

Dear Friends,

May this holiday season be filled with all the joys that sobriety can bring, day by day.

At this special time, we reflect on how our beloved Bill and Dr. Bob, through a Higher Power, made possible our new lives. No matter what happens—through wonderful days of joy or turbulent hours of pain—we are daily gifted with healing grace.

For some of us, the holidays are difficult, yet, one moment at a time, we know that we have stepped out of darkness and face the light. For many, our gratitude has no season. One and all, we give thanks, knowing that we can do together what we could not do alone!

Warmest wishes, love, and thanks, from all of us here at G.S.O.

*Susan* *Phyllis* *John* *Cheryl Ann* *Curtis* *Nicente* *Lois* *Deon* *Lyla*  
*Finnie* *Betty* *Sarah* *Deke* *Bob*

## Biography of Bill W. Gives New Insight Into The Man and His Vision

“... I'll never forget the first time I met Bill Wilson. I was a few months sober and so excited, so thrilled to actually meet the co-founder that I gushed all over him with ... undying gratitude ... When I ran down, he took my hand in his and said simply, 'Pass it on.'”

— from a letter to G.S.O.

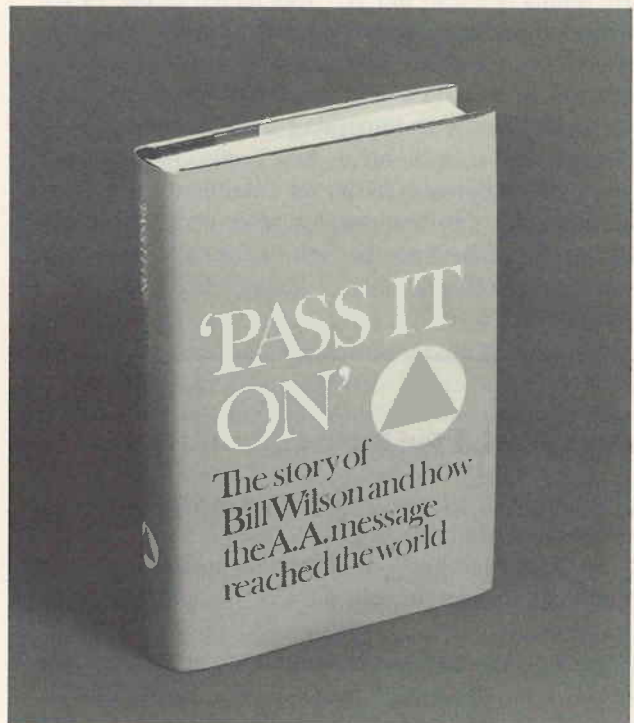
It's finally here, the definitive A.A. Conference-approved biography of Bill W. we have waited for. Appropriately, the title, “Pass It On,” is taken from the telling of a chance encounter between Bill and one of the thousands of A.A.'s whose lives he directly touched.

Comprising 25 chapters, “Pass It On” portrays Bill not only as a visionary but as a very human being who

struggled all his sober life to live the principles of the program he co-founded and profoundly shaped.

The first four chapters of “Pass It On” cover Bill's early years and young manhood, from 1895 to 1933: the impact of his parents' divorce on the child's sensitive personality; his rearing by his maternal grandparents; his love of Bertha Barnford and depression after her early death; his school and Army days; marriage to Lois and their vain struggle to have a child; and his success on Wall Street, shadowed by his increasingly heavy drinking.

The next 13 chapters chronicle the years 1933-43, the period of A.A.'s beginnings, struggle to survive, and rise to national attention with publication of Jack Alexander's article on A.A. in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Soon after, Bill and Lois buy a house in Bedford Hills, N.Y., their first permanent home in 23 years of marriage. Still struggling with depression, Bill open-mindedly explores spiritual paths. One takes him into a study of psychic phenomena; another leads him into instruction in the Catholic faith, although he does not convert. Immensely popular now, he nonetheless finds himself a target of criticism and controversy within A.A.



In the final eight chapters, 1944-1971, Bill writes the Traditions and travels around "selling" them to A.A. groups; refuses an honorary degree from Yale University and declines an invitation to be the subject of a *Time* Magazine cover story, because of the threat to A.A.'s principle of personal anonymity.

