

October 2007

TRICK OR TREAT!

DON'T LEARN THE TRICKS, LEARN THE PROGRAM...

IT'S A TREAT!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Meetings are held at the Intergroup Office unless otherwise noted

October			November		
Oct 3	8:00 pm	Institutions Committee Simpson Methodist Church Locust and Sunset, Amityville	Nov 1	7:30 pm	Intergroup Rep's Orientation
				8:00 pm	Intergroup Rep's Meeting
Oct 4	7:30 pm	Intergroup Rep's Orientation	Nov 7	8:00 pm	Meeting List DeadLine Institutions Committee
	8:00 pm	Intergroup Rep's Meeting			Simpson Methodist Church Locust and Sunset, Amityville
Oct 9	7:00 pm	PI/CPC Committee Meeting	Nov 13	7:00 pm	PI/CPC Committee Meeting
Oct 10	8:00 pm	Share-A-Day Committee	Nov 14	8:00 pm	Share-A-Day Committee
Oct 15		Nassau General Service Committee	Nov 18	1:00 pm	Special Needs Committee
	7:00 pm	GSR Orientation	Nov 21	7:30 pm	WebSite Committee
	7:30 pm	GSR Meeting	Nov 21	11:00 pm	Thanksgiving Alkathon runs all night/day till
Oct 17	7:30 pm	WebSite Committee	Nov 22	11:00 pm	Alkathon ends
Oct 18		Newsletter DeadLine	Nov 22		Newsletter DeadLine
Oct 21	1:00 pm	Special Needs Committee	Nov 29	7:30 pm	Steering committee
Oct 25	7:30 pm	Steering committee			Nassau GSRs will not meet in November

WE LIST ONLY AA MEETINGS

MEETING CHANGES

Locust Valley: The Choices Group no longer meets at the Reformed Church of Locust Valley.

Locust Valley: Sound Sobriety Group now offers a Closed Discussion meeting only on Tue at 7:30pm. The 7:00pm Fri meeting is a Big Book/Step meeting; the 8:00pm Fri meeting is Open (Anniversary meeting on the last Fri of the month). St. John's, 331 Lattingtown Rd. 11560

Massapequa Park: The Lost Weekend Group now offers a 7:30pm Step meeting on Sun (instead of BB), with the last Sun a Traditions meeting. The Wed Closed Discussion meeting at 7:00pm is unchanged (last Wed, Open Anniversary). The Fri 7:30pm Big Book meeting is new. The Sat 10:00am Beginner's meeting is unchanged. (See Sobriety by the Page entry below.) Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, 855 Carmans Rd (Rectory basement). 11762.

Massapequa Park: Sobriety by the Page Group is now part of The Lost Weekend Group and meets on Fri for a BB meeting. See above for details.

Merrick: Stepping Stones Group building is closed on holy days and holidays. Cure of Ars Church, 2323 Merrick Ave.

Oceanside: The New Young People's Meeting meets Thu at 7:30pm (Beginner's). 1st United Meth Ch, 2837 Davison St.

Syosset: Syosset Midnight Group has changed its name to **Syosset Friday Night Group**, which now meets at 10:30pm (open discussion meetings; last 1 ½ hours max). In good weather, the group meets outside under the stars. St. Edward's Church, 205 Jackson Ave.

NEW MEETINGS

Manhasset: The 11th Step Meditation Group meets at 10:00am, Tuesdays. Children welcome. Shelter Rock Church, 626 Plandome Road. 11030.

Manhasset: The Searingtown Serenity Group meets at 7:30pm, Wednesdays. Step meeting. St. Ignatius Retreat House (lower floor, rear). Searingtown Rd. 11030.

NIGHTBOOK

Hello, all you blessed people! I say that because we were chosen to pass this message on. And that's what we do on the Hotline: we pass the message, even if the question seems unrelated at the time. We might be the only AA members some people will see or hear. So we are responsible....

Thank you to the following groups for taking the nightbook in the month of September:

- ✓ *The Encouragement Group* – Rockville Cntr
- ✓ *Pt Lookout Serenity PM & LB Serenity AM*
- ✓ *CedarhurstHewlett Group*
- ✓ *Sober Start* – Sea Cliff

Yours in Love and Service,
Nightbook Chair
nightbook@nassauny-aa(dot)org

PHONE VOLUNTEERS:

Anyone with 6 months sobriety,
who is interested in answering the phones,
CONTACT: the Office Coordinator: (516) 292-3045

From the Chair

Dear Friends:

I can't believe we're already in the month of October... time is really flying by. Before you know it, we'll be preparing for our holiday Alkathons (preparations for our Thanksgiving Alkathon are under way – details in our Nov. newsletter).

As we move into a new season, I found the following excerpt from *Daily Reflections*, titled **A Prayer for All Seasons**.

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, Courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 125.

