

BETTER TIMES

Produced for A.A. members, by A.A. members in the GTA



STEP TWO

“Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

Alcoholics
Anonymous

FEBRUARY 2023



GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

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CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY MEDALLIONS

NAME	YEARS	GROUP	CELEBRATION
Matt G.	1	Parkway Group	FEB 6 @ 8 pm
James N.	3	Dry on Danforth	FEB 7 @ noon
Malle K.	10	Erin Mills	Feb 13 @ 8 pm
Michael W.	5	Lighthouse	Feb 17 @ 8 pm
Jaki M.	1	Lakeshore	Feb 19 @ 8 pm
Ted B.	45	Bayview	Feb 19 @ 8 pm
Jason A.	1	Erin Mills	Feb 20 @ 8 pm
Allie G.	1	Fifth Tradition	Feb 21 @ 8 pm
Lynn R.	1	Sisters in Sobriety	Feb 22 @ 7 pm
Kyle M.	1	Lighthouse	Feb 24 @ 8 pm
Daniel G.	5	Golden Mile	Feb 27 @ 8 pm
Ryan K.	1	Erin Mills	Feb 27 @ 8 pm

A.A. GROUPS STARTED IN FEBRUARY

GROUP	DATE STARTED
Lakeshore	Feb 22 1948
Newmarket	Feb 1962
Birds of a Feather	Feb 23 1963
Liverpool	Feb 17 1969
Kennedy Park	Feb 20 1974
Start Today	Feb 18 1980
Fellowship	Feb 11 1983
Streetsville Action	Feb 14 1983
Fifth Tradition	Feb 5 1986
Beyond Belief (Mississauga)	Feb 11 2015

Opinions expressed in *BETTER TIMES* are those of the authors and don't necessarily reflect those of the GTA AA Intergroup. The Editor reserves the right to edit for length, content and grammar in accordance with layout and quality purposes.

Submit group news, medallions, other event notices to:
webmaster@aatoronto.org

Letters or articles to the Editor (200-500 words) for *BETTER TIMES* at:
better_mes@aatoronto.org

ORC 2023



KEEP COMING BACK!

IN-PERSON EVENT! MARCH 17-19, 2023

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Craig F. - Glasgow, Scotland (Banquet Speaker)

America K. - Los Angeles / Paul G. - Cleveland

Tina A. - Los Angeles / Christina G. - Cleveland

Al-Anon Keynote Speaker David E. - Chicago

Visit aaorc.ca today to register
and book your room at Sheraton Toronto.

**Sheraton Centre
Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West,
Toronto, ON**



VOLUNTEER AT THE ORC

sign-up for a 2 hour shift March 17-19 aaorc.ca/volunteer/
The ORC could not be the annual success it is without volunteers greeting, registering and more.

Friday 1-3pm (March 17)

Saturday 6pm-8pm (March 18) - during banquet speaker

Friday 3pm-5pm (March 17)

Accessibility Usher for Main Speaker Meeting - Saturday 6pm-8pm (March 18)

Friday 5pm-7pm (March 17)

Saturday 8pm-10pm (March 18)

Friday 7pm-9pm (March 17)

Sunday 8am-10am (March 19)

Saturday 8am-10am (March 18)

Sunday 10am-12pm (March 19)

Saturday 10am-12pm (March 18)

Sunday 2pm-4pm Clean Up Crew (March 19)

Saturday 12pm-2pm (March 18)

Saturday 2pm-4pm (March 18)

Saturday 4pm-6pm (March 18)

VIRTUAL CURE FOR THE HOLIDAYS: ROUND 3 RESOLUTION!

Yet another Winter Season Virtual Alkathon (WSVA) is now safely behind us, our third since the onset of COVID. A vital question was posed to the organizing committee of the 3rd Annual WSVAs during our final wrap/feedback meeting – was it a success?

Yes, a resounding YES!! The numbers were down from the previous two years, but for this alcoholic the question had already been answered. It came during the second meeting I chaired on Christmas Eve. A young woman, Elana B., shared how badly she was struggling and asked if there was another meeting following the one she was in. I assured her there were meetings right up until midnight, to which she responded:

“Thank God, because I’m pretty sure I was gonna go out and drink.”