In the late 1950's and 1960's, he corresponds with psychoanalyst Carl Jung, resumes some of his former Wall Street activities, and, ever adventurous, becomes interested in an energy-conversion project. Finally, he approaches the twilight years, his A.A. work largely done and his health undermined by emphysema, which will lead to his death in 1971, two months after his 75th birthday.

"Pass It On," the first A.A.-published biography of Bill, is comprehensive and accurate, since the writers had access to Bill's private papers and other archival material during the five years the book was in the works. (A.A. publications, of course, are never attributed to their authors, who remain anonymous.)

The original plan, approved by the 1977 General Service Conference, had been to produce a joint biography of the two co-founders. As research began, that approach proved to be impractical, and the 1979 Conference approved the preparation of two separate books. "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers," completed first, was published in 1980.

Bob P., chairperson of General Services, observes, "It seemed strange to have a definitive biography of one co-founder and not the other. Now we have both, and I can tell you that I've found 'Pass It On' to be exciting reading."

He points out that Bill W. "was hailed as one of the ten most significant men in the 20th century." And yet, he notes with a grin, "The typist who worked on the first draft of this book was moved to comment, 'Isn't it too bad he never did anything with his life.'"

"Pass It On" is available to A.A. groups for \$5.50 per copy. The retail price is \$6.50. An order form is enclosed with this issue. Or, if you wish, you or your group may order copies of the book through your local A.A. central or intergroup office.

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## New Material for Busy Committees

We're happy to tell you that the following new items are also now available from G.S.O.:

- "The A.A. Member"—updated version of the illustrated leaflet summarizes results of the 1983 membership survey. **10¢**
- "The A.A. Member"—the same updated information presented in a display 29" high, 40" wide; useful for P.I. and C.P.C. committees. **\$10**

- Correctional Facilities Workbook—a loose-leaf workbook contains sections on how to do correctional facilities work, prerelease sponsorship, Guidelines, guide letters for contacting prison officials, and literature order forms. *Directory of A.A. Groups in Correctional Facilities* and 25 literature items included. **\$7**

- Separate Guidelines for Correctional Facilities Committees and for Treatment Facilities Committees are also available. Each is free in quantities of ten or less; for larger orders, each additional copy costs 10¢.

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## Four Regional Forums Scheduled for 1985

Regional Forums strengthen the Fellowship's Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. They offer a unique opportunity for A.A. group or area representatives and individuals in a particular region to share their concerns with one another and with G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, trustees, and directors. Through this exchange of ideas and information, the common purpose of all A.A. service work is emphasized.

Mailings regarding each Regional Forum will be sent to G.S.R.'s, area committee members, delegates, and central offices approximately two months ahead of time. In 1985, the weekend Forums will be held as follows:

- *Northeast Region—February 15-17, 1985*: Radisson Wilmington Hotel, Wilmington, Del.
- *East Central Region—May 3-5, 1985*: Downtowner Motel, Green Bay, Wis.
- *West Central Region—September 13-15, 1985*: Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyo.
- *Southwest Region—December 6-8, 1985*: Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Hilton Hotel, Dallas, Tex.

For additional information, please write: Regional Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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## By Land, Sea, and Air A.A.'s Will Head for Montreal in July 1985

The sheer logistics of transporting and housing the more than 30,000 A.A.'s planning to gather in Montreal, Que., for A.A.'s 50th Anniversary International Convention, July 4-7, 1985, are mind-boggling. For starters, how will they all get there? Where will they stay? How will they get around the city?

Many of the A.A.'s coming in from more than 30 countries will fly via commercial flights. Others, who live closer to Montreal, will travel by car, bicycle, or train. As excitement builds, some enterprising A.A.'s are mapping out personalized modes a-go-go: A group on Long Island, N.Y., for example, is thinking about chartering a private plane; a man in Wisconsin cottons to the idea of a marathon jog (round trip, of course); and a woman living in Maine wonders whether plain long-distance walking would upset the trend-setters. No one has yet mentioned going on horseback, but it's a possibility.

