ANONYMOUS SOUTHJERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

December, 2019

Step Twelve

When I first came into AA, I thought I'd never get to step 12.

It seemed so out of reach, so far away and how was I going to help anyone? Of course, my sponsor at the time smiled at me and said "When you are done steps 1 through 11 you will see how you can help someone, maybe even sooner".

I have also heard over and over again how amazed we will be when we complete the steps and how quickly it can be done. If we are willing, of course.

My sponsor also suggested that 12th step work comes in various shapes and sizes. It's not about how much time you have, it's about the time you give to someone or even a service commitment. We can all help someone, in some way in AA. Can I give someone a ride to a meeting? Can I buy a cup of coffee for the newcomer? Can I sit and listen while someone talks about what they are going through right now that's causing them concern?

I had no idea these were all about helping another alcoholic.

The principles of AA came along the way. It is a process understanding what that means. Knowing and doing the right thing rather than my old ways of selfishness. Being honest in all my affairs. This was hard for me, because I was certainly not honest when I was out there drinking.

Today I have a real compassion for the new person or someone just coming back in after a relapse. My judgments are no longer part of this process. I understand as I have been there.

Love and connecting with one another is the basic principle of helping another alcoholic.

Each step has an amazing spiritual benefit, you won't want to miss this! We are all glad you are here to join us!

Patti T.



Inside This Issue: ◆ AA History ◆ ◆ Opportunities for Service ◆ ◆ Announcements and Things to Do

The Countdown is On!!! July 2 - 5, 2020

Celebrate A.A.'s 85th Anniversary !

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2nd to July 5th, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code."

A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit. We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Detroit, our host city, will be provided.

Watch for Convention articles in A.A.'s quarterly news bulletin, Box 4-5-9, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O.

Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, Intergroups and Area Service Committees.

Online registration is now available.



Advance registration for the convention between Sept. 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee.

Everyone attending <u>must register</u>. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, "we pay our own way." The International Convention is paid for by the A.A.s who participate in it.

> We hope to see you in Detroit to celebrate the 85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.



Tradition Twelve

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principals before personalities."

When I was drinking I cared little about people's feelings or the situations I put them in. I was focused on myself, how I felt and what I needed. I walked into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, selfish, egotistical, and lacking humility. I was fortunate to meet a woman who showed me how she stayed sober one day at a time, I did not drink, but little else changed. For a time, I abstained from alcohol because I had a possible jail sentence on the horizon. I soon learned that if I did the "other" things these A.A.'s did I could not only be free from jail, but I could be free from "self", which is really what I suffered from.

My first months of sobriety provided me with experiences which I had never dreamed of and through good sponsorship and willingness, I learned that A.A. had brought me to a Higher Power of my own understanding and *that*'s what was keeping me sober. I was also taught that there were no rules here in A.A., but we had Traditions, and, if followed, would ensure that this program would be here if my children or grandchildren would ever need it.

One of my first lessons was that of Anonymity. When I got drunk, I thought I was only hurting myself, but that was not true, I shamed my family, I disappointed my employers, the list goes on. When I break my anonymity, (or the anonymity of another A.A.) I again have the potential to hurt people around me. I make a decision for them, that people in their lives will now know that that they are related to or associated with an alcoholic. We alcoholics have hurt a lot of people. In some cases we have caused irreparable damage. We stay sober only one day at a time. I will hope that I will always stay as willing and teachable as I am today, however, if I do not, I do not want the people who love and care for me to pay the price. I also do not want A.A. to suffer. I do not want people to think that A.A. does not work, because I stopped working A.A.

When I do break my anonymity, it is an encounter which I approach with caution and prayer. As written in the A.A. Responsibility Statement, "I always want the hand of A.A. to be there, and for that I am responsible." When someone wants what I have, God shows me what to do.

-Anonymous

Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are printed with permission from AA World Services, Inc., and/or the AA 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.

Please send your submissions to newsletter@aasj.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

South Jersey Intergroup Association, Inc. PO Box 2514 Cherry Hill, NJ 08035

Office/Literature Sales: 1-856-486-4446

Email: Info@aasj.org Website: www.aasj.org

24-HOUR HOTLINE 1-856-486-4444

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

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 1989 Route 70 East Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Hospitals & Institutions Open Speaking Commitments Contact Frank or Debbie at <u>handi@aasj.org</u> To book a speaking commitment. The Next Meeting is December 30, 2019 at 7PM at the Intergroup Office.