It is for people like Elana B. that we hold our event. It is for people like my dear friend who was dying of cancer in a hospice at the time, and for all our fellows who feel alone. Glowing reflections from some of those who did participate certainly supported such an essential service.

“I love that it ensures no alcoholic is left alone with the challenges that are sometimes present around the holidays. I know I really needed our meeting this year” said Rebecca A., a sentiment echoed by David B. who said “For many, the holidays are a time of loneliness and struggle. For me, it filled the hours I spent without my sons.”

Robert P. wrote that “due to a disability, I am often too ill to attend meetings in person. I’m grateful because the Virtual Alkathon provided an inclusive space for people like me to attend meetings on New Year’s Eve. I was able to connect with alcoholics during what was becoming an unmanageable evening. In fact, it turned that evening around. I no longer felt alone.”

Joe A. noted the event was “once again well organized and proved to be a fun and special service commitment for the members of the One Paragraph At A Time A.A. group. Hosting our third annual meeting slot from a small group in Scarborough, our collective on New Year’s Eve made for a great means to welcome in another calendar year. Two of our three speakers had only shared from the podium on a few

occasions, so this made the night even more memorable for them.” Karl W. was really grateful for the Alkathons this year because a case of pneumonia “shut me in for the holidays. The Virtual Alkathons allowed me to attend meetings and see familiar faces. Thank you all!”

But it was the sentiments expressed by two members of the WSVAs committee which shed light on the true meaning of the Alkathon. Amanda J. “signed up to take part as a zoom co-host because I thought I could be of service. It was a really enjoyable experience! I loved being able to take part in different

meetings put on by different groups, all from the comfort of my couch logged into one room”. While Li G. wrote “2022 was my first Alkathon, both as a participant and a tech host. A.A. members make it all possible, it’s a great chance to be of service, and give those without traditional families a different family to spend some holiday time with.”

“I love that it ensures no alcoholic is left alone with the challenges that are sometimes present around the holidays. I know I really needed our meeting this year”

Perhaps Marvyn W., Chair of the GTA A.A. Intergroup Operating Committee put it best, calling it “an overwhelming success. There were forty A.A. meetings and 4 Al-Anon meetings, and we had over 1,000 people take part.” which was entirely the point.

Sure, we helped a lot of people in need this holiday season, but we also helped ourselves – by giving alcoholics across the GTA an opportunity to do service. That is the greatest gift for which this alcoholic could have possibly wished.

See you next year!

Yours in Service, David P. WSVAs Chair



ARE YOU BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL?



Every language is the right language for the still suffering alcoholic who reaches out for help.

The helpline is building a resource of multilingual members they can call on to assist with inquiries from those with limited English speaking capabilities. You will not be contacted outside of normal waking hours.

Please let us know what language you may assist with by contacting: 12step@aatoronto.org

PHONE GREETERS NEEDED



24/7

365 days a year the phones are answered!

