



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

May 2013, Panel 63 Issue 3



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New York, April 2013



Send Area contributions to
"Hawaii Area Committee"
1253 Beretania St., #1207
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822

Please include "District #" &
group name on check

Send GSO contributions to
"General Service Board"
P. O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Please include group service # and
group name on check

Upcoming Events 2013

- ◆ Oct 5-6 — Budget Assembly, Honolulu District #2
- ◆ Hawaii Area Delegate Ken K. reports back:
 - * Jun-8, West Hawaii, Spencer Beach Park
 - * Jun-9, East Hawaii/Puna, Hilo Bay Area

Upcoming Events 2014

No exact dates have been chosen but these are the districts who will be hosting and the approximate month the event will be held.

- ◆ January—Inventory Assembly, West Hawaii District #8
- ◆ February—Committee Meeting, Kauai District #6
- ◆ March or April - Inform the Delegate Assembly, Diamond Head District #1
- ◆ May or June—Committee Meeting, Waianae District #17
- ◆ August—Budget Assembly, Puna District 12
- ◆ October - Committee Meeting, East Hawaii District 7
- ◆ November—Elections Assembly, Tri-Island, District 13



the AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Find it online at: <http://www.aagrapevine.com>

TELL US YOUR STORY

Share your experience as you would in a meeting. Tell us about an amend you made, a tip that helped you, or how you got to A.A. for up to 7 minutes. Record until you are satisfied.

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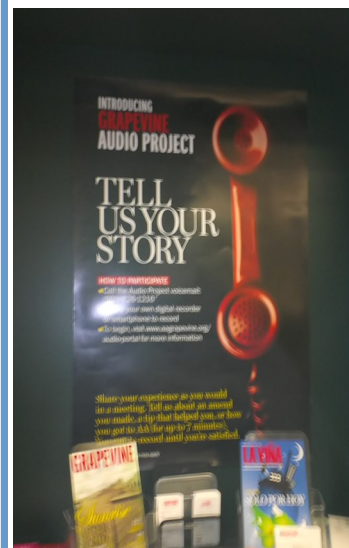
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A Member's Visit to GSO and New York

Apr-18, Thu Hawaii Area Delegate Ken K., myself and my 10-year old grandson landed at JFK Airport at 6:30 a.m. The cab driver who drove us to our hotel, the Crowne Plaza in Manhattan at the top of Times Square, beeped his horn a lot just like you see in the movies.

Our room at the hotel (and site of the General Service Conference) would not be ready until noon, so we wandered down Times Square. We saw the New Year's Eve ball (not as big as it looks on TV) which mysteriously vanished over the next few days. For 10-15 seconds, an image of the three of walking was projected on the side of a building. We had arrived! Times Square was crowded with visitors from all over the world, especially Europe.

Dined at the Olive Garden. What seemed like a medium sized restaurant turned out to be a bustling mecca of diners on the second floor. Most the shops on the first floor are narrow entryways to upper floors as first floor real estate in New York is astronomical. The food was delicioso.

Did you know that a square foot of apartment real estate in Manhattan can sell for as much as \$2,000. with maintenance fees as high as \$1,000/month?

Apr-19, Fri Wandered into a crowded corner café and had pizza piled with spinach for breakfast – ummm, fresh and delicious. Purchased tickets for a 90 minute boat ride down the Hudson River and up a portion of the East River for my grandson and I. What I remembered most was seeing the place where the airplane went down on the Hudson. It was fortunate that there were so many tour boats in the area when this happened as the operators were changing shifts. We stopped in front of the Statute of Liberty (it was closed for repairs from Hurricane Sandy) then went up the East River to see the United Nations building. I took some really good pictures but lost them when my phone broke down the next day. We got to ride on the top of a double decker bus back to Times Square.

Dinner was take out from a tiny Thai restaurant (Zaggat rated.) Best fried red snapper I ever ate.

Apr-20, Sat Off we went on the 18th annual bus tour of historic AA sites in the New York area with and other Pacific Region guests with former Trustee George, an endearing 80+ year old cigar smoker as our tour guide. George was assisted by GSO's Archivist Michelle. We visited Bill and Lois' homes, Towns Hospital, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, the Roosevelt Hotel - site of over 35 General Service Conferences, and Calvary Episcopal Church - site of Oxford Group meetings which Bill W. attended from 1934-1936. We sang a couple of verses from the song "The Bowery" written in 1891.

