

The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

Fall 2015

Alcoholics and God

From the Liberty Magazine September 1939

Charles Towns, owner of Towns Hospital where Bill Wilson had sobered up, tried to get publicity for A.A. and finally succeeded. He had known Morris Markey, a well-known feature writer, for years. Markey was intrigued by what Towns told him of A.A., and approached Fulton Oursler, then editor of "Liberty," a popular magazine which had a religious orientation. Oursler saw the possibilities at once and said "Morris, you've got an assignment. Bring that story in here, and we will print it in September."

(Oursler later wrote a number of successful books on religion. He became a good friend of Bill's and served as a trustee of the Alcoholic Foundation.)

In September, when the "Liberty" piece hit the newsstands, Bill thought it was a bit lurid, and that the title, "Alcoholics and God," would scare off some prospects. Perhaps it did, but "Liberty" received 800 urgent pleas for help, which were promptly turned over to Bill Wilson who turned them over to Ruth Hock for a response. "She wrote fine personal letters to every one of them," wrote Bill, "enclosing a leaflet which described the A.A. book. The response was wonderful. Several hundred books sold at once at full retail price of \$3.50. Even more importantly, we struck up a correspondence with alcoholics, their friends, and their families all over the country."

When Dr. Bob read the story he was elated. "You never saw such an elated person in your life," said Ernie G. the second (there were two Ernie G's). "We all were," said Ernie's wife, Ruth. Anne Smith said "You know, it looks like we might be getting a little bit respectable."

It was A.A.'s first successful piece of national publicity. The stories in the Cleveland Plain Dealer followed shortly hereafter.

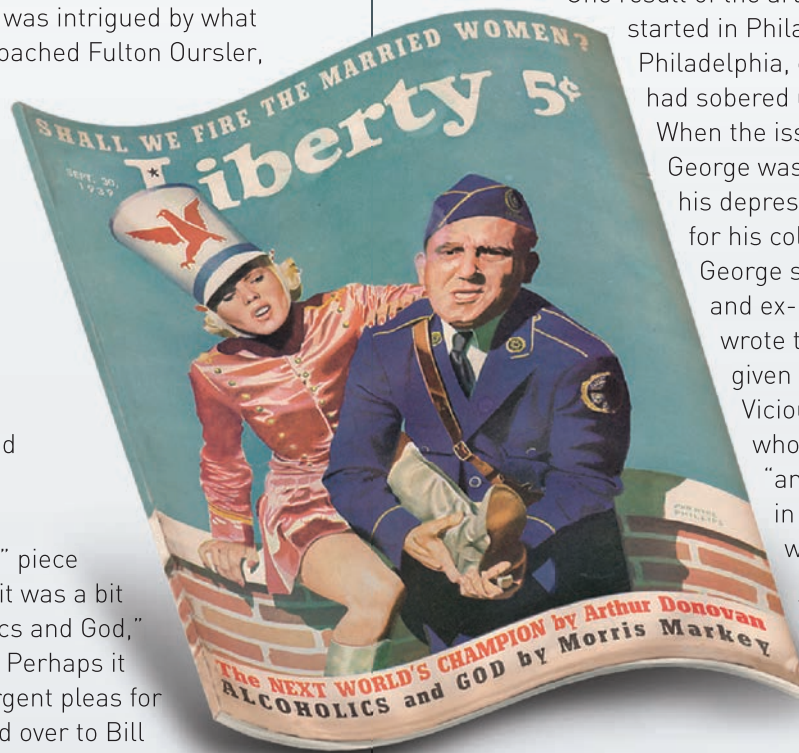
One result of the article was that A.A. was started in Philadelphia. George S. of Philadelphia, one of the first "loners" had sobered up after reading the article. When the issue of Liberty first arrived, George was in bed drinking whiskey for his depression and taking laudanum for his colitis. The Markey piece hit George so hard that he went ex-grog and ex-laudanum instantly. He wrote to New York, his name was given to Jim Burwell (see "The Vicious Cycle" in the Big Book), who was a traveling salesman, "and that's how A.A. started in the City of Brotherly Love," wrote Bill.

Jim and George gathered others to them, and the first A.A. meeting in Philadelphia was held in George's home.

Chicago also reported getting several new prospects as a result of the "Liberty" article.