PLEASE, sign up for a shift

it doesn't take a lot

to get a lot

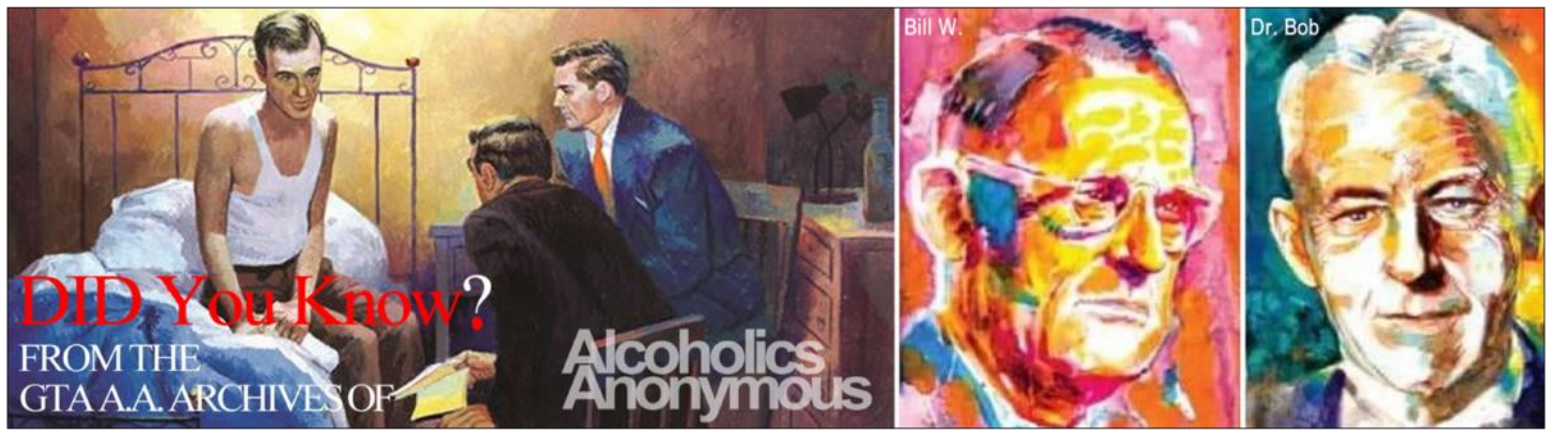
and to give a lot

to the still suffering alcoholic

Contact 12step@aatoronto.org

Visit aatoronto.org

Call 416-487-5591



On Feb. 2, 1954, Bill W. declined an honorary Doctorate from Yale University.

In February 1959, AA granted Recording for the Blind permission to tape The Big Book.

In February 1981, the first issue of "Markings" the AA Archives newsletter was published. "The function of archives is to give the Fellowship a sense of its own past and the opportunity to study it."

On Feb. 7 & 8, 1948 Bill W. & Lois came to Toronto. Bill spoke on Saturday at Central Technical School to an audience of 800 people in a closed meeting & on Sunday night to 1400 people at an open meeting at the Tivoli Theatre on Richmond St.

In February 1943, during WW11 gasoline rationing, the Office of Price Admin. recognizes the "importance and social significance of the work done by AA" and grants AA right to use cars for 12th Step work in emergency cases.

In 1945, the Alcoholic Foundation (today called General Service Board) wrote to John D. Rockefeller Jr. & the 1940 dinner guests that AA no longer needed their financial help. Big Book royalties could look after Dr. Bob & Bill & group contributions could pay the office expenses. This ended all outside contributions to AA. It led to the principle of being fully self-supporting, declining all outside contributions & later formed the basis of Tradition 7. The Rockefeller & dinner guest loans were repaid out of Big Book income.

On Feb. 12, 1945, the NY Office sent a letter to the groups notifying them that because of paper rationing needs for the war effort, the War Production Board reduced the weight of the paper to be used for the Big Book. War-time rationing reductions in paper also caused the NY Office to sharply cut the overall size of the book by trimming margins to a minimum. There were two wartime printings in limited quantity.

On Feb.1, 1938, William Richardson asked Frank Amos to visit Akron, Ohio & make a report on the young Fellowship of alcoholics. Amos' report was detailed & quite favorable. It highlighted Dr. Bob's financial situation & suggested actions that should be taken to help him. Richardson sent Amos' report to John D. Rockefeller Jr. urging a donation of \$5,000.00 a year for one or possibly two years.

In February, 1939, Dr. Harry Tiebout became the 1st psychiatrist to endorse AA and use AA principles in his practice. In summer 1944, Bill began twice-a-week treatment with Dr. Tiebout for debilitating episodes of depression. Some members were outraged & castigated Bill for "not working the program," "secretly drinking" & "pill taking." Bill endured the attacks in silence.

In February 1940, the 1st Clubhouse was rented at 334 ½ West 24th Street in New York City for \$100.00 a month. It formerly was the Illustrator's Club. The 24th Street Clubhouse was acquired because NY members had been growing restive & unhappy with all the moves from place to place for their meetings. Bert T. (of the tailoring establishment) & Horace C. (at whose Green Pond bungalow Bill & Lois often stayed) discovered & guaranteed

**OLD GTA MEETING BOOKS ARE NEEDED FOR THE GTA ARCHIVES
TO DONATE A.A. GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE
GTA ARCHIVIST EDDY G. at 416-536-7536**