Did you know that in the 1940s through the 1970s, the Bowery was New York City's "Skid Row" known for alcoholics and homeless persons? Today the Bowery has been gentrified.

Did you know that only families today with combined income of \$200,000 a year or more can afford to live where Bill and Lois once lived on Clinton and Livingston Streets?

Apr-21, Sun Enjoyed breakfast at the Cosmic Diner where hopeful actors and actresses to be serve as waiters and waitresses and sing their way around the tables. Next, my grandson and I explored the subway system and caught the wrong train. Oops. got back in time for the Welcome & Orientation by the Al-Anon and GSO Hospitality Committee, a bunch of great and hard-working volunteers.

Did you know you can ride the subways and buses in New York for only \$30/week using a Metro Card?

That night, as Ken K.'s guest, I attended the Opening Dinner of the 63rd General Service Conference. The dinner was formal and similar to a PRAASA's Saturday dinner. After dinner, there was a speaker meeting consisting of the Director of AA World Services, the Grapevine Chair originally from Santiago in Chile, the delegate from So. Central Los Angeles, the delegate from Mississippi, and a Class B (alcoholic in recovery) trustee. Their shares were personal and heartfelt.

Did you know that Area 9 (So. Central L.A.) has approximately 6,000 members and 2,000 groups?



A Member's Visit to GSO and New York

Apr-22, Mon By mid-morning, we were on the city bus off to the Guggenheim Museum of modern and contemporary art. Thankfully, I got to enjoy the art with Jaime from Cleveland, Ohio while my grandson was whisked away to enjoy Central Park zoo across the street with "Uncle Denis," one of the hospitality escorts. Jaime excitedly informed me that in February 2014, she will be on a plane chartered solely for women coming to Hawaii to attend the next International Women's Conference (IWC).

Did you know that the Ala Moana Hotel is booked to capacity for the IWC as of the second week of May 2013?

Apr-23, Tue We were welcomed with open arms at the General Service Office (GSO) on the 11th floor of 475 Riverside Drive in a building called the Interchurch Center. We had lunch in the Center's cafeteria then went on a guided tour of GSO and were treated to scrumptious New York pastries. What an experience! Please refer to the pictures in this newsletter. "Visitors to G.S.O. are welcomed with open arms because, as one staff member explains, "it gives us the opportunity to share about the direct connection of this office with the early days of A.A. We remember those early members, none of them had longtime sobriety, but they carried the message under extreme emotional and financial duress and suffered the great social stigma of alcoholism at that time. In spite of these difficulties, the oldtimers made an anonymous spiritual commitment to provide information about A.A. to anyone who asked— member, nonmember, alcoholic, nonalcoholic, inmate in a correctional facility, media professional, treatment facility professional, student, worried parent or frantic family member. And today G.S.O. remains committed to providing information about A.A. to anyone who requests it."

In the early evening, we took the metro train with the other conference guests to go the Mets Stadium. I sat shivering but the cold did not even bother the New Yorkers. The whole experience was coldly exciting.

Apr-24, Wed Time for a Spider-man matinee. By chance, my grandson and I were fortunate to get half price tickets from a same day sale discount booth right in Times Square. Otherwise, I would have had to pay \$340 for both of us. The props were impressive (flying above the audience on harnesses) and the storyline had exciting characters, especially the Green Goblin. That evening, we walked 2.2 miles across the Brooklyn Bridge. What a sight— Manhattan lighted up at night.

Who said "With great power comes great responsibility?"

Apr-25, Thu It's off to the Empire State Building and there were lines. Lines to the ticket booth, to the photographer, to the elevators to the 80th floor, to the elevators to the 86th floor then lines back. However, the views were impressive as there are so many buildings to gaze on. The wait and lines were worth the experience.

Apr-26, Fri It's off we go to Central Park to ride bikes. We toured most of the park on bike for an hour then walked our bikes back along N.Y.'s busy sidewalks trying to locate the bike shop.

Apr-27, Sat We see a prequel to Peter Pan called Peter and the Star Catcher.

Apr-28, Sun The drive from Times Square to our nation's capital totaled nine hours. Again, it was well worth it. We visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Nation's Capital, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, the Aerospace Center and even Madame Trousseau's Wax Museum of the U.S. Presidents and other celebrities. The bus was comfortable as were the rest stops in Delaware.

