

THE JOURNEY AT THE BEACH

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 1

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

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 176

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

“To thine own self be true”

NAME	YEARS	SOBRIETY DATE	CELEBRATING	WHERE	WHEN
Mike M	7	10/01/14	10/02/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	9:00 am
Gail A	29	10/03/92	10/03/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	9:00 am
Kate H	6		10/06/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	7:30 am
Happy Risers	37	Group Anniversary	10/17/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	9:00 am
Gail G	26	09/25/95	10/29/21	Happy, Joyous and Free • River Church	10:00 am
Bryan	1		10/29/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	7:30 am
Chip G	20	10/27/01	10/30/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	9:00 am
Jeff C	28	11/01/93	11/01/21	Happy Risers • Atlantic Club	7:30 am

Please submit all anniversary information to Carla H at info@ocaa.org by the 28th of the preceding month of the anniversary. Include your name, sobriety date, celebration date, where and when. The newsletter is printed on the first Tuesday of every month, so if your sobriety date falls early in the month, we may put your announcement in the prior month's newsletter. Thanks!

Step Ten • “Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 88

Tenth Step Prayer for Growth and Effectiveness • God, please help me Watch for Selfishness, Dishonesty, Resentment and Fear. When these crop up in me, help me to immediately ask you to remove them from me and help me discuss these feelings with someone. Father, help me to quickly make amends if I have harmed anyone and help me to resolutely turn my thoughts to someone I can Help. Help me to be Loving and Tolerant of everyone today.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 84:2

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Intergroup

District 32 and the **Ocean City Area Fellowship Intergroup** meet every first Tuesday of the month at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21843 (Route 50 Westbound). All are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is **November 2nd**
General Service Reps **5:30 pm**
Intergroup Reps **6:00 pm**

Virtual Meetings

Meetings • Groups are reopening in-person meetings in accordance with Mayor Hogan's guidelines. Please visit the [Meetings Page](#) for the latest updates. Listed below are Virtual Meetings taking place in the Ocean City Intergroup. Visit Ocean City Fellowship Intergroup of AA's website at ocaa.org/update for real time revisions to the following schedule.

Monday

- **6 pm Happy Hour** via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89390852132> Dial in: +1 (301)-715-8592 Meeting ID: 893 9085 2132 Password: 494142 **Hybrid Meeting** • Both on Zoom and In Person at Seaside Plumbing, 10545 Friendship Rd #4, Berlin, MD 21811

Wednesday

- **7 pm The Promises** via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/217995249?pwd=cXlZK2lCanRtY2pqOE9hSG4rNG9HUT09> Dial in: +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 217 995 249 Password: 382990
- **8 pm Free To Be Women's** group via Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/358229631> Dial in:+1 (301)-715-8592 Meeting ID: 358 229 631 Password: 9S1PSg

Friday

- **8 pm Action Group** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79892079649?pwd=QXV0cWU4ZlVOZHVwNUlrOU9lYmwxzd09> Meeting ID: 798 9207 9649 Password: BillnBob Dial in:+1 (301)-715-8592 Password: 61093323 **Hybrid Meeting** • Both on Zoom and In Person at St Mary Star of the Sea, 1705 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842

Saturday

- **7 pm Saturday Night Live!** Apr 11, 2020 via Zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/954508347?pwd=TDJ0UnNuYmZlYm9Ed1pHQmxEWHR0Zz09> Dial in: +1 (301)-715-8592 Meeting ID: 954 508 347 Password: 646266

OCAA Help Line Phone Schedule 410-600-5219

October - Happy Risers November - Action Group December - Fresh Air January - Happy Hour

THE JOURNEY AT THE BEACH

“Children of Chaos”: The Birth of A.A.’s Traditions

Excerpt from News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A.® Vol. 67, No. 3 / Fall 2021

“Moochers mooched, lonely hearts pined, committees quarreled, new clubs had unheard-of headaches, orators held forth, groups split wide open, members turned professional, sometimes whole groups got drunk, and local public relations went haywire.” (The Language of the Heart, p. 149)

Such, according to A.A. co-founder Bill W., was the state of affairs in many of the Fellowship’s fledgling groups during A.A.’s pioneering time. With little or no experience to speak of in the harrowing new adventure of sobriety, A.A. groups were flying blind.

Like wildfire, A.A.’s program of recovery, principally contained in the Twelve Steps as outlined in the Big Book, was spreading from one alcoholic to another, crisscrossing the nation and even jumping to foreign lands with alarming speed and facility. Helped by high profile media accounts and the growing support of medicine and religion, A.A. was well on its way to becoming a household name. People were getting sober and the good news traveled fast.

