

Archives Committee Remembers Our Past

Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from.
—Carl Sandburg quoted in the A.A. Service Manual.

In the early 50s, Bill W. wanted to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous would not forget where we came from. He began collecting the history of AA and made it a mission in our service groups to collect the stories of our old timers as well as the history of our AA meetings and groups, down to describing the atmosphere of AA meetings through the years. The G.S.O Archives Room was opened in 1975.

The history of AA in our area has been maintained through the Archives Committee of South Jersey Intergroup and through the G.S.O. Archives committee. Jenn C., the Archives Chair for South Jersey Intergroup, recognizes the importance of her committee. "We try to help the alcoholic by

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The Garden of the Present Moment

When I look back at my early days of recovery, I'm grateful that AA gave me the tools to squash unhealthy myths and replace them with good ones.

I was a Buddhist before I began to drink and I'm a Buddhist now that I've stopped drinking. I remember how hypocritical it was that here I was a Buddhist, chanting every morning, reading as much inspirational literature as I could lay my hands on, mouthing the words "mindfulness" and "peace in every step."

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I remember thinking how ridiculous it was when I would drink and drift off towards alcohol-fueled oblivion and wake up and try, without success, to reconstruct the events of the night (and sometimes the day) before. What about accountability to the present moment? I was allegedly living in the moment, keen to all the energy in a flower, a butterfly, ocean waves, appreciating them as they were, feeling some kind of affinity with every living thing on the planet.

Balderdash!

I am an alcoholic and now I'm a recovering one. I was a functional one, which made me rationalize that drinking like I did was okay. My friends drank like me, sometimes with tragic consequences; and there was a family history of drinking that I felt I was obliged to perpetuate. There's nothing wrong with creating and then living a personal mythology, as long as its premises are sound. I was embracing Buddhist spirituality and the hard-drinking antics of writers like William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway?

What a crock!

I finally came around. It sounds goofy to anyone except those reading this in these pages that getting a DUI was the best thing that ever happened to me, but it was. Finally, I hit bottom. To date, my life had been a series of getting bowled over by waves, getting momentarily disoriented, and then continuing on my merry way. Fortunately, I didn't hurt anyone or worse. But the vividness of that evening is still with me. The vividness but not the detail, for it was a blackout and I'm still too ashamed to read the accident report.

But it did bring me to AA. I got out of jail at 2:00 in the morning and I was at my first meeting at by 8 a.m. I wasn't about to wait for some judge to tell me that I had a problem. I knew I had a problem. Ferociously, I started going to meetings. I wanted to proclaim to the world that, yes, I was an alcoholic—that things had become unmanageable and that I was scared to death of what could still happen. Listening to stories affirmed to me the folly of creating that particular mythology. From every person who shared, I extracted some nugget of knowledge, of wisdom, some way of articulating the feelings that, never having been expressed, had fueled my maniacal, blind desire to drink.

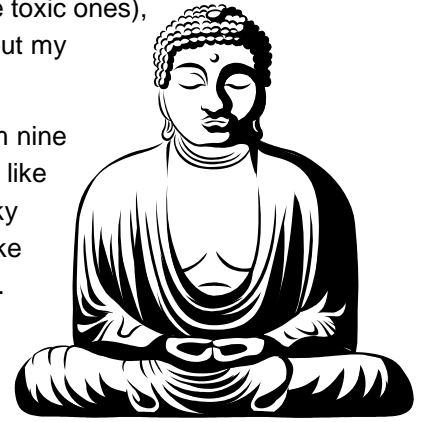
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I learned that AA is there to help us to stop drinking, period. Every time we felt an urge to drink, to go to a meeting instead. Every time we were confused, go to a meeting. Every time long-suppressed feelings would surface that hinted at the reasons why I drank the way I did in the first place, I went to a meeting. What helped at first was the camaraderie. People would greet me, give me their phone number, offer me their 24/7 attention. They were supportive; they were always there. I can't imagine what I would have done in those first few months if I had chosen to remain isolated.

But it wasn't just the stopping of drinking with which AA helped me. It was the recovery. My sponsor helped me re-learn to live. In my case it's true that, in recovery, we revert to whatever emotional age we were when we began to abuse alcohol. It meant learning how to re-relate to friends, to seek out healthy relationships with

women (and jettison the toxic ones), to not be so erratic about my career.