Apr-29, Mon Time to head home on a great airlines with great service.

Summary The tall Manhattan buildings are impressive and its easy for a non-New Yorker to lose one's sense of direction. The pizza, deli sandwiches and Italian pasta dishes in Manhattan are hard to beat. We were fortunate to have been so close to so many activities in spite of all the street vendors and crowds of tourists in Times Square. The weather was comfortable during the day at 50 degrees and we bundled up when it was colder. Got a lot of great exercise walking Manhattan's long blocks. At day's end, I was ever so grateful to see our hotel sign in the distance. There is so much more to see such as Stepping Stones, the 9/11 memorial, churches, museums, plays, etc. However, I am glad to have done so much and even more happy to live in Hawaii.

Love and Aloha, Your Mynah Bird Chair, Rochelle A.



PLACES WE VISITED IN APRIL 2013

Towns Hospital, New York

Bill W., cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.), was admitted to Towns Hospital four times between 1933 and 1934. On his fourth and last stay he showed signs of delirium tremens and was treated with the Belladonna Cure. He had his "Hot Flash" spiritual awakening while undergoing this treatment, either on his second or third night, depending on the source. When he was released from Towns Hospital after a seven day stay, he never drank again.

Wilson's description of his experience: "All at once I found myself crying out, "If there is a God, let Him show himself! I am ready to do anything, anything! Suddenly the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up in an ecstasy which there are no words to describe. It seemed to me in my mind's eye, that I was on a mountain and that a wind not of air but of spirit was blowing. And then it burst upon me that I was a free man. Slowly the ecstasy subsided. I lay there on the bed, but now for a time I was in another world, a new world of consciousness... and I thought to myself, "So this is the God of the preachers!" A great peace stole over me."

Towns was a supporter and creditor of A.A., lending Bill W. \$2,500 (\$38,000 in 2008 dollar values) to enable him to write what became the "Big Book" of A.A. He later told the A.A. story to a writer who had it published in Liberty Magazine which led to the sale of several hundred Big Books. He also offered Bill W., who had been unemployed for several years, a job as a lay therapist, which Bill W. declined.



182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY

This home was owned by Lois' family for many years and Lois was born here in 1891. Bill and Lois lived here briefly in 1919 to get on their feet and moved there again in 1930 when the couple's financial situation had deteriorated severely after the stock market crash. Lois' mother was dying of cancer and Bill's drinking was quite bad. Lois' father gave the home to Lois and Bill and it was in this house that Bill finally got sober—Ebby T. brought Bill his message of spiritual healing and recovery in 1934, sitting with him in the kitchen at 182 Clinton Street. In 1935, Bill began hosting meetings at the house on Tuesdays, meeting with drunks constantly, some of whom lived there with Bill and Lois if they had nowhere else to go. After Lois' father died in 1936, the mortgage company took over ownership of the home, but the couple continued living there, rent the property until 1939, when they were too penniless to afford the rent. They were then virtually homeless for two years, living with friends and above offices.

St. Thomas Hospital Medical Center in Akron, Ohio where Sister Ignatia and Dr. Bob formed the first alcoholic ward.





PICTURES AT G.S.O.



In November 1934, Ebby T. visited Bill W. Expecting to spend a day drinking and re-living old times, Wilson was instead shocked by Thacher's refusal to drink. "I've got religion," he reportedly said to Wilson's surprise. Thacher told Wilson of his conversion at the Rescue Mission.



Lois and Bill W. with Ebby T. in their living room at 182 Clinton



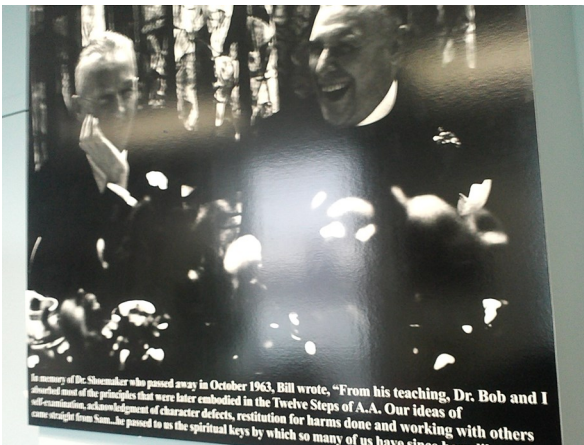
Dr. Bob and his fish



A.A.'s first Archivist, Nell Wing, displaying archival treasures at G.S.O.'s former location, 468 Park Avenue South



Coffee break at the 1954 General Service Conference, April 24-25, Hotel Commodore, New York. In the foreground, Dr. John L. Norris, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee. Dr. Jack, as he was fondly known, would later serve as chairman of A.A.'s General Service Board, 1961 to 1979.