In September, registration and housing forms in English, French, and Spanish were mailed out from the General Service Office in an ever-increasing stream. Many A.A.'s have already elected to stay at the some 13,000 hotel rooms now under contract at reduced rates for Convention attendees.

Still others may be interested in staying at one of 20 available campsites, all within a 25-mile radius of Montreal and one of the three Metro (subway) systems that provide fast, inexpensive transportation to and from the Olympic Park Stadium and the Convention Center, where the events will take place. For further information about the campsites, write to G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Those who wish to reserve *hospitality suites* are asked to fill in the appropriate section on their registration forms or else to call the hotels and secure reservations directly from them. Hotel *rooms*, of course, must be reserved via the housing portion of the registration form.

Please do not detach the housing section from the registration form. The registration/housing form should be mailed in its entirety, whether you require housing or not, to: International Convention, P.O. Box 1985, Station D, Buffalo, NY 14210-1985. Please *do not* send your hotel deposit with your registration fee. The hotel you are placed in will contact you for a room deposit.

However they travel, wherever they stay, A.A.'s will revel in wider sharing than at any previous Convention. All workshops will be held at the Convention Center. Special-interest meetings and alkathons will be held in

the ballrooms at the following hotels: Sheraton Centre, Meridien, Bonaventure, Hotel du Parc. The marathon meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency. On Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning, we will be out at the Olympic Park Stadium.

Also, for your information, the two hotels at which Al-Anon/Alateen will hold its meetings are the Queen Elizabeth and the Chateau Champlain.

Beyond all the provisions being made to assure ease of verbal communication—in four languages, plus “signing” for the hearing-impaired—there is the language of the heart that will facilitate sharing among all the A.A.'s present, no matter what their native tongue.

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### Golden Anniversary Idea

The trustees' Public Information Committee suggests that your group might light a candle — or even 50 candles — to celebrate A.A.'s 50th birthday, at the meeting nearest the big date: June 10, 1985.



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## A.A. Is Honored as A Trailblazer for Self-Help Groups

A.A. recently was honored for its contribution to the field of alcoholism and for paving the way for other self-help groups. On behalf of the Fellowship, non-alcoholic trustee Joan K. Jackson, Ph.D., accepted the framed, 12" × 16" Statement of Appreciation presented by ALMACA, the Association of Labor-Management Administrators and Consultants on Alcoholism, at its Sixth Annual Eastern Regional Conference in Hartford, Conn.

Observes Dr. Jackson, “This is the first time I know of that A.A. has been honored not only for its work with alcoholics, but for establishing an example, in some cases an actual program, for other self-help groups such as Overeaters Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous, to name a few.”

In its Statement of Appreciation, ALMACA “recognizes that Employee Assistance Programs owe a large measure of their success to the accessibility of local A.A. groups everywhere and the proven effectiveness of the A.A. program of recovery.”

Additionally, the statement reads, "In the nearly fifty years since the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous had its quiet beginning in Akron, Ohio, A.A. has freely shared its knowledge and experience with any professional person — or any alcoholic — who desires it. This spirit of unselfish cooperation has contributed to the recent growth of similar self-help groups which, like A.A., have become vital resources to those responsible for the effective management of Employee Assistance Programs."

It was noted by a representative of ALMACA that the late Edward S., past trustee (Class B) of Alcoholics Anonymous, who died in June, shortly after presentation of the award, was national past president of ALMACA. Ed's leadership was instrumental in the building of the organization.

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## Information Workshops Help A.A.'s Carry the Message Behind Walls

On a weekend in August 1984, more than 70 A.A.'s active on committees for institutions, public information (P.I.), and cooperation with the professional community (C.P.C.) gathered in Rochester for the fifth New York State Information Workshop. This annual event gives information and support to the A.A.'s who work overtime, often with too little help, to carry the message to alcoholics in prisons and rehab centers and to acquaint doctors, members of the clergy, students, and other members of the community with how A.A. works.

It all began with one A.A.'s dream. In 1978, Suzanne W., not yet three years sober and newly elected institutions chairperson of the Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire Area, attended her first Northeast Regional Forum. Sue was "amazed," she recalls, "at the way people came and shared their problems. We voiced our concerns, gave each other answers born of our own experience, and had a wonderfully spiritual unity in service."