Nevertheless, A.A.’s collection of burgeoning groups often had little to hold onto beyond the deep desire of their members for individual sobriety. Everything was being defined on a day-to-day, person-to-person basis, with trial and error discovery of what worked and what didn’t. Rules were made and broken; policies were introduced and soon discarded; and, inevitably, powerful, sometimes bitter, disputes broke out regarding the relations of A.A. members one to another and to the outside world.

Problems were many in A.A.’s first decade, and while membership climbed higher and higher with each year, the challenges of living and working together not only as individuals but as groups began to pile up. With success and exposure also came suspicion, jealousy, and resentment. There was conflict over every conceivable issue: the use of money, the operation of clubhouses, misuse of A.A.’s name, leadership and personal romances. Meeting rituals varied from one group to another; some meetings aimed at low-bottom drunks, some featured those of the high-bottom variety; some allowed “slippers” to return to the fold, others thought they should be excommunicated.

As Bill recounted in A.A. Comes of Age (p. 203): “It seemed as if every contestant in every group argument wrote us during this confused and exciting period.” The problems articulated by these A.A. members threatened to overwhelm the nascent Fellowship, and Bill confessed in a 1950 letter to an A.A. member in Michigan, “When letters describing the growing pains of the early groups came across my desk... I used to lie awake nights. It seemed certain that the forces of disintegration would tear our pioneering groups apart...”

A.A. was not the first organization, however, to find itself foundering on the reefs of conflict and perilous success. The Washingtonian Society, a movement for the reclamation of drunkards a century earlier, had nearly discovered an answer to

alcoholism. At the outset, the society, which originated in Baltimore, was composed entirely of alcoholics trying to help one another. They had notable success and the movement thrived. Their membership passed the five hundred thousand mark. Yet, the Washingtonians permitted politicians and reformers, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, to use the society for their own purposes and, in spite of their stated aims to avoid politics, religion and commercialization, many members took opposing sides publicly on questions of alcohol reform and other issues of the day. Within eight or nine years it was reported that the Washingtonians “had lost their thunder.” Said Bill W. at an annual A.A. banquet in New York City on November 7, 1945, “In short, the Washingtonians went out to settle the world’s affairs before they had learned to manage themselves. They had no capacity for minding their own business.”

The Oxford Group, a religious organization from which the seeds of A.A. grew and which supplied some of the Fellowship’s basic spiritual principles and precepts, also provided an example of what not to do. In A.A. Comes of Age, (p. 39), Bill wrote: “Early A.A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Groups and directly from Sam Shoemaker, their former leader in America.” However, while Oxford Group members were deeply interested in the plight of alcoholics, some of their practices made Bill and others uncomfortable. Serving as a spiritual spring-board for many of A.A.’s fundamental concepts, the differences between the Oxford Group and the fledgling Fellowship ultimately prompted a separation of the two groups. As Bill once put it, “The Oxford Group wanted to save the world, and I only wanted to save drunks.”

Utilizing the example of the groups that had come before and the growing body of experience from its own internal struggles in the Fellowship’s first decade, A.A. inched closer to a set of working principles that could guide and protect the group life of A.A.

In 1946, in the the AA Grapevine, these principles were codified by the founders and early members as the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and were published under the title “Twelve Points to Assure Our Future.” They were accepted and endorsed by the membership as a whole at the International Convention of A.A., in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Later, in April of 1953, the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions was published, providing for the Fellowship a blueprint for individual recovery and a roadmap for how to survive as an organization.

“Children of chaos,” wrote Bill in Tradition Four, “we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.”

THE JOURNEY AT THE BEACH

Upcoming Zoom Events



Formerly sponsored by SENY
Newly sponsored by Baltimore MD



STORY TIME!
Wednesday Nights at
8 p.m. EDT

Zoom ID
627 530 3589
PW: 514472

Bring *Language of the Heart*; we will read and discuss a story or two every Wednesday night with members excited about A. A. History and Traditions.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

Bill W.'s
Grapevine Writings

howitworks21228@gmail.com

Grapevine, Inc.

Reading and Study Group Alcoholics Anonymous

Current Series: Area Service

The Area 29 Assembly Handbook & Amended Bylaws*



Beginning 8/11/21

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. EDT

Zoom ID 627 530 3589

P/W 514472

• This is a group of A.A. Members who want to be active in and learn more about Area Service

*This Study Group is not sponsored by Area 29

For more info contact HowitWorks21228@gmail.com

Twelve Traditions Study

Alcoholics Anonymous

Exploring A.A. Literature

New day! New time!

Mondays @ 7:00 p.m. EDT

Zoom ID 627 530 3589; P/W 514472

Open Speaker Discussion / New lead weekly



For more info contact HowitWorks21228@gmail.com – Baltimore Area 29 Maryland