As I write this, today, I'm nine months sober and I feel like a kid again, a little gawky and ungainly, indeed, like I'm just learning to walk. But I am also filled with the awe and wonder of a world that brims with



beauty and joy. Once I realized that we only have the particular day in which we're living, I re-learned to focus on things like the birdsong that fills my courtyard as I write this, the sun cascading through the palm trees, the smell of the ocean one block away.

Of course, all these blessings also made for one happy Buddhist, as well. I dwell in the garden of the present moment. I don't black out anymore, I don't despise myself any more, I don't careen from one bout of alcohol-amnesia to the next. My life has continuity: a series of perfect little moments strung together like pearls on a necklace. In fact, being sober has made my life linear: no longer do I take one step forward and three steps back.

It's when I stopped drinking that the blessings began to flow. Slowly, but surely, I got my self-respect back. I learned that I didn't like myself and, with my sponsor's help, I understood the reasons why. I don't get sick anymore. I dropped a ton of weight. My cholesterol dropped to such an extent that I no longer had to take medicine. I don't wake up at 2:30 in the morning wondering why my life had to be the way it was. I got rid of bad influences, inappropriate relationships, and the squandering of opportunities. In short, I regained my physical, emotional, and most importantly, my spiritual health.

I don't have to dig myself out of my holes anymore. I'm vigilant, I'm patient. I don't rush my life forward. I don't make mad dashes to catch up to where I left myself off when I concluded the last drinking session. I let life come to me. I no longer push head first into quixotic adventures. I used to admire Don Quixote. Indeed, like him I would sally forth seeking adventures. Of course, the second part of that book shows him broken and disillusioned. Me, with sobriety, awareness, and tranquility, I got off of the Quixote train. I had fun. I got some great stories to tell. But I'm not seeking adventure anymore, I let life come to me. I let

The Only Requirement

Tradition Three-- The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

The first time I attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, I was twenty-five. The month before heading to a meeting was mishaps, broken promises, terrible accidents, wrong turns, missed appointments, and crossed boundaries. I woke up hung over, ashamed, unsure of myself. I don't even know how I ended up at an AA meeting, how I figured out where it was, or if I was an alcoholic. I just made a feeble connection that every night that something bad happened, and I crossed my boundaries, that I was drunk. Booze was interfering with the person I thought I could be. I walked into the meeting unshowered from the night before, probably sweating out whiskey, and suffering from the shakes something fierce.

No one told me to leave. No one told me that I didn't belong there because I was still drunk, or perhaps, not quite sober, or if I didn't know if I were an alcoholic. Our third tradition reminds us that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. But we don't have to be stopped.

I didn't stay sober after my first AA meeting. In fact, I went to one more meeting and drank for another ten plus years. When I came into the rooms, I had three days of sobriety under my belt, and I listened to what everyone said with a willingness that only the dying possess. I jumped into step work, got a sponsor, home group, called women. I had about three months sober, hitting ninety meetings in ninety days, when I sat next to someone who was drunk. It was the first time the smell of alcohol overwhelmed me in a meeting, and the want, lust, obsession hit me full force. I wanted to cry for how much I wanted a drink in that moment. I stayed in my seat, shaking from fear of drinking and fear of not drinking. All that want turned into rage and anger--How dare someone come to an AA meeting drunk!

I was indignant, full of righteous rage. I left the meeting, unsure of whether I could stay sober. I called my sponsor and told her the entire ordeal. I cried and yelled and she shushed me. "Our third tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. No one kicked you out of your first meeting, or your fifteenth or your fiftieth just because you smelled like booze, or perfume, or hairspray. You are still so cloudy, you probably just smelled hand sanitizer. Next time, switch seats, or go to another meeting, because that person needs a meeting as much as you and has as much right to be in that seat as you. One day, you will not react to the smell of alcohol with anxiety and fear, but until then, shut up and go to another meeting."

So, I went to another meeting, humbled, reminded of our third tradition that once embraced me without judgment.

--Angie Y.

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things ripen and happen as they will.

And you know what? There's no more anxiety and fear. With the assistance of my wonderful sponsor, I learned that alcoholism is both a cause and an effect of all that was bad in my life. Not anymore.

Now, my life is continuous. I am aware of each and every moment. I am present to experience the joy and beauty that is everywhere in life. Now I bob along on the surface of life, enjoying the view, the breeze, the sunset, and don't get capsized, drenched, coming close to but never quite reaching the bottom.

Of course, all these blessings also made for one happy Buddhist, as well. I dwell in the garden of the present moment. I don't black out anymore, I don't despise myself any more, I don't careen from one bout of alcohol-amnesia to the next. My life has continuity: a series of perfect little moments strung together like pearls on a necklace. In fact, being sober has made my life linear: no longer do I take one step forward and three steps back.

