs. At that point, I felt I had tried religion, and it did not work. Over my years of sobriety I have personally ventured out in all kinds of different directions around religion, but I don't bring the details into my AA groups, and it has never been a topic at any of my meetings.

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Wouldn't it be downright dangerous if we had an opinion either way regarding the use of doctor-prescribed medications such as anti-depressants? Tradition Ten saves us again!

The risk of having an opinion in all of these examples is that the newcomer might think the entire movement of Alcoholics Anonymous believes this way, and we will lose them. I pray to remember that I represent my AA group and not "the world according to Cheryl group."

Our Traditions are the glue that holds us together. Without this Tradition I would die as the group would die because we would no longer be talking about alcoholism—the reason we are here in the first place.

**—Cheryl B., North Riverside, Ill.
From the October 2011 Grapevine Magazine**

Ask a Work in Progress Alcoholic



Our resident columnist focuses this month on the principle of honesty

Although I am far from being a student of the Big Book or of any of the books devoted to the genesis and development of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have gained the desire (and willingness) to learn more about them. A few 24/7s in the program helped me to acquire knowledge of such things from folks with more program time than I--both via their sharing in meetings as well as through discussions outside of meetings. Then, if and when I thirst for more specific knowledge of these things, I can go straight to their source documents.

The principles behind the steps are as follows:

- Step 1: Honesty
- Step 2: Hope
- Step 3: Faith
- Step 4: Courage
- Step 5: Integrity
- Step 6: Willingness
- Step 7: Humility
- Step 8: Brotherly Love
- Step 9: Justice
- Step 10: Perseverance
- Step 11: Spiritual Awareness
- Step 12: Service

All of us can identify our own journey on the daily walk in sobriety in each principle. I had to practice honesty (extremely difficult for me) in admitting that not only am I an alcoholic, but that my life had become unmanageable as a result of my alcoholism. That second part of the first step was a real "GOTCHA!" moment for me. While I knew for some years that I was an alcoholic, it really wasn't a problem inasmuch as I had not yet experienced any of those I-never's, which I now realize were simply not-yets. It took the power of God, working through another person, to bring me to that realization (and reality). Having achieved this enlightened state of mind, I was presented with a dilemma--what was I to do about it? The choices were only two in number and fairly simple in concept. I could

either continue along my current life path, and expect (and know) that life was going to keep getting yet more unmanageable, or I could grab the life preserver that AA was holding out for me. Most fortunately for me, I opted for the AA way of life. I have never made a better life decision (thanks to the God of my understanding), nor have I regretted that decision for a millisecond.

The Step 1 principle of honest was the key that unlocked the door for me (and does so on a daily basis, so long as I practice it) to all the remaining steps and principles. If I am honest with myself, and others, that provides a solid foundation for me to work the remaining steps, and to achieve (and enjoy) the principles embodied in them.

The Step 1 principle of honesty was the key that unlocked the door for me (and does so on a daily basis, so long as I practice it) to all the remaining steps and principles. If I am honest with myself, and others, that provides a solid foundation for me to work the remaining steps, and to achieve (and enjoy) the principles embodied in them. Of course, this exercise is a daily practice, and can be worked only as well as the state of my then current degree of spirituality. I pray that I may be willing to guide me along His path for me today, and that He does the same for you.

-- A Work in Progress Alcoholic

"Ask a Work in Progress Alcoholic" is a column where one alcoholic shares his perspective on recovery, alcoholism, and the Twelve Steps. He takes on topics that come up in the rooms and in his recovery. Tell us what you think, or if you have a question to ask our resident alcoholic, please send your question to newsletter@aaaj.org.

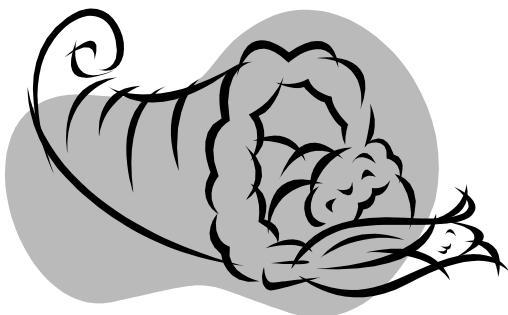
Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey Intergroup (although we welcome readers from other areas!). Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either A.A. or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from A.A. literature are printed with permission from A. A. World Services, Inc., and/or The A. A. Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from readers are encouraged—you can write about your experience, strength and hope in general, or you can focus on one of the steps or traditions. You can also write about something that touched you at a meeting, something that bothered you at a meeting, or some service commitment you especially enjoy. Submissions are edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish flyers for events in this newsletter. However, we are happy to include your gathering in the general list of fellowship announcements.

