



June 2007

Willamette Valley Central Office

687 Cottage Street NE
Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Telephone: 503.399.0599
E-mail: aasalem@open.org
www.open.org/aasalem

Where you can find AA Literature, coins, and recovery items

June 1935

A. A. Turns 72!

June 2007

The Healer: Bill Wilson

Bill Wilson was recognized as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People of the 20th Century by Time Magazine. In honor of one of the founders of A.A., here is the full Time Magazine Article dated June, 1999.

From the rubble of a wasted life, he overcame alcoholism and founded the 12-step program that has helped millions of others do the same

BY SUSAN CHEEVER

Second Lieut. Bill Wilson didn't think twice when the first butler he had ever seen offered him a drink. The 22-year-old soldier didn't think about how alcohol had destroyed his family. He didn't think about the Yankee temperance movement of his childhood or his loving fiance Lois Burnham or his emerging talent for leadership. He didn't think about anything at all. "I had found the elixir of life," he wrote. Wilson's last drink, 17 years later, when alcohol had destroyed his health and his career, precipitated an epiphany that would change his life and the lives of millions of other alcoholics.

Continued on Page 2

~ The Sixth Month ~

Step Six

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Tradition Six

"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Willamette Valley Intergroup Board*Chair*

Bill B. 1

Co-Chair

Bill B. 2

AI - Anon

Joyce L.

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*Bridging the Gap Chair***Vacant***Eye Opener Editor*

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Out Reach Coordinator

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Treasurer

Justin M.

*Trustee***Vacant***H & I Committee Chair*

Trevor M.

H & I Committee Co-Chair

Greg M.

*Willamette Valley Intergroup (WVI) is made up of elected representatives from local A.A. groups.**(Representatives are usually elected at your group's business meeting). WVI serves the greater Salem area with a 24**-hour phone line, sales of A.A. literature, books and coins, production and distribution of meeting lists, the Eye**Opener newsletter, coordination of local Twelve Step calls, and furnishing public information speakers for non-A.A. groups and for A.A. meetings in**institutions.***The Healer: Bill Wilson***Continued from Page 1*

Incarcerated for the fourth time at Manhattan's Towns Hospital in 1934, Wilson had a spiritual awakening—a flash of white light, a liberating awareness of God—that led to the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and Wilson's revolutionary 12-step program, the successful remedy for alcoholism. The 12 steps have also generated successful programs for eating disorders, gambling, narcotics, debting, sex addiction and people affected by others' addictions. Aldous Huxley called him "the greatest social architect of our century."

William Griffith Wilson grew up in a quarry town in Vermont. When he was 10, his hard-drinking father headed for Canada, and his mother moved to Boston, leaving the sickly child with her parents. As a soldier, and then as a businessman, Wilson drank to alleviate his depressions and to celebrate his Wall Street success. Married in 1918, he and Lois toured the country on a motorcycle and appeared to be a prosperous, promising young couple. By 1933, however, they were living in charity in her parents' house on Clinton Street in Brooklyn, N.Y. Wilson had become an unemployable drunk who disdained religion and even panhandled for cash.

Inspired by a friend who had stopped drinking, Wilson went to meetings of the Oxford Group, an evangelical society founded in Britain by Pennsylvania Frank Buchman. And as Wilson underwent a barbiturate-and-belladonna cure called "purge and puke," which was state-of-the-art alcoholism treatment at the time, his brain spun with phrases from Oxford Group meetings, Carl Jung and William James' "Varieties of Religious Experience," which he read in the hospital. Five sober months later, Wilson went to Akron, Ohio, on business. The deal fell through, and he wanted a drink. He stood in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel, entranced by the sounds of the bar across the hall. Suddenly he became convinced that by helping another alcoholic, he could save himself.

Through a series of desperate telephone calls, he found Dr. Robert Smith, a skeptical drunk whose family persuaded him to give Wilson 15 minutes. Their meeting lasted for hours. A month later, Dr. Bob had his last drink, and that date, June 10,

1935, is the official birth date of A.A., which is based on the idea that only an alcoholic can help another alcoholic. "Because of our kinship in suffering," Bill wrote, "our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart."

The Burnham house on Clinton Street became a haven for drunks. "My name is Bill W., and I'm an alcoholic," he told assorted houseguests and visitors at meetings. To spread the word, he began writing down his principles for sobriety. Each chapter was read by the Clinton Street group and sent to Smith in Akron for more editing. The book had a dozen provisional titles, among them "The Way Out" and "The Empty Glass." Edited to 400 pages, it was finally called "Alcoholics Anonymous," and this became the group's name.