Realizing how lonely institutions work can be, Sue conceived the idea of holding annual workshops for those who carry the message behind prison walls. In May 1980, her dream became a reality when the first Institutions and P.I. Workshop was held in Albany. The following year, C.P.C. sharing was incorporated in the workshops, which are hosted by each area of the state on a rotating basis.

Concerns most frequently raised at the workshops range from "How can we get more A.A.'s to partici-

pate?" to "How do you raise enough money to cover the cost of literature?" Some voice fear of having their anonymity broken. And one A.A. worried aloud about feeling "plain uncomfortable behind those clinking bars," only to be reminded and reassured that "all you need to do is talk to these people as fellow alcoholics. Most of them would never have committed the crimes for which they're serving time had it not been for their drinking." Says Sue, now a Panel 34 Conference delegate, "We remind each other that we are responsible for communicating to others the fulfillment of health that has been given to us."

Past delegate Judd B. reports, "At the workshop in August, we learned new and better ways to bridge the gap between the rehab and the outside world. One former prison inmate, now carrying the message himself, described graphically how A.A.'s contacted him in prison and talked to him like 'real people.' "

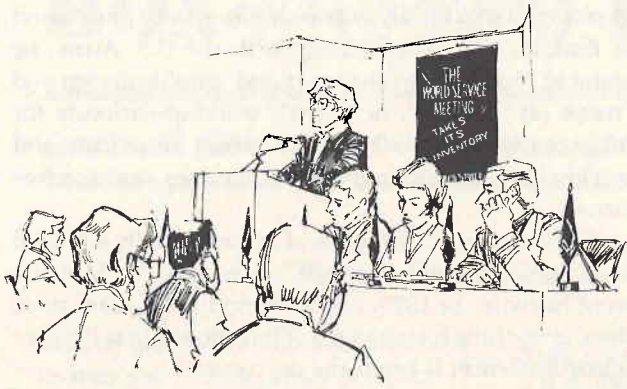
Other items of interest at the August workshop:

- A Western Massachusetts A.A. reported on inviting students from a theology school to attend meetings, thus giving them exposure to how the Fellowship works before they began pastoral counseling on their own.
- Judd B., talking about his work in schools, said that he checks out the card catalogs in school libraries to see whether the Big Book is listed. If it is not, he sends a copy with a note saying, "If this book is stolen, please say nothing! Just let the C.P.C. Committee know, and it will be replaced."
- One attendee reported that he and a fellow A.A. have been visiting offices of physicians, asking whether they would like to have the new P.I. Literature Display Container with A.A. literature in it for their patients. Two doctors put the stands in their waiting rooms; subsequently, they each referred five or six prospective members to A.A.

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## World Service Meeting Takes a Productive Self-Inventory

Thirty-eight delegates from 25 countries gathered at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City October 21-25, 1984, to participate in the Eighth World Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. These delegates represent links in an A.A. chain that reaches around the world to carry the message to still-suffering alcoholics everywhere. G.S.O staff members also attended the Meeting, as observers.



The theme, "The World Service Meeting Takes Its Inventory," proved to be a rewarding focus for W.S.M. members as they applied themselves to five days of committee meetings, presentations/discussions, workshops, and sharing sessions. The Meeting was opened on Sunday afternoon by Gordon Patrick, nonalcoholic chairperson of the U.S./Canada General Service Board. In his keynote address, John H. of South Africa challenged W.S.M. members to take a good, hard look at the World Service Meeting's objectives and present-day realities—a challenge that was met during the next four days.

Although faced with busy schedules, most W.S.M. delegates took time to visit notable A.A. sites in the area and local A.A. meetings. A tour of G.S.O., a visit to Stepping Stones (the home of Lois and Bill), a sharing session with the trustees on the U.S./Canada board, and attendance at the New York Intergroup dinner, meeting, and dance in honor of Bill W. were highlights for our international A.A. visitors.

