



The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

Fall 2023

Dr. Bob's Library and Research Center

We are excited to share with you our latest educational project in support of the third part of our mission statement:

"... to educate the local community and beyond on how Dr. Bob's Home played a part in the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous and the manner in which alcoholics were helped in the early days."

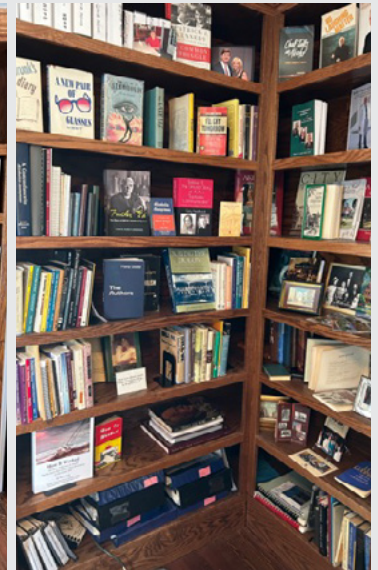
One need only look at books read by someone to get a sense of who they were. Dr. Bob read voraciously. He often stayed up late and left piles of books all around 855 Ardmore. His interests ranged from Christianity to metaphysics. He had an extensive reading list, often recommending and sharing books. Bill noted Dr. Bob's reading habits and library in a letter to Mel B.:

"Unlike me he was a vast reader of spiritual and psychic literature. He had a vast library of it."

We are delighted to announce the opening of Dr. Bob's Library and Research Center. We have collected a substantial inventory of books from the time period that were read and widely shared by Dr. Bob, Anne Smith and the early pioneers of Alcoholics Anonymous. We have also reconstructed Dr. Bob's collection of esoteric and metaphysical literature which occupied his interests later in life.

The library holdings include:

- Bookcase A: Dedicated to earlier movements addressing alcoholism: The Emmanuel Movement, Temperance and Prohibition.
- Bookcase B: An extensive collection of Oxford Group books and pamphlets.
- Bookcase C & D: Christian authors that were widely read by early AAs, including James Allen, Glen Clark, Henry Drummond, Emmet Fox and Sam Shoemaker.
- Bookcase E: Books relating to metaphysics, esoteric learnings and Eastern thought, including books on Confucius, histories of world religions, mysticism and spiritual healing.



Dr. Bob's books were as varied as his interests. However, they reflected his quest for greater spiritual understanding. From Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers:

"To the day [Dr. Bob] died, he felt that if he only had more spiritual understanding, some way or another he could pass this message on."

From his books, we know that Bob was a seeker, and he sought so that others might find.

The library is housed in the A.W.E. Center at 122 Everett Ave., directly adjacent to Dr. Bob's Home. Our hope is to have it open on Saturday and Sunday (noon-3 p.m.) and by appointment. Although not a lending library, visitors and researchers are welcome to experience the content and the vast amount available to better understand the roots of the "greatest spiritual and social movement of the last century."

Gail L.
Archivist & Chair, Archives Committee

Save the Date

2024 Founders' Day Weekend

June 7, 8 and 9
Akron, OH

855 Ardmore Avenue, P.O. Box 449, Akron, OH 44309

330.864.1935

drbobshome.org

facebook.com/drbobshome

Chairman's Corner

I am grateful for the honor and privilege of serving as the new chairman of Dr. Bob's Home. I am grateful to those who have served before me and from whom I have learned - and I have learned from the best. During my previous role as vice chairman of the board and chair of the building and grounds committee, I witnessed God reveal Himself in many ways through the people who volunteer their talents and time to the restoration and maintenance of the home, allowing visitors the unique opportunity to walk on the hallowed ground that is 855 Ardmore.

Our tireless volunteers and network of ambassadors and donors exemplify our motto of love & service; they are the definition of Maximum Service. On behalf of the board and the various committees, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks as we continue to fill the goals of our mission statement: to maintain the property, campus and grounds; preserve the welcoming atmosphere and Dr. Bob and Anne's spirit of loving acceptance; and educate the public about the significance of the home in the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

As we continue to fulfill our mission, I ask that God continue to bless the legacy of the Smith Family. The good doctor spoke of the importance of love and service. I would like to add that it is service done with love. Thanks to all who have lovingly served, both past and present.

Ryan G.
Chairman of the Board

"Very simply put, humility is teachability, an open mind to truth."

- The Akron Pamphlets: A Guide to the
Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

Join our email list

If you would like to receive email communications and announcements from Dr. Bob's Home, please visit drbobshome.org/about/guestbook.

Make a gift today!

Your support is appreciated and will be used for ongoing renovations and general operations and upkeep of the grounds and homes.

To make a gift call 330.864.1935 or visit drbobshome.org.

Please consider including Dr. Bob's Home in your estate planning. A gift made through your estate or investment assets will help ensure the long-term future of Dr. Bob's Home and may provide tax benefits to you.

Ambassadors Carry the Message!

It has been an incredible year for the Ambassadors at Dr. Bob's Home. With new Ambassadors onboard and many starting to plan their first events, the friendships are growing and our "fellowship within a fellowship" has become even more special. Keep an eye out on the website! The Ambassadors are creating a new page that will give you information and lots of ideas on how to get started.

As the year comes to an end, we remember how each of us is part of the whole - how everything we do or say can touch someone. Our Ambassadors have virtual presentations that have reached across the pond, and we have spread the love of Dr. Bob and Ann throughout the world. We have received so many grateful comments to those that have attended and those that live too far to visit. One such attendee was so touched that, although he is on a fixed income, he wanted to make a monthly donation to Dr. Bob's Home in the amount of \$3. We are blessed to have him as part of our family.

Our 2024 Founders' Day Breakfast will be June 7, 2024. With more than 150 in attendance last year, watch the website after the first of the year to register!

Sheryl R.
Chair, Ambassador Committee

If you are interested in learning more about our Ambassador Program, please contact Sheryl R.; SherylRyan@drbobshome.org



Buildings and Grounds: Breaking New Ground



The building and grounds committee is tasked with preserving our properties and artifacts here at Dr. Bob's Home, in addition to maintaining the space to create a clean and welcoming environment for our visitors. We wish to maintain the artifacts located in our A.W.E and entire campus. Some future projects are to have new display cases in which to view these items which will strengthen their protection from dangers, such as UV light, dust and humidity. We suspect there will be Alcoholics for many years to come.

Our committee works to ensure Dr. Bob's can continue to be of service, today and beyond. Most recently, we have completed a restoration of the bedroom of Sue, Dr. Bob and Anne's adopted daughter. Many visitors to the home have taken a quiet moment to say a Third Step prayer in this room.

Upon further thought, all facets of our work affect the education experience of our visitors. What can be more educational than that of experience? Having at one time taken my first step into the living room at 855 Ardmore being greeted with "Welcome Home", seeing and experiencing the "House of Miracles", which until this time, I had only read about in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was life-changing. It is with this spirit that this committee will work to protect, maintain and strengthen.

This work would not be possible without our seven committee members and 14 active volunteers on the building and grounds committee. Our committee would also like to thank the board, ambassadors, donors, volunteers, gift shop patrons and visitors. We could not do what we do without your love and support!

Aaron R.
Chair, Building and Grounds Committee



Views of Sue Windows' restored bedroom.

We thank the following foundations for their gifts to support Dr. Bob's Home:

Akron Community Foundation
Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Foundation
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