

HIGHER GROUND

Sept. 2020



Now...for the rest of the story

Lesser known History of AA – the early years

(Underlining added by Higher Ground for emphasis)

1913 - Summer, Bill and Lois first met and spent some time together while her family vacationed at Emerald Lake in East Dorset, VT. Lois (4 ½ years older than Bill) was not especially interested in him when they first met. They were introduced to each other by Lois' brother Rogers who became close friends with Bill.

1917 - May, Bill (age 22) had his first drink of beer. He later had his first drink of liquor at Emmy and Catherine Grinnell's house in New Bedford, MA. It was a Bronx Cocktail made up of gin, dry and sweet vermouth and orange juice. Bill got drunk, passed out, threw up and was miserably sick the next day. He wrote to Lois that he loved the experience with alcohol.

1935 - At the end of 1935, the tiny Fellowship consisted of two groups (Akron and NY) and seven members: Ebby T, Bill W, Dr Bob, Bill D, Ernie G, Hank P and Fitz M. A third group would not emerge until April 1939.

1938 - June, Bill W wrote to Dr Bob (edited):

"... I have ... dictated ... two chapters of the proposed book ... an introduction and ... my own story ... together with a rough outline of the contents of other chapters ... the completed book should represent the work of many people, particularly the individual stories ... They will naturally be the heart of the book. My feeling is that Anne should do the one portraying the wife of an alcoholic." Anne declined and Bill wrote the chapter "To Wives" much to the dismay of his wife Lois.

1938 - December (early), during the writing of the chapter "How It Works" at 182 Clinton St, Bill W, converted the then word-of-mouth 6 Steps into 12 Steps in a span of 30 minutes. Much (sometimes-heated) debate ensued over their wording. Bill completed the initial draft manuscript later in the month. Thus began a seeming affinity for the number 12. In AA Comes of Age Bill wrote, "Finally I started to write. I set out to draft more than six steps; how many more I did not know. I relaxed and asked for guidance. With a speed that was astonishing, considering my jangling emotions, I completed the first draft. It took perhaps half an hour. The words kept right on coming. When I reached a stopping point, I numbered the new steps. They added up to twelve. Somehow, this number seemed significant. Without any special rhyme or reason, I connected them with the twelve apostles."

1939 - April, Ray C whose Big Book story is "An Artist's Concept" designed the book's bright "circus color"

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Group Anniversaries

Sept. 1, 1973 Plattsburgh Fri. Night Step
Sept. 6, 1953 Plattsburgh Trinity Group
Sept. 14, 1972 Ausable Forks Thurs. Night
Sept. 17, 1965 Lake Placid Paradox Group
Oct. 1, 1996 Tupper Lake Big Book
Oct. 7, 1985 Plattsburgh Unity
Oct. 7, 2005 Plattsburgh Candlelight
Oct. 9, 1987 Plattsburgh KISS Group
Oct. 15, 1986 Saranac Lake Weds. Night
Oct. 19, 2000 Rouses Point Fifth Tradition
Oct. 20, 1999 Keene High Peaks Group
Oct. 24, 1994 Saranac Lake Living Sober
Oct. 24, 1994 Sar. Lake Thurs. Women's



This Month in AA History

Sept 30, 1939 Morris Markey runs a story on AA in Liberty Magazine "Alcoholics and God"
Sept 1948 First Pocketbook sized Grapevine is published
Sept 17, 1954 Bill D. (AA No. 3) dies
Sept 30, 1975 Bill W - a biography by Robert T is published
Sept 11, 2001 AA's first NYC office is damaged during the World Trade Center Attack

Upcoming Events

Local

Sept. 12 – A48 Fellowship Day (9:30am) on Zoom,
Id: 829 3779 2604 Password: FELLOWSHIP

Sept 15 - A48 7th Tradition Workshop, (7-9pm) on Zoom,
Id: 828 7091 9983 Password: Tradition7

Sept 21 -A48 Corrections Workshop,
see: www.aahmbny.org

Oct. 17 - HMB Voting Assembly -virtual-
See: www.aahmbny.org

On The Road

Sept. 5-6 – 5th Unity & Service Conf., Concord, CA. -VIRTUAL
see: unityandserviceconference.org

Oct. 9-11 Northeast "Woman to Woman" Conference, Baltimore, Md.
See: www.newomantowoman.org.