Eager to go to a midnight A.A. meeting in New York City, Ramnath R. from Trinidad/Tobago was escorted to one, only to be confronted with a great mass of people dressed in outlandish costumes—it was the group's Halloween party. Next day, Ramnath confessed that he had stayed at the party until 2:30 a.m.

The following countries were represented at this year's Meeting: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, England, Finland, France, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad/Tobago, the United States, Uruguay, and West Germany. All agreed on the importance of encouraging more countries to develop their own A.A. service structures.

The agendas of W.S.M. committees were jam-packed. Following are some of the recommendations produced by hardworking committee members:

1. The Ninth World Service Meeting will be held in Guatemala October 19-23, 1986; the theme will be "Service Through Humility and Love."
2. A booklet highlighting the purpose, history, and

recommendations of the World Service Meeting is to be prepared.

3. Countries that do not have treatment facilities and correctional facilities committees should establish them in order to more effectively reach alcoholics in institutions.

4. Simultaneous translation (English/Spanish) will be provided for the Ninth W.S.M. general sessions, committee meetings, and workshops.

5. A.A. groups must become more aware of the need to support the W.S.M. financially in order to improve communication about its importance.

Committee members discussed many other topics, including: (1) ways of reaching alcoholics in communities without A.A. groups or members; (2) ways of carrying the A.A. message to ethnic minorities within countries; (3) qualifications for countries participating in the Meeting; and (4) the creation of a special fund to assist countries unable to attend the W.S.M. (it was agreed that to do so would be counterproductive for the Meeting's principle of self-support).

Late on Thursday afternoon, W.S.M. members assembled for the closing session. Rotating (second-term) delegates said their farewells, expressing deep gratitude for having served and both joy and sadness in leaving. It was clear that the days of inventory-taking had produced nothing but good for the World Service Meeting. Worldwide A.A. unity was felt by all as the Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer. Members joined hands to form an unbroken circle, and the prayer was spoken in all languages represented at the Meeting.

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## G.S.O. Open House Lets 750 A.A.'s Know They're Home

There would have been S.R.O. at G.S.O. during Open House on September 29 had not extended facilities been provided at a nearby school. Over 750 A.A.'s, with hometowns scattered from California to Florida, from Canada to Mexico, were on hand to visit the General Service Office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

After a friendly cup of morning coffee, visitors toured the offices, wending their way from the G.S.O. staff offices down to the Shipping Department, Grapevine headquarters, and the archives. For many, the ever-expanding computer setup was an intriguing stop along the way. All visitors received free packets of literature from G.S.O. and the Grapevine.

Continuing the practice of the past few years, the Southeastern New York General Service Committee hosted a luncheon appreciated by all. Over salads, sandwiches, cold cuts, and, of course, the ubiquitous cups of coffee and tea, visitors and staff members got acquainted or reacquainted and swapped both personal and group experiences.

From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., visitors gathered in the school auditorium. Bob P., who retains overall responsibility as chairperson of General Services, introduced his recent successor to the post of G.S.O. general manager, John B. Then, members of the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs described their assignments, sharing the pleasures and problems of giving service to more than 58,500 listed A.A. groups around the world.

Lest staff members get carried away past their allotted time of three minutes each, the Open House coordinator had a bell in readiness; when necessary, she smiled, then rang firmly. During the discussion period that followed, visitors asked numerous questions, mainly about Conference-approved literature, services for the hearing-impaired, and the 1985 International Convention in Montreal.

Meanwhile, about a hundred Spanish-speaking members gathered to hear the various services and assignments described in that language; at this session, too, ample time was allowed for questions and answers.

Two filmstrips were shown: the recently produced "Your G.S.O. Today" and "Markings on the Journey" (a history of A.A.), available with a choice of English or Spanish narration.

As late-afternoon shadows lengthened, visitors and staff said goodbye until next time. As they do every year, all agreed this was the best Open House ever.

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## Job Fulfillment Is Reality for New Grapevine Art Chief

"The opportunity to combine two major forces in my life—A.A. and my skills in art and design—is more than I could have hoped for," says Gene A., who became art editor of the Grapevine last April. He succeeds Tom N., who held the post from 1978 until his death in March.