The power of this prayer is overwhelming in that its simple beauty parallels the AA Fellowship. There are times when I get stuck while reciting it, but if I examine the section which is troubling me, I find the answer to my problem. The first time this happened I was scared, but now I use it as a valuable tool. By accepting life as it is, I gain serenity. By taking action, I gain courage and I thank God for the ability to distinguish between those situations I can work on, and those I must turn over. All that I have now is a gift from God: my life, my usefulness, my contentment, and this program. The serenity enables me to continue walking forward. Alcoholics Anonymous is the easier softer way.

HELP NEEDED: We are looking to fill two open commitments on our Steering committee: (1) **Intergroup Secretary**. This person would be responsible for taking, editing, and distributing minutes for all Nassau Intergroup Steering Committee and Representatives meetings (the first and last Thursday of every month). Also ensures copies of all minutes are placed in Archives. (2) **Chairperson of our Financial Review Committee**. This person officiates at regular meetings of the Finance Committee, works with the Finance Committee to audit the various business accounts, performs periodic inventories of literature supply, prepares the annual budget, and ensures that proper procedures are followed for all monetary transactions, so that all donations and expenses are recorded in a timely and consistent manner. If anyone is interested in either commitment, kindly contact me at (516) 292-3045 for further information.

I'd like to thank Reyne B and Denis O for their many years of service to Nassau Intergroup.

Happy Anniversary to all of our October celebrants!

Blessed to Serve,
Intergroup Chairperson
[chair@nassauny-aa\(dot\)org](mailto:chair@nassauny-aa(dot)org)

* Reprinted from *The Daily Reflections*, p. 221, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Traveling Out of Town?

Don't forget to contact local intergroups for meeting information. You can find a list of intergroups outside of Nassau County on the Nassau Intergroup website. Go to <http://www.nassauny-aa.org/> and click on Town Links. Scroll down that page to the following link: "To find a meeting outside of Nassau County: Other AA Service Bodies".

From the Treasurer:

Keeping Records and Making Reports

An important part of a group treasurer's responsibility is to keep records of group income and expenses, and to make regular reports to the group about that activity. Why? Because a responsible group needs to know about its finances, so that it can make informed decisions about future expenditures.

Questions like *Do we have enough to make the rent this month?* or *Can we afford to give "Big Books" to newcomers?* can only be answered in light of good information.

For most purposes, we can keep records and reports simple. Make a note at each meeting of the basket collection. Keep receipts where available and a list of expenses paid out. Sort this information into broad and logical categories (on the income side, basket collections; on the expense side, things like rent, literature, refreshments, and approved trusted servant expenses). Make a monthly summary, income on one side and expenses beside it. Some treasurer's use computers to keep their records and make reports, but a simple note-book for records and handwritten reports will serve as well.

For the report, the group needs to know how much money it had at the start of the month (remember to include cash on hand and any money in a bank account in this "opening balance"), add to that the total basket collection that month, and subtract from that the total month's expenses. The resulting figure is what the group has at the close of the month (both on hand and in the bank, the "closing balance"). Receipts and bank statements (if an account exists) should be available for group review. This does not reflect a lack of trust in the treasurer, but a gesture of support from interested members. A complete treasurer's report should be made at every business meeting.

Where a group declines to ask its treasurer for regular reports, that group is putting a special burden on the treasurer, since spending decisions are then being made in a vacuum, without benefit of an informed group conscience, and opportunities to correct mistakes are missed.

AAWS offers several resources for treasurer's, all without cost. These include pamphlets like *Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix* (F-3), *The AA Group* (P-16), and *The AA Group Treasurer* (F-96), and service pieces like *AA Guidelines: Finance* (MG-15). All of these may be found online at www.aa.org. I also can provide copies on request.

Hope this is helpful. Feel free to get back to me with any questions.

In service,

Treasurer

[treasurer@nassauny-aa\(dot\)org](mailto:treasurer@nassauny-aa(dot)org)

From Ed, the Literature Guy

We have a small selection of Large Print books for sale at Nassau Intergroup, including *The Big Book*, *The 12 & 12*, *Daily Reflections*, and a few others.

Please have the exact amount ready when you purchase books, since the phone reps do not carry change for literature sales.

Nassau Intergroup does not take phone orders. The office is open 9am-4:30pm for the sale of books.

Book Review

"In Our Own Words"

In Our Own Words is a collection of recovery stories by alcoholics who came to AA early in their lives, some as young as thirteen. Some of the writers, now in their thirties, have spent over half their lives in sobriety. How they worked the AA program, and their perspectives on AA, is a good read for anyone, young or old. This book, from *The Grapevine*, is for sale at Nassau Intergroup.

Sharing the Message:

The Good Name of AA

Two thoughts: First, Step Twelve suggests we go forward in recovery to "practice these principles in all our affairs." To me, this means the true measure of my recovery is taken, not in just by how I conduct myself in AA meetings, but in how I behave day to day in my ordinary relations with my fellows.

