



# NATURE COAST JOURNAL



January/February 2019

**Nature Coast Intergroup Presents**



**2019 Chili Cookoff**

**Calvary Chapel  
960 S U.S. HWY 41  
Inverness, FL 34450**

**Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**\$4.00 Suggested donation  
at the door**

**includes chili, hot dogs, chips, soda, coffee**

**Speaker meeting - Fellowship - 50/50 raffle**

**Desserts welcome**

**Please enter a chili for the competition!  
Come & warm up the winter!**

## History of the 13<sup>th</sup> Step

Just as AA is not a lending bank, an employment center, or a social club, AA is also not a dating service. How did today's concept of "Thirteenth Stepping" arise? Originally, Old-timers recognized that our 12 Step program was indeed a 'one day at a time' lifelong effort. The original usage of "Thirteenth Step" was as a euphemism used by the first AA's to signify one's final step into the casket. After practicing the 12 Steps throughout a lifetime, it was said the deceased AA had made the "13th Step" into the grave.

From 'Alcoholics Anonymous, How It Works, pages 68 & 69: *Now about sex. Many of us needed an overhauling there. But above all, we tried to be sensible on this question. It's so easy to get way off the track. Here we find human opinions running to extremes - absurd extremes, perhaps. One set of voices cry that sex is a lust of our lower nature, a base necessity of procreation.*

***We want to stay out of ...*** (continued in Archive Corner Pg. 3)

**January 13th and February 3rd**

**Nature Coast Intergroup at 4:30pm**

**and District Business Meeting at 5:45pm**

**Events Committee Meeting at Saint Benedict's**

**Serenity Club on January 12th at 1:15pm.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

**HOTLINE 352-621-0599**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### District 28

P.O. Box 640914  
Beverly Hills, FL 34464

### Nature Coast Intergroup

P.O. Box 2634  
Crystal River, FL 34423

### North Florida Area Conference

5703 Red Bug Lake Road  
Unit 241  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

### General Service Office

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

*\*Online contribution may be made by visiting  
AA.org. Credit card or E-check accepted.*



## Historical Archives

### January/February

#### January 2

1889: Bridget Della Mary Gavin (Sister Ignatia) was born in Ireland.

#### January 4

1939: Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere.

#### January 8

1938: New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

#### January 24

1918: Bill W. and Lois Burnham were married, days before he was sent to Europe in WW I, weeks after sending a postcard to Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa, saying he wanted to live long enough to see Hughes become President.

#### January 25

1915: Dr. Bob S. married Anne Ripley.

#### Other significant things that happened in January (no date available):

1940: First AA meeting not in a home meets at Kings School, Akron, Ohio.

1984: Pass It On, the story of Bill W. and how the A.A. message reached the world, was published.

#### February 8

1940 – Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other A.A.s asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for money at the Union Club, N Y. They got \$2,000.

#### Feb 14

1971 – AA groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

#### February 19

1967 – Father “John Doe” (Ralph P.), 1st Catholic Priest in AA, died.

#### February 21

1939 – 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment. This was the “multilith” Big Book.

#### Other February happenings with no specific date:

1938 – Rockefeller gave \$5,000 to AA.

1939 – Dr. Harry Tiebout endorsed AA, the first psychiatrist to do so.

1940 – 1st AA clubhouse opened at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, NYC.

## ARCHIVE CORNER

*(continued from front page) ... this controversy. We do not want to be the arbiter of anyone's sex conduct. We all have sex problems. We'd hardly be human if we didn't. What can we do about them?*

From the February 2016 District 12, Area 21 East Central Illinois Newsletter:

The Thirteenth Step was first written about by Bill W, in the April 1947 Grapevine in an article titled "Clubs in AA Are They With Us to Stay?" paragraphs 2 & 3 on page 3. *"Being the majority view, we might suppose that a blanket endorsement for clubs; we might think we couldn't get along without them. We might conceive them as a central A.A. institution—a sort of "13th Step" of our Recovery Program without which the other 12 Steps wouldn't work. At times club enthusiasts will act as though they really believed we could handle our alcohol problems by club life alone. They are apt to depend upon clubs rather than upon the A.A. Program.*