But the book, although well reviewed, wasn't selling. Wilson tried unsuccessfully to make a living as a wire-rope salesman. A.A. had about a hundred members, but many were still drinking. Meanwhile, in 1939, the bank foreclosed on the Clinton Street house, and the couple began years of homelessness, living as guests in borrowed rooms and at one point staying in temporary quarters above the A.A. clubhouse on 24th Street in Manhattan. In 1940 John D. Rockefeller Jr. held an A.A. dinner and was impressed enough to create a trust to provide Wilson with \$30 a week--but no more. The tycoon felt that money would corrupt the group's spirit.

Then, in March 1941, The Saturday Evening Post published an article on A.A., and suddenly thousands of letters and requests poured in. Attendance at meetings doubled and tripled. Wilson had reached his audience. In "Twelve Traditions," Wilson set down the suggested bylaws of Alcoholics Anonymous. In them, he created an enduring blueprint for an organization with a maximum of individual freedom and no accumulation of power or money. Public anonymity ensured humility. No contributions were required; no member

could contribute more than \$1,000.

Today more than 2 million A.A. members in 150 countries hold meetings in church basements, hospital conference rooms and school gyms, following Wilson's informal structure. Members identify themselves as alcoholics and share their stories; there are no rules or entry requirements, and many members use only first names.

Wilson believed the key to sobriety was a change of heart. The suggested 12 steps include an admission of powerlessness, a moral inventory, a restitution for harm done, a call to service and a surrender to some personal God. In A.A., God can be anything from a radiator to a patriarch. Influenced by A.A., the American Medical Association has redefined alcoholism as a chronic disease, not a failure of willpower.

As Alcoholics Anonymous grew, Wilson became its principal symbol. He helped create a governing structure for the program, the General Service Board, and turned over his power. "I have become a pupil of the A.A. movement rather than the teacher," he wrote. A smoker into his 70s, he died of pneumonia and emphysema in Miami, where he went for treatment in 1971. To the end, he clung to the principles and the power of anonymity. He was always Bill W., refusing to take money for counseling and leadership. He turned down many honors, including a degree from Yale. And he declined this magazine's offer to put him on the cover--even with his back turned.

Susan Cheever, a novelist and memoirist, is the author of "Note Found in a Bottle: My Life as a Drinker"

Note:

The Willamette Valley Intergroup's April Minutes were not available for publication at the time of printing. I hope to have those for you next month.
- Editor

WVI March Treasurer's Report

4/1/2007 through 4/30/2007

INFLOWS		% of Total
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		
7 AM Downtown Group	439.50	13.78%
Capitol Discussion	50.00	1.57%
Conscious Contact	65.00	2.04%
Heard It From The Grapevine	502.00	15.74%
Home To Stay	50.00	1.57%
Scotts Mills Daily Reprieve	500.00	15.68%
Tuesday Night Step Study	35.00	1.10%
Way Home Group	350.00	10.98%
TOTAL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	1,991.50	62.45%
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS		
Anonymous	1.10	0.03%
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	1.10	0.03%
OTHER INCOME		
Copier Use	22.50	0.71%
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	22.50	0.71%
SALES		
Art&Letters	10.00	0.31%
Greeting Card(s)	9.00	0.28%
Literature	616.30	19.33%
Medallions	451.50	14.16%
Misc.	34.90	1.09%
Stickers-Decals	16.00	0.50%
Tape	36.00	1.13%
TOTAL SALES	1,173.70	36.81%
TOTAL INFLOWS	3,188.80	100%
OUTFLOWS		
Cash Shortage	-0.40 -	0.01%
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	34.25	0.96%
INVENTORY PURCHASE		
Greeting Cards	56.66	1.59%
Literature	253.15	7.12%
Medallions	404.45	11.38%
Special Order	12.10	0.34%
Tapes T-Mar	192.50	5.42%
TOTAL INVENTORY PURCHASE	918.86	25.85%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	24.37	0.69%
PAYROLL		
Falls, Laura	1,353.96	38.09%
Payroll Taxes quarterly	684.26	19.25%
TOTAL PAYROLL	2,038.22	57.35%
POSTAGE & DELIVERY	15.60	0.44%

RENT	456.00	12.83%
TELEPHONE		
Other TELEPHONE	67.39	1.90%
TOTAL TELEPHONE	67.39	1.90%
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	3,554.29	100%
OVERALL TOTAL -	365.49	100%
ACCOUNT BALANCES - As of 4/30/2007		
Checking	2,947.23	
Money Market	9,010.20	
TOTAL Bank Accounts	11,957.43	

"I had to be first in everything because in my perverse heart I felt myself the least of God's creatures."