Second, any time and any place that an AA member as such steps outside his or her group, he or she becomes a representative of the Fellowship to any onlooker. How well then am I practicing these principles and how well do I represent the fellowship?

I remember a group getting kicked out of its meeting place because some members insisted that the "no smoking" admonition was intended for others, and thought that the cigarette butts in the church bushes were no big deal. For some, when the smoking problem was pointed out, the answer was to throw the butts in the street in front of the church instead of in the bushes.

Another time, I attended a business meeting where a very heated argument broke out. While no punches were thrown, the shouting match which had erupted spilled into the street outside the church that evening and trailed off down the street to the parking lot more than a block away.

I recently attended Nassau Intergroup's Exchange Meeting. Members participating in this event have long been asked to wait until the Exchange opens its doors to begin conducting their business, so as not to disturb the neighborhood. Despite the repeated reminders, some members nevertheless met outside the church well before the doors opened and exchanged meetings. The fact that this was Intergroup's first meeting in a new location and that the groups had been reminded that the neighborhood would not tolerate activity on the streets before the meeting, simply didn't seem to matter to some of those AAs.

How is AA seen by outsiders — church elders picking our cigarette butts out of the church shrubbery and having to clean the gutter before Sunday service, or neighbors listening to two AAs fighting as they move down the street following a meeting, or finding their Saturday morning disrupted by AAs outside a meeting place? How have I represented the fellowship in these instances? How have I presented my recovery in these matters?

It's just something to think about. Looking at my own recovery, there is always room for growth and change.

A member of the,
Baldwin Group

AA History:

Dr. Bob's Farewell Talk

My Good Friends in AA and of AA...

I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-it-iveness. If you will pardon an injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months, and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be brief.

There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual AA work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service." We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us. Thank you very much.

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General Service News

The "**Communication and Participation – the Key to Unity and Self-Support**" workshop held at the Intergroup office last month went well. Besides a few curious local folks, we had members from Brooklyn, Putnam, and Westchester drop by. Hopefully, some of those curious folks were inspired to get involved with service beyond their home group and maybe we will see a new General Service Rep or Intergroup Rep. Thank you to the panel of speakers, and special thanks to the chair and his team, who put the event together.

Also last month the Nassau Intergroup PI Chair, and I, with the help of a few others, completed the **joint library project**. The Nassau Library Service received 130 books (65 "Big Books" and 65 *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* books). This important public information project was made possible through the generous funding of NGSG and NI. We salute you!

Unity Breakfast tickets – we ask members to return money or unsold tickets to our UB Chair at our NGSG meeting on Monday, October 15 at 7:30pm. If you are unable to stop by, please contact him at [dcm213@aaseny\(dot\)org](mailto:dcm213@aaseny(dot)org) to make alternative arrangements. Or send us a check or money order at: NGSG, PO Box 5, Old Westbury, NY 11568. There are groups and individuals on our waiting list for tickets. Please **DO NOT** leave money or unsold tickets with phone volunteers or mail them to the Intergroup office, as they have been asked not to accept any Unity Breakfast money, etc.

The **57th Annual General Service Conference Reports** are in and will be distributed to GSRs/DCMs at the upcoming NGSG meeting. Any questions regarding General Service and how you or your group can get more involved, please let me know. Groups with an active GSR are connected to the Fellowship. These groups also have the right to participate in all issues that may affect AA as a whole at our Annual General Service Conference. Unfortunately, groups without a GSR are considered isolated groups. Finally, NGSG officers are available to facilitate group inventories.

Together We Can,
DCMC Nassau,
[nassau@aaseny\(dot\)org](mailto:nassau@aaseny(dot)org)

Suffolk County Share-A-Thon

The Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous will hold its annual Share-A-Thon on Sunday, October 28, 2007, from 9am to 4pm.

The Share-A-Thon will be held at St Joseph's College in Patchogue and is open to the public. There is no charge to attend this all-day event, which will feature workshops by members of AA and Al-Anon. The college's main entrance is on the Sunrise Highway service road, just east of Waverly Ave exit.

For information, contact the Suffolk Intergroup Association at 631 654-1150 or [share@suffolkny-aa\(dot\)org](mailto:share@suffolkny-aa(dot)org)

Service Opportunities:

Help a Homebound Alcoholic

Elderly Female Alcoholic in New Hyde Park needs rides to meetings.

Homebound Alcoholic: Any Female AA interested in bringing a meeting to a homebound female alcoholic in Hewlett.

Handicapped Alcoholic: A woman in a nursing home in Freeport, would appreciate calls, visits, or being taken to meetings.

Contact Special Needs Chairperson:
[specialneeds@nassauny-aa\(dot\)org](mailto:specialneeds@nassauny-aa(dot)org)

Cedarhurst-Hewlett Group of AA:

48th Anniversary

Speaker at 8pm

Food-Music-50/50 | Come & Celebrate | Bring a Newcomer!

Friday, October 26, 2007

St. Joseph's Church Cafeteria, Hewlett 11557