Bill wrote to Dr. Bob "We are growing at an alarming rate, although I have no further fear of large numbers." A few weeks later he wrote Dr. Bob that "the press of newcomers and inquiries was so great that we have to swing more to the take-it-or-leave-it attitude, which, curiously enough, produces better results than trying to be all things at all times at all places to all men."

(Sources: *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*. Bill W., by Francis Hartigan. Bill W., by Robert Thomsen. *The Language of the Heart*, Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings. *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*.)



Support Dr. Bob's Restoration Project

HELP US REACH OUR \$150,000 GOAL

We are very excited about restoring the home to the time period when Dr. Bob and Anne lived there. Interior renovations are complete and we are now working on the exterior.

Exterior Renovations Include:

- Repairing the chimney, roof, rafter tails, fascia boards, trellis, front door, windows and front porch
- Replacing/restoring gutters and downspouts
- Performing an existing condition study and paint analysis
- Painting the exterior of home
- Replacing HVAC Unit in Archive House
- Adding UV protection to windows
- Construction management

The existing conditions study is done and work has begun. The restoration started in September and is just the beginning. Visit DrBobsHome.com to see photos of the project in process.

Make a Gift Today!

To complete this historic restoration, **we need to raise \$150,000 in the next several months.**

Your gift may be directed toward:

- Renovations
- Endowment
- Operations

To make a gift, look for one of our donation envelopes at the home, call us at 330.864.1935, go online at drbobshome.com, or mail it to Dr. Bob's Home, PO Box 449, Akron, OH 44309. Thank you for considering helping us meet our goal.

Chairman's Corner

Preservation, Restoration and Education

Our mission statement emphasizes preservation, restoration and education. Dr. Bob's Home is proud to announce the beginning of an epic historical exterior restoration. This project will be completed in three phases and priorities. The target completion is expected to be in the latter part of 2016.

This will be called the "Second Century Campaign" since the House turned 100 years old in 2015. Because we are registered as a National Historic Landmark, Dr. Bob's Home has carefully selected a nationally recognized firm to facilitate this endeavor. The firm is AARC (Architectural Restoration and Renovations Consultants Inc.). We have engaged them to help us ensure historical accuracy, while maintaining the authenticity required. In order to do this, we have procured a detailed historic exterior structure report.

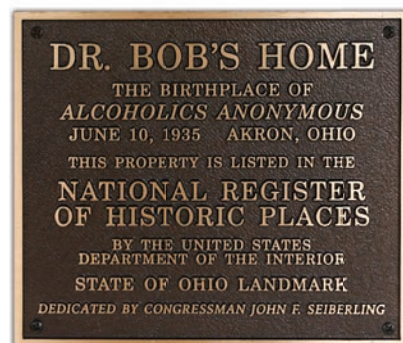
This document includes extensive information on methodology, historical significance and treatment approaches. All of this data was gathered using the latest technological advances.

The details revealed and suggest an approach that is broken down into priority one, priority two and priority three. This report also includes a color study, architectural drawings, prints and laboratory data. The information gathered is priceless as it will be available for perpetuity.

Needless to say, a major undertaking such as this requires substantial resources and the budget for this initiative is extensive. We have secured some modest contributions from individual donors and obtained generous grants from various foundations. However, the aggregate of both is well below what is required. **We need your help so we may complete this vital initiative.**

Thank you for your past support and your future considerations. We always want to say to all, "Welcome Home" from the House on the Hill. And yes, it is still a House Full of Miracles!

Harmon V.
Chairman, Dr. Bob's Home



We thank the following foundations for their gifts to support our renovation project:

- Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust
- Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
- The Lehner Family Foundation
- John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron Community Foundation
- W. Paul and Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation
- The RC and Katharine M. Musson Charitable Foundation
- David D. Noble Foundation
- Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation
- Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Foundation
- The Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Foundation
- Georgia Urda Fund of Akron Community Foundation
- Welty Foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTH COAST WOODSTOCK

Formerly the Akron Homecoming

MAY 6-8, 2016
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

SPEAKERS

Clancy I.	Las Angeles, CA
Steve L.	Nashville, TN
John R.	Cleveland, OH
Jeannie D.	Lafayette, LA
Terri K.	Woodville, OH
Craig C.	Las Vegas, NV
Dolly A.	Cleveland, OH

21 Minutes from Historic AA Sites:

Dr. Bob's Home, Dr. Bob's Gravesite, Mayflower Hotel, King Community Learning Center, St. Thomas Hospital, Seiberling Gatehouse

Lodging: Days Inn & Suites **330.659.6151**
4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, Ohio

Shuttle information: The Ohio Connection provides airport shuttle service to and from Cleveland Hopkins (CLE). Contact 216.324.8999 or visit ohconnection.com.