- BILL WILSON, describing his alcoholism



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Peggy E.
June 2, 1977

Kirby H.
June 2, 1999

Everett G.
June 2, 2000

Patti R.
June 4, 1985

Johnny H.
June 5, 1983

Rob C.
June 5, 1996

Tina T.
June 5, 2002

Vasticia R.
June 5, 2002

Shannon R.
June 6, 2004

Gene H.
June 7, 1994

Betsy L.
June 11, 1984

Marilyn L.
June 12, 1988

Fred D.
June 13, 1986

Jerry A.
June 14, 2002

Henry K.
June 18, 1999

Kathy C.
June 20, 1988

Michael B.
June 22, 1994

Gary L.
June 22, 2002

Dan R.
June 25, 2003

Sid A.
June 26, 2001

**Celebrate AA's 72nd Birthday
At the Way Home Group
AA Barbeque & Potluck**



Saturday, June 9th
1658 Sonya Drive SE
Starting at NOON
Phone: 503 884-2501



Everyone is invited to attend. We will provide the burgers, dogs, brats, chicken, all the fixings and beverages You provide your favorite potluck side dishes or dessert, your own chairs or picnic blankets and bring along some sports equipment if you want to play. Plenty of parking available. Come prepared to have some fun and fellowship!

**9th Annual Ladies Luncheon
"Sunlight of the Spirit"
Saturday, August 18, 2007**

At Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty St. SE
Doors open: 11:30 a.m.
Lunch & Raffle: Noon
Speakers: 1:15 p.m.



AA Speaker: Susan L, Hood River
Al-Anon Speaker: Jennifer Z, Salem
Registration: \$15 by July 31st.
Information: Angela G: 503 569-7939

Volunteers Needed

Central Office needs volunteers to work 4 hour shifts once a week. Duties include answering phones, selling and stocking literature, etc. This is a great way to serve in the A.A. community! Interested? Call Laura at 503-399-0599.

Keep the 24 Hour Phone Line Alive!

Central Office's 24 Hour phone line is instrumental in helping the alcoholic that still suffers. You can help "man the lines" from your own phone in the comfort of your own home. The calls are simply switched to your phone number for the short amount of time that you agree to. Consider helping with this much needed service. Call Laura at 503-399-0599.

New and Changed Meetings

New:

CAUSES AND CONDITIONS

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
At Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Rd. N, Keizer

Happy Hour

Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.
At Timbers Coffee House
325 Court St. NE

SAYPAA

(Salem Area Young Peoples in Alcoholics Anonymous)
Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. (starting April 12th)
At Woodland Chapel
583 High St. SE

Changed:

Tuesday Night Step Study

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. (changed from 8:00 p.m.)
At Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty St. SE

Upcoming Service Assembly Information

Pacific Regional Forum	June 23-25, Seattle, WA
Pacific NorthWest Conference	June 29th to July 1st 2007
PRASSA 2008 -	Anchorage, Alaska

Visit www.aa-oregon.org for information



June Calendar

SATURDAY 2

Grapevine Speaker's Meeting
First Congregational Church
700 Marion Street NE.
Fellowship & refreshments: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 4

Good To Be Here Woman's Group
Potluck at St. Timothy's Episcopal
Church
3295 Ladd Ave. NE, 6:00 p.m.

KISS Committee Meeting

Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY 11

H & I Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 14

District 4 Meeting
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty St. SE, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 9

Way Home Group Annual Picnic
Celebrating A.A.'s 72nd Anniversary
Starts at Noon
Information: 503-399-0599

SATURDAY 9, Con't

TTCO (Take the Cotton Out) Speaker's
Meeting
Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Road N, Keizer
7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 18

WVI Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 27

TTCO Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 29

Soberfest Committee Meeting
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty St. SE, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 23

KIS-S (Keep it Simple Speaker's
Meeting)
Morningside Methodist Church
3674 12th Street SE, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 30

Corvallis Speaker's Meeting
Good Samaritan Hospital, Corvallis
8:00 p.m.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meetings posted at:

<http://www.dhh12s.commeetingschedule/htm>

For links to other Intergroup websites visit

www.aa-oregon.org/aameetings.htm

Willamette Valley Intergroup/ The Eye Opener

687 Cottage Street NE
Salem OR 97301-2412

503.399.0599

E-mail: aasalem@open.org www.open.org/aasalem

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