Send your submissions to:
newsletter@aasj.org.



and how I responded and I'm weighing out my actions.

This delay tactic in my head is usually interrupted by the word "promptly" loud and clear in my mind. When I picture it being said it's by an old Irish ex- tough guy sitting in a back wooden booth taking one of his broken pickle fingers and tapping it calmly on the table while he looks me square in the eye. Take care of this promptly. That's my sober conscience manifesting itself and it doesn't let me get away with much these days. I have and still do watch a lot of movies and read a lot.

I do my checklists during the day, usually one after dinner and one in the morning on my way to work. One is for work and one is for personal reasons. I keep them separated but they influence one another at times. It doesn't take long.

There are other times that my mind drifts from the present and I think of actions from my past that were wrong for many different reasons. Now that I'm sober I can see more clearly why I acted the way I did although I'm not proud of my previous coping skills or behaviors. Some of these items get moved to my Step Nine list as they will take more time to get squared away. It's then that I hear "don't dawdle" from my conscience.

I'm coming up on two years sober so this new way of approaching things is just that, new. I started Step Ten right after I started Step Four. I didn't want my list to get any longer and I was enjoying sleeping a little better at night and looking in the mirror without remorse when I shaved in the mornings. The nice thing about it is that it gets easier and easier with the more coping skills that you learn and it's one of the things that people immediately notice. In today's world you don't get a lot of apologies or admissions of wrong doing and for someone to take immediate responsibility for their actions goes a long way.

--Mike S.

Question of the Month

Since Thanksgiving is coming up next month, we are looking for a piece on gratitude—or maybe you just want to send us your gratitude list! We will print as many as we receive—let's fill the next issue with gratitude!

What are you grateful for this Thanksgiving?

Please email your replies no later than Wednesday, November 14th, to: newsletter@aasj.org.

Fellowship Announcements & Things to Do Autumn 2012

Wednesday, October 17 - "Sisters in Sobriety" Anniversary. 6:30 PM - Food, followed by a speaker. First Presbyterian Church, 494 Beverly - Rancocas Rd., Willingboro, NJ.

Friday, October 19 - Absecon "Friday Night Sobriety Group" will celebrate their 27th Anniversary with FFF starting at 7:00PM. Absecon Presbyterian Church, 208 New Jersey Ave., Absecon. Speaker will be Dick F. (38 yrs).

Saturday, October 20 - Seaville Cape Atlantic Intergroup will sponsor "A Day of Sharing" @ Seaville Fire Hall, 35 Rte. 50. Continental breakfast starts at 9:00 AM. Discussions start at 9:30 AM. Buffet lunch will be served. All Are Welcome. More info call: Bill T. 609-682-4264.

Sunday, October 21- Bordentown @ Divine Word Seminary, 101 Park St., Bordentown, NJ. An interactive workshop sponsored by Districts 22 & 23 "How to Succeed in Sobriety by Really Trying". Registration & breakfast @ 8:30am.

Monday, October 22 - Book Signing "My Life as a Border Collie" at Eleventh Step Store, 31 Haddon Ave. Westmont, NJ. 856-869-9099 or www.eleventhstep.com. 7:00 PM.

Monday, October 22 - "Willingboro Group" 53rd Anniversary. 7:00 PM - Food, followed by a speaker. First Presbyterian Church, 494 Beverly - Rancocas Rd., Willingboro, NJ.

Tuesday, October 23 - Mullica Hill Hungry Hour Group is celebrating its 25th anniversary. St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Main St. Mullica Hill. Food - 4:30 PM. Speaker & Fellowship

Friday, October 26 - Cape-Atlantic Intergroup will sponsor a Masquerade Ball and Dance at Absecon United Methodist Church on Pitney Rd. & Church St. Absecon. Cost \$10 (semi-formal attire suggested - mask required) Speaker meeting at 7:00 PM followed by dinner and dance. More info: Greg 609-457-0313.