Prior to my sobriety, I had been engaged in a monumental recovery effort. I even called it that in my journal: a recovery effort. It consisted of digging myself out of the particular hole into which I had dug myself. Imagine all the effort expended in just trying to get back to where I was when I started!

No more self-manufactured drama. No more almost hitting bottom and thus never learning how to start over again. No more regrets from living in the past and anxiety from projecting myself into the future. Now I am fully present and accounted for.

And for a proud, self-proclaimed Buddhist, that's just the way that it should be.

--James S. (reprinted from the March online edition of Grapevine Magazine)

Within My Heart

After many years of drinking again, she returned to AA and found her HP

When I first arrived in the rooms of AA, I was confused and in a lot of pain. I had just lost my husband to cancer and I felt so alone. While going through some paperwork, I came across the name and phone number of a woman who was in the Program.

I called her and we made plans to meet for dinner. During that dinner, when I had related my latest tale of woe, she said "Renee, why don't you go to the Program?" I was shocked. I had not thought of that as a solution.

Many years earlier I had come to AA looking for a solution to my drinking problem. This was after my husband had left me because of his drinking issues. I thought I was free and clear after he left, but soon found myself not only drunk, but driving drunk with my daughter in the car. That was in 1980, and I managed to stay in the Program for a little over a year. But I did not follow the suggestions of my sponsor nor the Big Book—I did it my way, as the song goes.

Instead of building a relationship with the God of my understanding, I was still looking for that knight in shining armor to ride in and save me from myself. I had not found my faith at this point and instead, looked to other people to help me fight my demons. I met a man, who was not a member, and we soon became a couple, clinging to each other for support and the love we both were seeking. I was in the Program long enough to be very afraid of drinking, and did not return to the bottle. But I soon found myself using another kind of drug, and I dropped out of the Program. This would last for 17 years, and I believe it was the direct result of not having, believing, or choosing to have faith in a Higher Power.

After the passing of my husband, and my return to AA, I found the God of my understanding, right where he had been all these many years, within my heart. I can't tell you a time or a specific day, but I know he is a strong power in my life, and has been for some time now.

When I was new to recovery, I approached a member and told her of my fear that I did not have a Higher Power. She told me not to worry about it, to continue to put one foot in front of the other and to just keep an open mind. I did as suggested and found that my faith is a choice I make on a daily basis. I gave my HP attributes that I wanted for myself: kindness, gentleness, the ability to be patient, forgiving, capable of loving others, and when combined with trust, honesty and acceptance.

I was amazed to find this Higher Power. I came to believe that a Higher Power is more powerful than the disease of alcoholism, this was evident in all the faces around the tables in the room of AA. I could visualize my God as an older, grandfatherly type, dressed in white robes, bearded, and sitting in a large rocking chair. He has his arms stretched out wide to me, sets me on his knee and feelings of safety, love, and gentleness surround me. I know he is there for me, I know he loves me, and I know that he has my best interest at heart. He is my Higher Power. He has done for me what I was unable to do for myself. I am blessed, I have been graced with God's love and for all that I can only say: Thanks, God!

—Renee J., Stockton, Calif. (reprinted from the March online edition of Grapevine Magazine)

“God has a chance with any man or woman who doesn't have all the answers.”
“More will be revealed to us. If He revealed everything the first day, why would we come back?”

“The same willingness to swallow alcohol can be used to swallow AA slogans. This helps in early recovery.”

All quotes taken from the book "Wit and Wisdom of Anonymous Alcoholics" by Sharibi (which means drunkard in Urdu, Hindi and Farsi-Dari). Copyright 2012 by Alpine Lake Publishing.

“Getting drunk was fun except for the fights and the puking and the blackouts.”

“You can sit in a garage for 11 years and not become a car. (About working the steps but just attending meetings.)”

“Sign in a lobby: “The high speed elevator to the Sanity and Sobriety floor is broken. Please take the Steps.”

The Third Step

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

After spending time reflecting on how we've come to this pretty pass in life (jail, messed up personal lives, financial difficulties), we come to Step Three. The first of the Big Action Steps. It seems pretty daunting, especially if faith in a higher power has been weakened through years of hard living and self-pity. We believe in some weird way that we are the center of the universe—even if we spend our time getting knocked around in that universe, things are always happening to us. We aren't responsible for what happens. We're victims, and boy, if there is a God he has a real sense of humor, eh?