DECEMBER, 2019

Monday

Ancora – Hammonton – 7-8pm – Dec 23, 30 202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ Maryville Women's – Williamstown – 8-9pm, Dec 23 1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Tuesday

Maryville Women's – Williamstown – 8-9pm, Dec 24, 31 1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ Cooper Psych – Camden – 8-9pm – Dec 24, 31 1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ Solstice Counseling – Pemberton – 7-8pm – Dec 17, 24 300 Birmingham Road, Pemberton, NJ Recovery Centers of America - Voorhees –12-1pm – Dec 10, 17, 31 526 S Burnt Mill Rd, Voorhees NJ

Wednesday

Jefferson Psych Unit – Cherry Hill – 7:45-8:45pm – Dec 25 2201 Chapel Ave W, Cherry Hill NJ Unity Place I – Cherry Hill – 12:40-1:30pm – Dec 18, 25 1 Keystone Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ My Friend's House – Woodbury Heights – 7-8pm - Dec 25 371 Glassboro Road, Woodbury Heights, NJ RCA – Voorhees – 7:30-8:30pm – Dec 25 526 S Burnt Mill Rd, Voorhees NJ

Thursday

Lourdes Medical Center – Rancocas – 8-9pm – Dec. 5, 19 218 Sunset Rd., Rancocas, NJ Unity Place II – Hammonton – 10-11am – Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 121 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ Daybreak – MICA – Atco – 10:30am-12pm – Dec 12, 19, 26 368 White Horse Pike, Atco, NJ

Friday

Pinelands (Old Building) – Medford – 7-8pm – Dec 13 287 Old Marlton Pike, Medford NJ Maryville Post-House – Pemberton – 8-9pm – Dec 6, 13, 20 610 Brown Mills Road, Pemberton, NJ

Saturday

Maryville Men's – Williamstown – 7-8pm – Dec 21 1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Cooper Psych – Camden – 10:30-11:30am – Dec 28 1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ

JANUARY 2020

Monday

Inspira Psych Unit – Woodbury – 4-5pm – Jan 5, 26 509 N Broad St, Woodbury NJ

Tuesday

Cooper Psych – Camden – 8-9pm – Jan 7 1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ Recovery Centers of America - Voorhees –12-1pm – Jan 7, 28 526 S Burnt Mill Rd, Voorhees NJ

Wednesday

Unity Place I – Cherry Hill – 12:40-1:30pm – Jan 1, 22, 22 1 Keystone Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ Solstice - Pemberton - 12-1pm - Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 300 Birmingham Road, Pemberton NJ My Friend's House – Woodbury Heights – 7-8pm - Jan 1, 8 371 Glassboro Road, Woodbury Heights, NJ

Thursday

Ancora - Hammonton - 7-8pm - Jan 16, 23, 30 202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ Lourdes Medical Center – Rancocas – 8-9pm – Jan 16, 30 218 Sunset Rd., Rancocas, NJ Unity Place II – Hammonton – 10-11am – Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 121 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ Daybreak – MICA – Atco – 10:30am-12pm – Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 368 White Horse Pike, Atco, NJ

Friday

JFK Psych - Cherry Hill - 7-8pm - Jan 10 2201 Chapel Ave W, Cherry Hill NJ Pinelands (Old Building) – Medford – 7-8pm – Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 287 Old Marlton Pike, Medford NJ Maryville Post-House – Pemberton – 8-9pm – Jan 3, 17 610 Brown Mills Road, Pemberton, NJ

Saturday

Inspira Psych Unit – Woodbury – 4-5pm – Jan 18 509 N Broad St, Woodbury NJ Maryville Men's – Williamstown – 7-8pm – Jan 4, 18, 25 1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ Cooper Psych – Camden – 10:30-11:30am – Jan 4, 25 1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ

The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety by Bill Wilson

I think that many oldsters who have put our AA "booze cure" to severe but successful tests still find they often lack emotional sobriety. Perhaps they will be the spearhead for the next major development in AA—the development of much more real maturity and balance (which is to say, humility) in our relations with ourselves, with our fellows, and with God.