"Gene is talented and good to work with," observes Grapevine editor Ann W. "In fact, he fit in so well, so like an old Grapevine hand from the first, it's never seemed as if he were new."

Looking back across the years, Gene says he is next

to youngest in a family of five children, born and reared in Buffalo, N.Y. After serving with the U.S. Army, he came to New York to study art and graphic design and "move on." Instead, he stayed, working variously for magazines such as *Encore* (covering American and worldwide news), for advertising agencies, and as a free lance.

"Somewhere along the line, I became dually addicted to alcohol and amphetamines," he recalls, "and my life went haywire. In 1975, I sobered up in A.A., and since then, everything has changed. The Fellowship is the core of my existence; it keeps me on course."

Amiable and outgoing, Gene has an up-front sense of humor, an ability to laugh at himself. "I tried being a sponsor once," he says drily, "but I didn't do well at it—guess I need too much sponsoring myself."

What especially pleases Gene about his work on the Grapevine is "the chance to use and combine varied skills such as illustration, graphic design, knowledge of type, and photography." He has traveled to Africa and the Caribbean and is presently blowing up some of the many slides he has taken along the way. "I've photographed a good many landscapes," he explains, "but mainly I lean toward people pictures." He looks forward to traveling more. "I'll go in any direction," he declares, "just to be able to explore, to discover more about the world, and to document what I find through the eye of my camera."

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## Directory Time! Do You Know Where Your Printouts Are?

Printouts corrected to show the latest group information are already being returned to G.S.O. by the areas, giving our hungry computer the material it needs to produce the 1985 A.A. directories.

The carefully compiled, confidential directories are useful as guides to groups and individual contacts; they also list special international contacts for the deaf, doctors, lawyers, gays, and more. For many an A.A. traveler in a strange city, the directory for that area can be a lifeline.

So, delegates, if you haven't already returned your printouts, please remember that the final deadline for receipt of this vital information at G.S.O. is *January 15, 1985*. But earlier is better.

## Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.'s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1. *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.* Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2. *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.* If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3. *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time.* If a drinking urge or panic comes — postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4. *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go.* If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5. *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.* Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6. *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*



7. *Don't think you have to stay late.* Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8. *Go to church.* Any church.



9. *Don't sit around brooding.* Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10. *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations.* Remember — "one day at a time."



11. *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.* Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.



12. *"Having had a . . ."* No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

## Planning a February, March, or April Event?

Please be sure to send your information on February, March, or April events for A.A.'s in time to reach G.S.O. by *December 28*. This is the calendar deadline for the February-March issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed January 15).

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.'s to describe the events accurately.

## Calendar of Events

### December

- Nov. 30-Dec. 2 — Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Ninth Annual N. Fla.-S. Ga. Gratitude Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 51134, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
- Nov. 30-Dec. 2 — Sikeston, Missouri. Fourth Annual Five Corners Roundup. Write: Ch., 205 N. Jackson, Kennett, MO 63857
- Nov. 30-Dec. 2 — Lake Whitney, Texas. Young Minds in A.A. Conf. Write: Ch., 2323 W. Bay Area Blvd., #515, Webster, TX 77598
- 7-9 — Charleston, South Carolina. S.E. Reg. Forum. Write: Reg. Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163

## December continued

- 22-25 — *Belmont, California*. Christmas Alkathon. Write: Ch., Box 1176, El Granada, CA 94018
- 24-25 — *Odessa, Texas*. Alkathon. Write: G.S.R., 4025 W. 14th St., Odessa, TX 79763
- 24-25 — *London, Ontario, Canada*. Fifth Annual Christmas Alkathon. Write: Ch., 503—309 Wellington Ct., London, Ont. N6C 4P2
- 29-30 — *Neosho, Missouri*. Winter Holiday IV. Write: Ch., Box 43, Neosho, MO 64850