The Third Step, to me, is about letting all of that selfishness go, and just asking for help.

In *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, Bill W. writes about the Third Step, “Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness.”

This is so simple, and yet so hard for many of us (this AA included). I think too many of us get caught up in debating the “God thing” at first—but from what I've seen, we all eventually come around to the idea of a Higher Power. Someone or something that we can turn to and say, help me through this, ok? But you don't need to have that all figured out the first time you think about the Third Step.

I'd always kind of believed in God—I was raised in a Christian faith and like most kids, went through the motions of confirmation classes, etc., but I don't think I stepped inside a church before I got sober for about 20 years. Unless, of course, I was attending someone's wedding—and that was just a stopping point to the reception and oblivion.

I had a friend who for years would say to me, “Why don't you pray about it?” when I was having trouble, and I am sure I looked at him like he had three heads. I don't know if he's a member of the fellowship, but he was giving me good advice and I just wasn't taking it. Selfish. I can handle this. No one can help me but ME. (Needless to say, that was not a good plan!)

I think I was so desperate when I came to AA that I WAS willing to try anything. And there's the key—

willingness. I was willing to try asking for help. I was willing to try saying the Third Step prayer, even if I felt a little silly at first. I was willing to listen to people with good sobriety tell me how they did it every day, and I was willing to listen to my sponsor. (One of her little sayings about the Third Step and letting go was, “You can't heal a sick mind with a sick mind.”)

I do pray to a Higher Power now, and that is Someone that I call God. It's just easier for me that way. But my God isn't like your God, or anyone else's God, and that's the beauty of this step. It's God as I understand Him (or Her, as the case may be). No one in these rooms has ever tried to tell me who I should pray to or how to do it. This is your own decision. So my advice is to let go—ask for help—and have an open mind. A serenity you've never experienced is about to begin!

--Patty H.

The Circle

One AA remembers that trading an old group of friends for a new one isn't easy

In the early days and weeks when I was first coming around, it was suggested that I separate myself from a certain circle of friends. The reasons did not strike me as that important, but I listened to the wiser ones and started excluding myself from that Circle. They were people, places and things that I felt at that time were necessary to my life; those all helped me through my loneliness, emotions, even finances at times. But a huge price had to be paid each evening and morning after.

But this Circle that I'm staying within today helps me through the very same trials and some extras I wasn't even aware of, but it does so with a much less catastrophic price tag.

Within this Circle I am supported by many fellows who really care where I'm heading. This is where I continued to laugh, cry, listen, help, love, understand, etc., and found it getting better and better with each meeting. This first started at the Group level and with their support has spread to all levels of associations with others. I thank the Ultimate, my Family, professionals and without question the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous for this Miracle, which defined is a Wonderful Thing.

--Joe C.

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preserving the AA message and keeping the history of the Fellowship in South Jersey. There is a lot of history about South Jersey Intergroup as a whole and AA as a whole, but not as much about individual groups."

The Archive Committee is in the process of collecting home group questionnaires, which has basic information like where did your group start, when and who were the founders, to more obscure information like "Any special problems ever occur, such as places, format of meet, Mr. & Mrs. AA trying to run the show, etc.," which hopefully will give a full and rich picture of each meeting as a dynamic, ever-changing entity.

"Right now, we are trying to get more home group questionnaires, as well as going through the histories, doing outreach to groups with missing information. It is a really nice way to hear how home groups are founded and why," remarked Jenn. While the Archives committee is trying to preserve all paper copies of home group questionnaires, they are also making those histories available on the Internet through the SJIG website, www.aasj.org. One additional purpose of the Archives group is to collect individual histories of AA old timers, defined by archives as someone with 30+ years of sobriety. "We do interviews with old timers, or tape their experience, strength and hope. Some of those interviews are on the website, and can be accessed by anyone. Recently, we were given a donation of speaker tapes from the 80s for our archives. We are trying to convert the tapes to another format, like digital or CD. But we love those kinds of donations."