Online registration: northcoastwoodstock.com

For additional information:

Dolly A. 440.429.0369 or Lee Y. 407.687.4757

\$30

Per Person
Non-Refundable,
\$35 after May 1.

STATELINE RETREAT

The Original Woodstock of AA

DECEMBER 10-13, 2015

\$95

Per Person
Non-Refundable.

STEP STUDY SPEAKERS

Clancy I.	Venice, CA	Georgia B.	Los Angeles, CA
Jeff V.	Fargo, ND	Steve L.	Redondo Beach, CA
Cia F.	Los Angeles, CA	Marilyn S.	Los Angeles, CA
Howard P.	Gilbert, AZ	Kent C.	Sandusky, OH
FR. Tom W.	Oakland, CA	Kathy H.	Cincinnati, OH
Don M.	Louisville, KY	Ralph W.	Los Angeles, CA
Deb H.	Orange, CA	Debbie D.	Concord, CA

Included with your ticket:

Thursday night ice cream social & live entertainment
Saturday buffet dinner & comedy show
Sunday buffet breakfast

Lodging: Tuscany Hotel & Casino **877.887.2261**
255 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169
Suites \$58/night
Room Discount Code: 13R6EC

Shuttle information: Shuttle Service is available at the airport.

Online registration: StatelineRetreat.org

THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 1000 GUESTS
Open seating – First come first served.

LIBERTY BELL ROUNDUP

The Philadelphia Woodstock of AA

JUNE 24-26, 2016

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Clancy I.	Venice, CA	Polly P.	Jacksonville, FL
Robbie W.	Wildwood, NJ	Joe C.	San Diego, CA
Steve L.	Nashville, TN	Gail L.	Akron, OH
Ralph W.	Los Angeles, CA	Sue O. (Al-Anon)	Broomall, PA
Rich B.	Ocean City, MD	More to be announced.	

Included with your ticket:

3 Day program, all speakers, Friday pool party & BBQ and Saturday night dance with DJ!!

Lodging: Clarion Philadelphia Airport **610.521.9600**
76 Industrial Hwy., Essington, PA 19029
Rooms \$99/night

*Please mention Liberty Bell Roundup to receive special rates.
Special rate good 3 days prior and 3 days after event.*

Shuttle information: Complimentary Shuttle runs between Airport & Hotel every 30 minutes.

Online registration: LibertyBellRoundup.com

For additional information:

Dave W.: 610.342.6876 / Dave42day@gmail.com OR
Scott F.: 215.431.0921 / Scott@newfoundfreedom.com

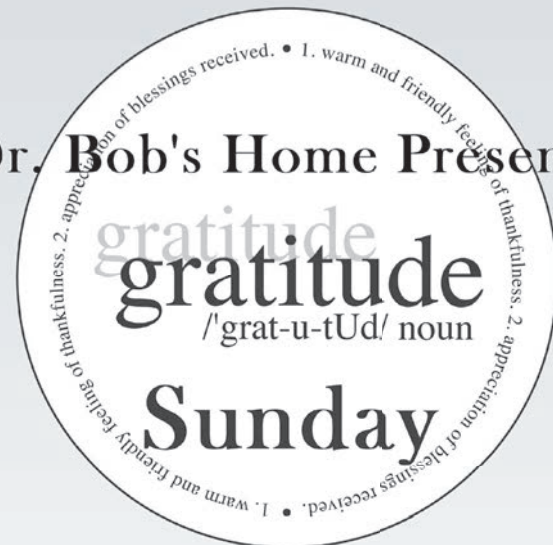
THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 600 GUESTS

We sell out every year so send your registration in early. The ONLY way to reserve a table is with one payment for \$400 up front. All other seating is first come first served. NO EXCEPTIONS.

\$40

Per Person
Non-Refundable,
\$45 after May 1.

Dr. Bob's Home Presents



NOVEMBER 8, 2015

King Community Learning Center
805 Memorial Park Way Akron, OH

OLD TIMERS PANEL

Maureen M.	Lakewood, OH	37 yrs.
Marianne S.	Erie, PA	40 yrs.
Moon B.	Canfield, OH	41 yrs.
Marie K.	Lakewood, OH	43 yrs.
Dottie T.	Medina, OH	48 yrs.