## January

- 4-6 — *Dodge City, Kansas*. S.W. Kans. Conf. Write: Secy., 1009 3rd, Dodge City, KS 67801
- 4-6 — *South Padre Island, Texas*. 11th Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Jamboree. Write: Jamboree, Box 5453, Brownsville, TX 78520
- 10-13 — *Pine Mountain, Georgia*. Pine Mt. Fellowship. Write: Ch., Box 617, Pine Mountain, GA 31822
- 11-13 — *Houston, Texas*. 23rd Annual Area Conf. Write: Treas., Box 810064, Houston, TX 77281
- 11-13 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 11-13 — *West Palm Beach, Florida*. Agape Weekend #44. Write: Ch., 16750 S.W. 300th St., Homestead, FL 33030
- 17-20 — *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 11th Annual Winter Conf. Write: Ch., Box 236, St. James P.O., Winnipeg, Man. R3J 0H0
- 18-20 — *Hilton Head Island, South Carolina*. Fifth Annual Midwinter Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6256, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
- 18-20 — *Biloxi, Mississippi*. Fourth Annual Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1502, Gulfport, MS 39502
- 25-27 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. 26th Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., Box 40214, Tucson, AZ 85717
- 25-27 — *Imperial Valley, California*. Third Annual San Diego/Imperial Area Weekend. Write: Treas., Box 393, El Centro, CA 92244
- 25-27 — *Brainerd, Minnesota*. Seventh Annual Paul Bunyan Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., 712 S. 11th, Brainerd, MN 56401
- 25-27 — *Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Pub. Ch., Box 846, Kindersley, Sask. S0L 1S0

## February

- 1-3 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. N. Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91953, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 4S4
- 1-3 — *Ocean City, Maryland*. Fourth Annual Seaside Winter Conf. Write: Conf., Box 793, Ocean City, MD 21842
- 8-10 — *Flint, Michigan*. E. Cent. Reg. Del./Past Del. Conf. Write: Conf. Host, 1235 Leland St., Flint, MI 48507
- 8-10 — *North Little Rock, Arkansas*. Winter Holiday. Write: Conv. Treas., Box 55269, Little Rock, AR 72205
- 8-10 — *Overland Park, Kansas*. Third Annual Sunflower Roundup. Write: Roundup, Box 1281, Mission, KS 66222
- 8-10 — *North Hollywood, California*. Tenth Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2999, Van Nuys, CA 91404
- 8-10 — *Gisborne, New Zealand*. 22nd Nat. Conv. Write: Convenor, Box 442, Gisborne, New Zealand
- 8-10 — *Cincinnati, Ohio*. Fourth Roundup of Young People in A.A. Write: C.I.N.C.Y.P.A.A. Ch., Box 19336, Cincinnati, OH 45219
- 14-17 — *St. Petersburg, Florida*. Midwinter Big Book Seminar. Write: Big Book Seminar, c/o Holiday Inn Bayfront, 333 First St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- 15-17 — *Camrose, Alberta, Canada*. Fifth Annual Valentine Roundup. Write: Ch., 4610 61st St., Camrose, Alta. T4V 2H7
- 15-17 — *Paducah, Kentucky*. State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 1621, Paducah, KY 42002
- 15-17 — *Baguio City, Philippines*. Third Annual Nat. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 25 TRAS, APO San Francisco, CA 96277
- 15-17 — *Taber, Alberta, Canada*. 29th Anniv. Write: Secy., Box 1718, Taber, Alta. T0K 2G0
- 15-17 — *Denver, Colorado*. 21st Annual Nat. Women's Conf. Write: Ch., 4605 E. Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80222
- 15-18 — *Miami Beach, Florida*. Roundup (gay & lesbian). Write: Ch., Box 030026, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303
- 22-24 — *Sacramento, California*. Eighth Annual Spring Fling. Write: Spring Fling, Box 1623, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
- 22-24 — *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 18th Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Cent. Off., 311—220 3rd Ave. S., Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 1M1
- 22-24 — *Afton, Oklahoma*. Eighth Annual Four-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Rte. 5, Box 19, Miami, OK 74354
- 22-24 — *Nashville, Tennessee*. Third Annual State Conf. of Young People. Write: Ch., Box 25084, Nashville, TN 37202
- 28-Mar. 3 — *North Charleston, South Carolina*. 38th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2265, Summerville, SC 29483

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

*December* (page 23): service; sober holidays; Step Three; anger.

*January* (page 32): talking-in the New Year; our spiritual program; working your own program; the Steps.