Those adolescent urges that so many of us have for top approval, perfect security, and perfect romance—urges quite appropriate to age seventeen—prove to be an impossible way of life when we are at age forty-seven or fifty-seven.

Since AA began, I've taken immense wallops in all these areas because of my failure to grow up, emotionally and spiritually. My God, how painful it is to keep demanding the impossible, and how very painful to discover finally, that all along we have had the cart before the horse! Then comes the final agony of seeing how awfully wrong we have been, but still finding ourselves unable to get off the emotional merry-go-round.

How to translate a right mental conviction into a right emotional result, and so into easy, happy, and good living—well, that's not only the neurotic's problem, it's the problem of life itself for all of us who have got to the point of real willingness to hew to right principles in all our affairs.

Even then, as we hew away, peace and joy may still elude us. That's the place so many of us AA oldsters have come to. And it's a hell of a spot, literally. How shall our unconscious—from which so many of our fears, compulsions and phony aspirations still stream be brought into line with what we actually believe, know and want! How to convince our dumb, raging and hidden "Mr. Hyde" becomes our main task.

I've recently come to believe that this can be achieved. I believe so because I begin to see many benighted ones—folks like you and me—commencing to get results. Last autumn [several years back ed.] depression, having no really rational cause at all, almost took me to the cleaners. I began to be scared that I was in for another long chronic spell. Considering the grief I've had with depressions, it wasn't a bright prospect.

I kept asking myself, "Why can't the Twelve Steps work to release depression?" By the hour, I stared at the St. Francis Prayer..."It's better to comfort than to be the comforted." Here was the formula, all right. But why didn't it work?

Suddenly I realized what the matter was. My basic flaw had always been dependence - almost absolute dependence - on people or circumstances to supply me with prestige, security, and the like. Failing to get these things according to my perfectionist dreams and specifications, I had fought for them. And when defeat came, so did my depression.

There wasn't a chance of making the outgoing love of St. Francis a workable and joyous way of life until these fatal and almost absolute dependencies were cut away.

Because I had over the years undergone a little spiritual development, the absolute quality of these frightful dependencies had never before been so starkly revealed. Reinforced by what Grace I could secure in prayer, I found I had to exert every ounce of will and action to cut off these faulty emotional dependencies upon people, upon AA, indeed, upon any set of circumstances whatsoever.

Then only could I be free to love as Francis had. Emotional and instinctual satisfactions, I saw, were really the extra dividends of having love, offering love, and expressing a love appropriate to each relation of life.

Plainly, I could not avail myself of God's love until I was able to offer it back to Him by loving others as He would have me. And I couldn't possibly do that so long as I was victimized by false dependencies. For my dependency meant demand—a demand for the possession and control of the people and the conditions surrounding me

While those words "absolute demand" may look like a gimmick, they were the ones that helped to trigger my release into my present degree of stability and quietness of mind, qualities which I am now trying to consolidate by offering love to others regardless of the return to me.

This seems to be the primary healing circuit: an outgoing love of God's creation and His people, by means of which we avail ourselves of His love for us. It is most clear that the current can't flow until our paralyzing dependencies are broken, and broken at depth. Only then can we possibly have a glimmer of what adult love really is.

Spiritual calculus, you say? Not a bit of it. Watch any AA of six months working with a new Twelfth Step case. If the case says "To the devil with you," the Twelfth Stepper only smiles and turns to another case. He doesn't feel frustrated or rejected. If his next case responds, and in turn starts to give love and attention to other alcoholics, yet gives none back to him, the sponsor is happy about it anyway. He still doesn't feel rejected; instead he rejoices that his one -time prospect is sober and happy. And if his next following case turns out in later time to be his best friend (or romance) then the sponsor is most joyful. But he well knows that his happiness is a byproduct—the extra dividend of giving without any demand for a return.

The really stabilizing thing for him was having and offering love to that strange drunk on his doorstep. That was Francis at work, powerful and practical, minus dependency and minus demand.

In the first six months of my own sobriety, I worked hard with many alcoholics. Not a one responded. Yet this work kept me sober. It wasn't a question of those alcoholics giving me anything. My stability came out of trying to give, not out of demanding that I receive.