Doors Open at Noon; Panel 1-4 p.m.
7th Tradition Observed
Snacks and refreshments provided

Welcome Non-Managing Trustee Scott F.!

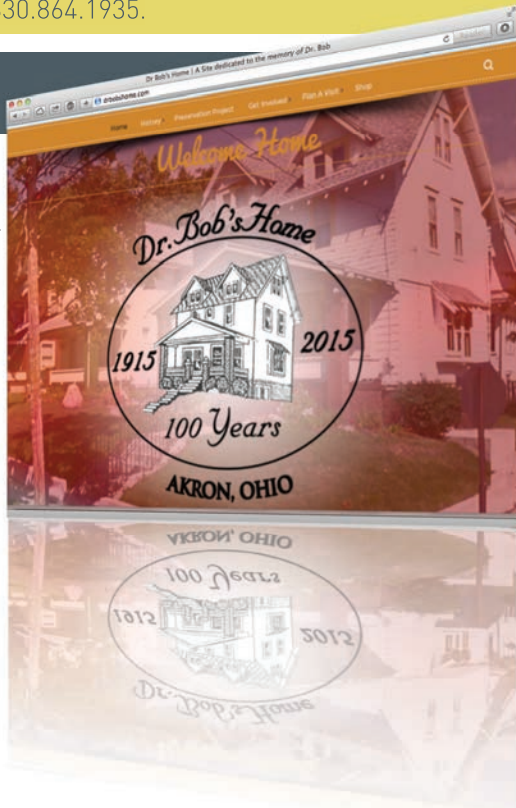
Dr. Bob's Home would like to give a big thanks to our newest non-managing trustee Scott F. from Philadelphia. Thank you for joining Dr. Bob's Home in our efforts to preserve and restore the Smith family home and their legacy.

Volunteers Welcome!

Volunteer! There are countless ways to participate in Dr. Bob's Home. You can be an on-site host who welcomes visitors and guides them through the home, work in the Gift Shop or help with Anne's Garden Club. For more information contact Wayne at 330.864.1935.

New Website!

It's here! The newly redesigned website is now available at DrBobsHome.com. Many items have changed and been updated. Be sure to visit the new photo tour to see the most recent photos taken throughout the house.



OUR MISSION

Our primary purpose is to maintain, restore and preserve the property at 855 Ardmore Avenue which was the family home of physician Robert Holbrook Smith, affectionately called Dr. Bob, one of the founding fathers of Alcoholics Anonymous. This historic site in Akron, Ohio is the birthplace of this internationally known fellowship, which subsequently became the foundation of numerous 12 step programs that are improving the lives of millions.

Second, our ongoing mission is to help alcoholics by preserving the atmosphere of acceptance where early members achieved and maintained their sobriety. This prevailing attitude is simply expressed in our greeting "Welcome Home."

Third, we 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.

Special Thanks to Volunteer Ryan G.!

Ryan has been a volunteer at Dr. Bob's Home for more than three years. Should you visit Dr. Bob's Home on a Sunday afternoon or Founders' Day, you will find him working diligently in the Gift Shop as a cashier, giving tours in the Home or providing general maintenance and house cleaning. Ryan is an exceptional asset to Dr. Bob's Home. On his own, he has studied the Smith family history and is currently learning preservation cleaning techniques in order to keep Dr. Bob's assets preserved for generations to come. Thank you Ryan for all of your hard work.

WISH LIST

- Period-specific items for the house
- 1930-1940s Christmas ornaments/replicas
- 1930s boxing gloves
- Diamond lion's head pin
- 1930s comic books
- Winnie the Pooh books
- Agatha Christie books

GENERAL NEEDS

- Folding tables 60" or 72" x 30"
- 4' x 8' boardroom table
- 40" flat screen television with DVD player
- Cabinets and peg board for garage
- Computer/laptop
- House supplies: coffee, toilet paper, etc.
- Office supplies: copy paper, envelopes, etc.

BOARD LISTING

Executive Committee	Trustees
Harmon V., Chairman	Dolly A.
Kent C., Vice Chairman	Gail L.
Melissa M., Treasurer	Justin C.
Dennis T., Secretary	Carol L.
	John S.
	Wayne A.