*But we have A.A.s, rather a strong minority, too, who want no part of clubs. Not only, they assert, does the social life of a club often divert the attentions of members from the program, they claim that clubs are an actual drag on A.A. progress. They point to the danger of clubs degenerating into mere hangouts, even "joints"; they stress the bickerings that do arise over questions of money, management, and personal authority; they are afraid of "incidents" that might give us unfavorable publicity. In short, they "view with alarm." Thumbs down on clubs, they say."*

By the time Bill had written these paragraphs in other parts of the Bible Belt oral tradition tell us that the Thirteenth Step was that of eternal sobriety. To dig further into the oral tradition some believe that this originated from the back of a dollar bill. If one looks at the pyramid on the back and count the "steps" or rows of bricks. There are 13, with the top row/step the one next to "The Eye of Providence" or "Eye of God". So the last step, the Thirteenth Step, put one next to their High Power to enjoy eternity sober with the Spirit of the Universe. In fact in many parts of the country the oral tradition that the Thirteenth Step is eternal sobriety is still taught.

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The admonition on pg. 119 of the "Twelve & Twelve" is an understatement of great magnitude. Certainly the likelihood for newcomers, or those of questionably stable sobriety, who are pursued for (or who do pursue) romantic relationships, is that emotional handicaps shall indeed rise up and cripple them, causing a significant number of them to relapse -- a relapse which can become a "13th Step" death sentence. Hence it's easy to understand how the term "13th Stepping" came to mean what it does today. That's why "Thirteenth Stepping", among informed members of the Fellowship, is viewed as the most self-seeking, willful, and inconsiderate behavior, and is understandably despised and discouraged. Clearly, playing fast and loose with another person's life is irresponsible and reprehensible. The old saying, "there's a slip under every skirt", in this day and age is so cute and coy that it fails to fully emphasize this most serious of problems.

—Thanks to Dean B. for Archive Corner content

**One hour at a time...**

**One day at a time...**

**One step at a time.**

## Upcoming Anniversaries

### January & February 2019

#### Crystal River Group

##### *January*

George G	54
Jim H	39
Karol h	34
Stacy M	28
Lorie V	28
Jeff K	28
Joe B	27
Michid R	21
Bob G	20
Lisa B	19
Kim L	18
Bill B	17
Steve K	10
Mark R	9
Bill B	8
Caril B	8
Mary M	7
Janet F	5
Rusty B	5
Jen S	5
Michelle M	4
Barbara K	4
Kathy N	4
Jill A	4
Renee S	3
Cecelia	3
Sam M	2
Elyse	1
Chris D	1

##### *February*

Janice G.	18
Jackie R.	10
Debbie Lee	5

#### Women's Friendship Group

##### *January*

Gayle W.	36
Tommie B.	32
Arlene M.	29
Sue R.	21
Lisa B.	19
Judy C.	17

#### Real Happy Hour Group

##### *January*

Steve K.	10
Patty Q.	3
Butch	1

##### *February*

Debbie M.	1
Kenya	1

#### What's the Book Say Group

##### *January*

Brownie	43
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#### Sober Sand Gnats Group

##### *January*

Bob G.	20
Wally S.	13

##### *February*

John B.	22
Mike D.	7
Tim H.	2

**Interested in contributing to the journal? Send stories, articles, or anniversary lists to**

**[news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com)**

#### **Tradition 1**

As the Twelve Steps lay the spiritual path of recovery for individual members, the Twelve Traditions provide the principles that keep the group healthy and grounded. This is best exemplified by Tradition One which states:

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

Newcomers to any AA group will often place their entire focus on the Twelve Steps and pay less mind to the Twelve Traditions. In some ways, it's entirely understandable. As an individual, you want to reach your goal of sobriety. But unless you embrace the Twelve Traditions, your journey can become rudderless as you place "self" over others.

In the end, the Twelve Traditions provide a solid foundation by which individuals can navigate the Twelve Steps. Both are meant to provide the individual the framework by which to live your life, not just stop drinking.

As such, The Nature Coast Journal looks to, above all else, promote unity within District 28. Like every part of our 12-step program, the journey begins with the first step.

**Happy New Year!**