Jenn believes that Archives is a great way to do service. "Someone can pitch in once in a while, collect some histories on their

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Relapse is Not a Requirement

How often have we heard those words spoken at AA meetings! For those of us (as of today, anyway) who are "first time winners", they should offer a strong message. We have all seen people with varying amounts of clean time relapse. Some of those folks find their way back into the rooms of AA, and we are all grateful for those who do. The stories of their path to relapse most often contain similar behaviors. Some felt confident that they had "gotten" this AA thing--perhaps they didn't need to attend as many meetings as they did when first trying to get sober. After all, AA's program of action is pretty simple, and it has been pretty effective for us thus far. So what's the problem if we should make fewer meetings now that we have "successfully" put down the drink? Well, the problem seems to be a lessening of focus on one of the bedrocks of the AA program--meeting attendance. Regular meeting attendance provides multiple aids to our daily journey into sobriety, and a life worth living and loving. First, it is our communion with others who suffer from--and are recovering from--the problems of alcoholism on a daily basis. Any meeting contains a disparate group of people--ethnically, religiously, racially, sexually, educationally, and economically. Yet we are all brothers and sisters coming together to share our experience, strength, and hope in how we are progressing in our daily journey into sobriety. We do also share our daily trials and tribulations (remember that life happens!) as we trudge our path to happy destiny.

As meeting attendance dwindles, other chinks in our sobriety armor appear. Prayer and meditation often take a lesser role in our life. Formerly daily prayer sessions, upon arising daily, and retiring nightly, suffer. Perhaps we get up a little later than usual--don't worry about prayer, we can always find the time for that a little bit later. Or at night, maybe we are extra tired from our busy day--well, God knows that we are thankful for his many fold blessings--we will thank him prayerfully tomorrow.

Gradually, our lessened meeting attendance and reduced prayer life lead us imperceptibly into a state of isolation--both from others and from God. So what's left is us, and that's what we can (and do) focus upon. If I am thinking about me, I cannot think about you, or anyone else. The stage has thus been set for a relapse, unless (a) this situation is pointed out to us, and (b) we accept that fact and return to the practice of those actions that helped us, and in the active fellowship have a number of friends who will notice when we are getting off the AA beam, and will tell us so.

The rest is up to us!

--A Work in Progress Alcoholic

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 AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either A.A. 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—write to us at newsletter@assj.org. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. We edit for space and clarity only.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish flyers for events in this newsletter.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SJ INTERGROUP:

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Website: www.aasj.org
24 Hour Hotline: 1-856-486-4444
Toll Free Hotline: 1-866-920-1212

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

own time, rather than have to be somewhere at a specific time, plus it is fascinating."

--Angie Y.

If you have items to donate, home group questionnaires, or want to share your experience, strength and hope for the old timers section, you can reach Jenn C. and the archives committee at archives@aasj.org. Home group questionnaires are available on-line under the archives section of aasj.org.

Announcements

The chair and co-chair of the newsletter committee (and many others) will be rotating out at the end of the year. Now is your chance to get involved in service at the Intergroup level. If you think you might be interested in taking over the newsletter, we're happy to help you make a smooth transition. Please contact Patty or Angie at newsletter@aasj.org for more information.

Please check with SJIG about other committee positions that will be opening up next year. You won't be sorry to get involved—it's a great way to help your fellow AAs.

Deadline for April submissions:

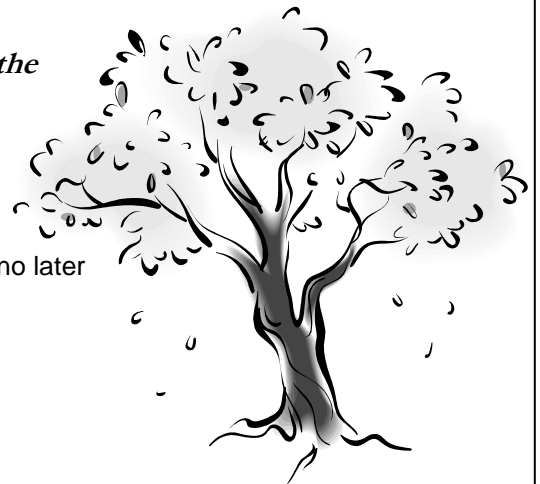
April is the fourth month, so we're looking for submissions on the fourth step and tradition—or anything else you'd like to talk about. Please share your experience, strength and hope with our readers. The deadline for April's newsletter is Friday, April 12th. You can send submissions to newsletter@aasj.org.

Question of the Month

For next month's issue, we'd like to get your response to this question:

What did you think of the 49th Annual Southern New Jersey Area 45 General Service Convention?

Please email your replies no later than Friday, April 12, to newsletter@aasj.org.



Fellowship Announcements & Things to Do

Wed. March 20 - Clarksboro celebrates their 3rd anniversary with a brunch starting at 10 am - noon with FFF - local: St. Peter's Episcopal Church 302 Kings Hwy., Clarksboro, NJ. All are welcome.