Thus I think it can work out with emotional sobriety. If we examine every disturbance we have, great or small, we will find at the root of it some unhealthy dependency and its consequent unhealthy demand. Let us, with God's help, continually surrender these hobbling demands. Then we can be set free to live and love; we may then be able to Twelfth Step ourselves and others into emotional sobriety.

Of course I haven't offered you a really new idea—only a gimmick that has started to unhook several of my own "hexes" at depth. Nowadays my brain no longer races compulsively in either elation, grandiosity or depression. I have been given a quiet place in bright sunshine.

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THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

Dec 11

1934 – Bill admitted to Towns Hospital for the fourth and last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

Dec 12

1934 – Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.

Dec 12

1937 – Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money.

1934 – Ebby visits Bill at Towns hospital, brings William James' book, *Varieties of Religious Experience*.

Dec 19

1939 – Los Angeles hold their first AA meeting there.

Dec 20

1945 – Rowland H. dies (he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby).

Other December happenings with no specific date:

Dec 1934 – Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

Dec 1938 – Twelve Steps written.

.Dec 1948 – Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

Dec 1955 – *Man on the Bed* painting by Robert M. first appeared in Grapevine. Painting originally called *Came to Believe*

Dec 1982 – Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service.

Answering Service Needs You

Answering Service currently has eleven (11) open shifts and needs your help to get these shifts covered. Please announce these at your home groups:

Sunday 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.

Monday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday 6:00 a.m. to 8 a.m. overnight from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Thursday: 6:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m.

Friday overnight from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Contact us at <u>answeringservice@aasj.org</u>.

For more information or to volunteer, please call the Answering Service/12 Step Committee at 856-486-4446. This line has a message tape. Your call will be passed to the Committee Chairperson. Training sessions are available for 1st time telephone volunteers. The 12th step list is a list of committed AA members available to take the still suffering alcoholic, when they ask, to a meeting, detox, etc. Your call will be passed to the Committee Chairperson.



Happy Holidays.

Lease join your sober friends and family this holiday season. Search out sober events. If you have nothing else to do, don't sit home alone. Find a speaking commitment to cheer up someone who may not be home for the holiday. How about going to a meeting on Christmas day? The holiday cheer is contagious. Make it a time to remember and go out and have some fun in the fellowship. Bring a newcomer or sponsee. I guarantee, you will not regret it. (See page 8 for more info.)





Announcements and Things To Do

December 18th 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Intergroup Meeting St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Cherry Hill, NJ

Monday, December 30th H&I Meeting 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Intergroup Office Pennsauken, NJ

Tuesday, December 31st
District 22, 23 & Big Book in Florence
5th Annual Alca-thon,
United Methodist Church
Corner of Front and 2nd Streets
Florence, New Jersey
4pm to Midnight
Nick D. 609-864-6787

Christmas Meetingathon December 25 from Noon to 5:30 p.m. 449 Club 6 Pemberton Street Pemberton, NJ

Saturday. January. 11 Haddon Heights "A Daily Reprieve" 19 year anniversary lite breakfast sat 9 am w/ speakers following St. Mary's Episcopal Church 18 White Horse Pike

Saturday January 18 Woodstown Group 65th anniversary Woodstown Presbyterian Church 46 Auburn Road Woodstown, NJ Food & Fellowship at 6pm Speaker @ 8pm. Mar 27-29, 2020

Southern New Jersey Area 45, 55th Annual General Service Convention, The Hotel ML, 915 NJ-73, Mt Laurel, On-line Registration is now open! https:// area45convention.org

July 2-5, 2020 Detroit Michigan International Conv. https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/internationalconvention-2020

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTERGROUP CHAIR:

Happy Holidays everyone! I wish all of you a very happy, healthy holiday season! Enjoy family, friends and blessings!

This is my last report as your SJIG chair. I want to thank all of you for your continued support and participation in SJ Intergroup. We can't do it without you! I want to thank all the committees for their hard work and continued support. And the panel members - I really could not have done this commitment without all of you, trustees included! Wishing you all the best in the time to come.

Please be ready to vote! We have two Trustee openings and the panel positions. Please bring your experience if you are interested in any one of these positions.