"In memory of Dr. Shoemaker who passed away in Oct-1963, Bill wrote, "From his teaching, Dr. Bob and I attributed most of the principles that were later embodied in the Twelve Steps of A.A. Our ideas of self-examination, acknowledgment of character defects, restitution for harms done and working with others came straight from Sam. He passed to us the spiritual keys by which so many of us have since...."



Incoming mail to G.S.O. in the 1930's.

Coffee break at the 1954 General Service Conference, April 24-25, Hotel Commodore, New York. In the foreground, Dr. John L. Norris, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee. Dr. Jack, as he was fondly known, would later serve as chairman of A.A.'s General Service Board, 1961-1979. On April 16, 1973, he presented President Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the "Big Book". He was chairman of Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's Advisory Council on Alcoholism from 1961 to 1971,

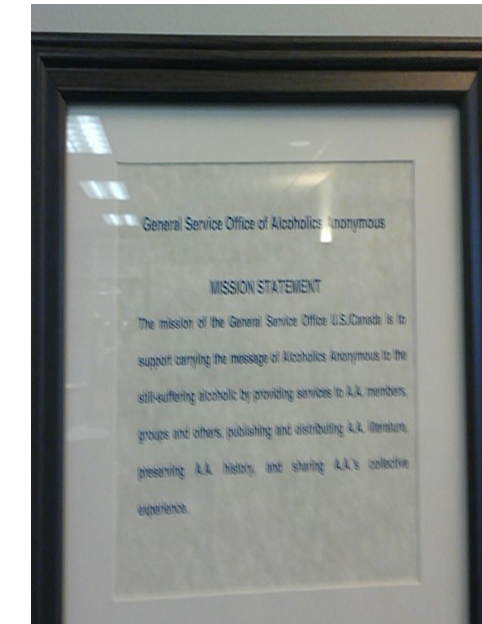


PICTURES AT G.S.O.



Burt T.'s tailor shop. A.A. meetings were held here in the mid 1930s..

Big Book in different languages.

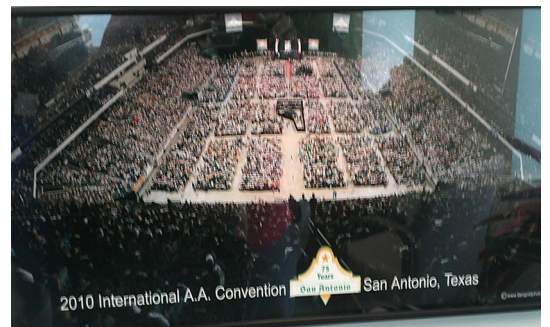


General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the General Service Office U.S./Canada is to support carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholic by providing services to A.A. members, groups and others, publishing and distributing A.A. literature, preserving A.A. history, and sharing A.A.'s collective experience.



Lois W. at ribbon cutting ceremony in 1975 for the official opening of A.A. Archives



2010 International A.A. Convention, 75th Anniversary, San Antonio, Texas. This was one of several pictures of various A.A. international conventions hanging on the wall in one of G.S.O.'s offices.



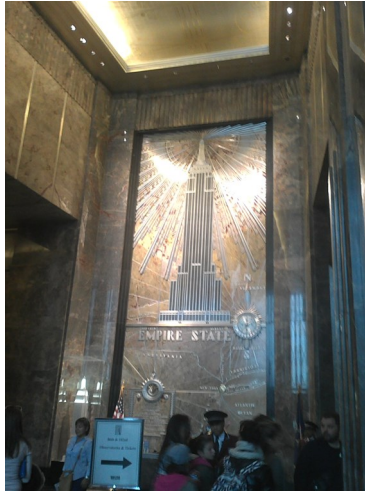
A typical clean and neat office at G.S.O.



A New York Experience in Pictures



New York viewed from the top of the Empire State Building.