March 22 - 24 - 49th Annual Southern New Jersey Area 45 General Service Convention. "We Found A New Freedom". WWW.SNJAACONVENTION.ORG. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2349 Marlton Pike (Route 70), Cherry Hill, NJ. Registration: \$35.00 Contacts: Joe O. (Convention Chair): 609-827-2174, Linda M. (Co-Chair): 856-358-2952, Judy N. (Registration): 856-4043057.

Mon. March 25 – Swedesboro's One Step at a Time group celebrates their 8th anniversary. 7 to 8 pm. Fellowship and desserts. Will be held at the Bethesda United Methodist Church, Swedesboro. Kings Highway at Railroad Ave, next to the BOA Bank. We will be in Fellowship Hall.

Tues. Mar 26 - Ashland "Tuesday Night Big Book" will celebrate their 19th anniversary with FFF dinner starting @ 7pm followed by meeting.

Friday, April 5th - Sunday, April 7th - 6th Annual Recovery Spiritual Retreat: "Spiritual Awakening: Steps 3, 7, and 11" Coed retreat hosted by Divine Mercies Recovery Retreat Group, 414 South Eighth Street, Vineland, NJ. \$35.00 deposit made out to John Paul II Retreat House. Cost \$140.00 each for shared room, \$240.00 for private room, and \$60.00 for Saturday (day hoppers) only. Contact Marty P. (856) 631-9531, Bobby F. (856) 356-7443, or Kevin L. (856) 466-3256.

Saturday, April 6 – District 15 presents "Bill W.", the documentary about the co-founder of AA. 12 noon to 5pm at Ocean Community Church in Manahawkin, NJ. Lunch first, followed by the movie. For information/directions call Ken T., DCM for District 15, at 609-339-4386.

April 12 - 14 - 36th annual Couples Escape Weekend will take place @ St. Mary of Providence Ctr. - 227 Isabella Rd., Elverson, PA 19520. Cost: \$280.00 per couple includes private room & 5 meals per person; strictly for couples in recovery. For more info call Wayne @ 856-534-0104.

April 26 – 28 – "A Walk Through the Steps" at Bellarmine Retreat Center, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Pennsylvania/Maryland border. Sponsored by Founders Path-Maryland Wed. Night AA Group. \$80 per person covers lodging and food. Financial assistance and scholarships available. Bring pillows and sheets. Includes hiking on the Appalachian trail. Reservations call Ron Reinhart at 440-225-0866. Email is founderspath@yahoo.com. RSVP/payment due April 8, 2013.

May 16 - 19 – Tri-State Round-Up. 29th Annual "Fellowship on the River." This is an annual AA event with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. Held at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino, 1650 Casino Drive, Laughlin, NV 89029. Website: www.tristate-roundup.com. Discount for registering online and for registering before April 15th. E-mail address: tristateroundup@hotmail.com

May 18 – 19 – "Circle of Hope Roundup", sponsored by the Reading-Berks Intergroup. Held at the Rodeway Inn (formerly the Ramada) at 2545 North 5th St., Reading, PA 19605. Speakers from local area as well as Florida and Las Vegas. Register at www.CircleOfHopeRoundup.com. Email for information: Info@CircleOfHopeRoundup.com.

Sunday, May 19 - Area 45 Assembly/Committee Meeting will be held at Elmer Grange Hall, 535 Woodstown-Daretown Road, Pilesgrove, NJ 08098. 8:30 am registration; 9:00 am new GSR/DCM Orientation; 10:00 am Assembly Meeting; followed by lunch. That will be followed by Committee Meeting finishing at 2:30-3:00 pm.

Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day Alcañon, hosted by the Palmyra Group. 8 am to 8pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 5th Street and Morgan Avenue, Palmyra, NJ 08065. Information: JoAnne D at 856-364-8260 or Mike H. at 856-466-9546.

June 7th to 9th - Founders Day Trip to Akron, Ohio. Sponsored by 1 Thru 12 Group in Philadelphia. \$325 per person, which includes round trip transportation, accommodations at the Akron City Centre Hotel, registration for the conference, transportation to the grave site and a visit to the NFL Hall of Fame. For more information contact Robert T. at 215-430-3389 or Ed R. at 215-802-8973.

June 28 - 30 - Second Annual Liberty Bell Roundup. The Philadelphia Woodstock of AA. Ramada Inn - Airport, 76 Industrial Hwy, Essington, PA 19029 (Soon to be Clarion) 610-521-9600. Registration: \$35.00 p/p. www.libertybellroundup.com