We do have committees available to fill as well. Social Committee, Meeting Lists and Unity. Looking for Chairs. The chair will choose their co-chair. please consider this opportunity to do service, it's how I started out, and have really enjoyed this part of my recovery.

Please be sure to pick up all the flyers, minutes and financial reports on the back table. Thank you all again!

In love and peace, Patti T. SJIG Chair

Accept Your Responsibility To Get Involved In The Third Side of the AA Triangle. Voting for Most Positions Are Coming Up

The Intergroup Representatives elect as their trusted servants a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and such other officers as they deem necessary. The Regular Intergroup Meeting is on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm, at: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (St. Bart's) 1989 Rt.70 East Cherry Hill

Intergroup Officers

The Chairperson coordinates activities of the other Officers and Committee heads. He or she presides at Intergroup meetings, expressing no opinions either for or against any Motion on the floor while occupying the chair; voting only in the necessity of a tied-vote. The Chairperson may preside at Steering Committee meetings in the absence of the Vice-Chairperson.

The Vice-Chairperson presides as Chairperson of the Steering Committee. In the event of the absence of the Chairperson, he or she presides as Chairperson at Intergroup meetings.

The Treasurer keeps accurate account of Intergroup financial affairs, reporting same to Intergroup.

The Secretary takes minutes at Intergroup meetings and sees that minutes are distributed to Intergroup Representatives. He or she also performs any such duties as may be assigned.

The Assistant Secretary is the Secretary for the Steering Committee. The duties of Secretary and Assistant Secretary may be performed by one person in the absence of the other.

Intergroup Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of the panel of elected Intergroup Officers, Intergroup Committee Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons, and a Representative from the Board of Trustees. Our monthly meeting is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Intergroup Office in Pennsauken and is open to all members of the A.A. Fellowship.

Answering Service/12 Step Committee manages and fills the time slots with responsible AA members who volunteer to answer the phone at Intergroup office and at home by Centrex. The 12th step list is a list of committed AA members available The Social Events Committee plans social activities such as to take the still suffering alcoholic, when they ask, to a meeting, detox, etc.

The Archive Committee is responsible for the organization and storage of historic materials regarding the South Jersey

Intergroup. We gather oral and written histories of the groups and Old-timers for our area. If you have historic documents/ literature to donate or would like to be interviewed about your group's story or your personal story, please email us.

Bookers are representatives from AA home groups who book speakers from other AA home groups to speak at their meeting and book speakers from their group to go out to other AA meetings to speak. Bookers Meeting Exchange meets at the New Beginnings Club in Runnemede @ 8:00 pm on the First Thursday of February, May, August & November.

The Budget and Finance Committee of South Jersey Intergroup is an internal committee that assists the Steering Committee in preparation of its annual budget, is available to help committee chairmen with financial questions, and annually examines the treasurer's records and stewardship of money entrusted to Intergroup by contributing AA groups.

The Hospitals & Institutions Committee (H & I) books groups and individuals to fill speaking commitments at hospitals, detox centers, and rehabs. Also provides them with literature. Individuals are always welcome to book H&I speaking commitments either in person, via phone, or by email. The Hospitals & Institutions Booking Meeting takes place at the Intergroup Office in Pennsauken at 7:00pm on the last Monday of each month.

The Literature Committee is responsible for ordering and disbursing AA literature at the Intergroup office in Pennsauken.

The Meeting List Committee lists all AA meeting days, times, locations and types of meetings. Updated and reprinted when necessary. Call Intergroup to report a change in your meeting. You can also download a Meeting List Update Form or use the Online Update Form.

The Intergroup newsletter, Anonymous South Jersey, is published monthly and contains articles written by our own AA members as well as Intergroup news and announcements. To volunteer for this committee or to submit an article or other announcement, please call the Intergroup Office or email the committee. Your participation and submissions are always welcome.

The Public Information Committee provides AA speakers to schools and other organizations when requested. To have the Public Information Committee provide a presentation to your organization call the Intergroup Office or send email.

dances, dinners & family outings. Fun camaraderie for the Fellowship of AA! If you have any questions or ideas for social events, or would like to volunteer to work on the committee, please call or send email.

Unity Committee