Picture at a restaurant of well known TV characters.



Mets played valiantly against the L.A. Dodgers.



Concert in the subway below Times Square on 42nd Street.



Washington Monument under reconstruction.



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The walls point to the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. In 1980, it was announced that the memorial's design would be selected through a nation competition open to any U.S. citizen over 17 years of age. The 58,256 names are inscribed in chronological order of the date of casualty. "The names would become the memorial." The walls are 246.75 feet long.





AA Archives

The Months of April and May in A.A.

Apr-2-1840 The Washingtonian Temperance Society was founded in Baltimore. 1,000 alcoholics in the first year stops drinking. Abraham Lincoln addressed their second anniversary. In four years 500,000 had found sobriety. The society is completely disbanded in its year. Bill W. made a text book study of them—their mistakes as well as their strengths.

Apr-1939 The Big Book is published by "Works Publishing Co." At this time, A.A. has two meetings and 100 members. It will take 35 years to sell 1,000,000 copies. Today, A.A. distributes over 1,000,000 copies yearly in the English language alone.

Apr-11-1941 Bill and Lois W. drive to their new home which they will name "Stepping Stones" which in 1985 is declared a New York State historic site. A.A. and Al-Anon members from around the world visit "Stepping Stones" 365 days a year. Visiting guidelines can be found at steppingstones.org.

Apr-1962 The General Service Conference adopted the 12 Concepts of World Service as written by Co-Founder Bill W. The Concepts

were the final substantial document that was created to provide a historical record of a working plan based on our past experience to guide members of A.A. in our 3rd Legacy of service. This structure has remained fundamentally unchanged.

May 1932 Rowland H. visits with Dr. Carl Jung in Zurich, Switzerland for one year to cure his alcoholism. He was told by Dr. Jung there was no medical or psychological hope for an alcoholic of his type, except for a spiritual conversion. Rowland returned to the U.S. and joins the "Oxford Group." This is considered by most historians as the first link in a chain of events that led to the founding of A.A.

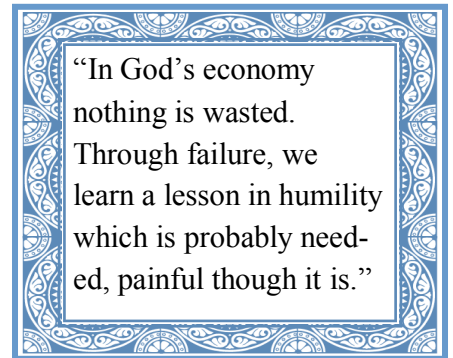
May-12-1935 Bill W. goes to Akron, Ohio on a business trip that fails. This is where he will meet Dr. Bob for the first time.

May 1939 The first "Intergroup" in A.A. has its beginning and was called the "Central Committee" in Cleveland, Ohio. A committee of seven including Dr. Bob met once a month to "coordinate" efforts regarding sponsorships and hospitalizations.

May 1944 Los Angeles opens their office. A.A. was not easy to find. Only selected groups of priests, ministers and judges in the early days had the intergroups phone numbers which were not listed anywhere else.

Apr-1976 The first as well as the second State Assembly convenes Olomana School at the Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe.

May 1993 Ann M., Hawaii Area Delegate, Panel 43 gives her report after returning from the 43rd General Service Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, New York. She wishes that each and every Hawaii A.A. member could attend. She reports that the Conference reiterated that the use of sobriety chips/medallions is a matter for each individual or group to decide.



Jumble for Mynah Bird:

Unscramble the words below, then unscramble the circled letters to form the answer to the question.

VECIRES O _ _ _ _ O _ _ _

BONREPSIITYLI _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ _ _

VELO _ _ _ _ O

ATORNOTI _ _ _ _ _ _ O _

Where did we learn about all these topics on a regional level this year? _ _ _ _ _



Word Find Fun														
K	S	J	X	V	J	U	Y	B	X	B	A	S	Q	C
V	T	W	V	W	M	P	X	X	Y	W	K	E	S	T
S	P	W	A	M	L	Z	H	V	P	H	C	R	M	I
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N	I	Y	T	Q	J	V	K	D	U	Y	D	Z	N	C
V	L	R	M	I	H	P	R	G	N	D	R	Q	D	B
R	M	G	Z	M	R	H	G	O	B	U	H	F	W	Z

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