Saturday, October 27- Kiss Club is having a Halloween Dance Party. 8:00 PM. \$5.00/pp Food, \$1sodas. Prizes for the best costumes and 50/50. 801 N. Broad St., Woodbury.

Saturday, October 27- North Wildwood will have a Halloween Costume Ball at the North Wildwood Community Center @ 10th & Central Aves. F-F-F Music and dancing w/ DJ. Cost \$10 at door.

Saturday, October 27 - Grand Opening Fundraiser for the "Lioness Pride" supporting female ex-offenders. 2:00pm to 5:00 pm. (Silent Auction).The Taproom and Tavern, 427 W. Crystal Lake Ave., Haddon Twp, NJ. RSVP Sharon: 856-831-6005 or SHARON@THELIONESPRIDE.ORG

Monday, October 29 - Audubon Last Mile Step and Tradition Group will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Desserts will be served at 7:00 PM before our speakers. We are located on the corner of Wyoming and Graisbury Aves. Audubon, NJ. United Methodist Church.

Friday, November 2 - Lawnside will celebrate their 35th Anniversary. 8:00 PM with desserts and great speakers. Local Lawnside Borough Hall, Douglas & Warwick Rd. Lawnside, NJ.

Wednesday, November 7 - The Hemingway Yearly Anniversary. 7:30 - 9:00 PM. Gibson House, 535 Main St., Marlton, NJ 08053 (Indian Springs Driving Range). Eating Meeting with speakers. All are welcome.

Thursday, November 8 - Absecon "Trudgers" Group" will celebrate 14 years at the United Methodist Church, W. Church & Pitney Rd., Absecon, NJ in the Great Hall. Speaker: 5:30 - 6:30 PM with food and fellowship to follow - Bring a dessert if possible.



Saturday, November 10 - Big Book Study. Highlighting Bill W. & Dr. Bob's Message in the Big Book. Bring a pen, highlighter & Big Book. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. New Beginnings Club, 101c Rose Ave., Runnemede, NJ. (Enter 1001 Rose Ave. into your GPS device.)

Saturday, November 10 - 12 Traditions Workshop. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 839 Haddon Ave., Collingswood, NJ. Food-Speakers-Fellowship + the Road Show will be there. 9:00 AM till 11:30 AM. All are welcome.

Saturday, November 10 - "Self-Centeredness" A workshop presented by District 14. 9:00 AM -noon. Continental breakfast will be served. 1st Presbyterian Church, 2nd & Pine Sts., Millville.

Sunday, November 11- 8th Annual Unity Breakfast Cape May at the Grand Hotel, 1045 Beach Ave. Cape May, NJ. Guest speaker: William G Borchert (author of "My Name is Bill W. & The Lois Wilson Story). Cost: \$23 p/p. Doors open at 8:00 AM - Breakfast starts at 9:00 AM - Meeting @ 10:00 AM. NO WALK-INS. More info call: Cris K. 609-437-6188.

Tuesday, November 13 - The Maple Shade Group will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, S. Forklanding Road and Helen St., Maple Shade. This is an eating meeting. Food to start promptly at 7:00 PM, followed by a speaker. As always we will feature a mystery guest speaker starting at 8:00 PM, and other fun stuff.

Saturday, November 17 - Gratitude Dinner / Dance. Sponsored by SJIG Social Committee. Nicolosi Catering, 1 Hessian Ave., West Deptford, NJ. 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Tix: \$20.00 in advance -\$25.00 at the door.

Sunday, November 18 - Area 45 Fall Assembly. Registration: 8:30 AM. New GSR/DCM Orientation: 9:00 AM. Assembly: 10:00 AM. Lunch: 12:30 PM. Workshop: 12:45 PM. Committee Meeting: 1:30 PM. Collingswood Senior Citizen Center, 30 Collings Ave., (Second Floor), Collingswood, NJ.

Saturday, December 8 - (Collingswood) A Daily Reprieve will have their 11th Anniversary at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 18 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights. (Enter from White Horse Pike) starting at 9:00 AM with continental breakfast followed by speakers.

If you have any changes or any new items that you feel would benefit our fellowship, please contact Wayne at 856-534-0104 or wcp714@verizon.net.

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SJIG holds its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8pm

at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

989 Route 70 East

Cherry Hill, NJ

