



# AA TODAY

ROCKFORD AREA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2014

Volume 21, Number 3

## Milestones

(Double digit AA birthdays in multiples of 5 years in May and June)

### 40 years:

John M., Healthy Solutions

### 30 years:

Steve C., Augury

### 25 years:

Nancy M., Healthy Solutions

Dan K., Healthy Solutions

### 20 years:

Nancy B., Eastside HOW

Todd K., Loves Park

### 15 years:

Dan. S. Eastside HOW

Linda B., Eastside HOW

Tom J., Fifth Avenue

Jay S., Healthy Solutions

Dan S., McFarland

### 10 years:

Jeanne M., Belvidere

Jon J., Eastside HOW

James B., Eastside HOW

Lyn B., Healthy Solutions

Steve R., Healthy Solutions

Steve R., New Attitudes

## AA in Israel

# Local member attends meeting in bomb shelter

Sometimes you have to go to extraordinary lengths to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. Such was the case of a Rockford AA member when visiting Israel 10 years ago.

Here is his story, in his own words, about going to any length:

I was in Tel Aviv for business, and had just six months sobriety under my belt. I was spending quite a bit of time in Israel, so I wanted to connect with a Tel Aviv AA group. Little did I know this would be a bit of a challenge.

Before I left on my trip, I went to the International AA website to find some contact information. I sent an e-mail and heard nothing back. A few weeks before my trip, I sent another e-mail, and the response I received was "call this number when you arrive in country." That's it. No name, nothing. Very cloak and dagger. I started having all these wild thoughts about what I might be getting myself into. There were bombings going on then on a frequent basis, and I was starting to weigh out the risks.

I was traveling on a diplomatic passport and had a certain set of protocols over and above a normal tourist. Anyway, my mind was whirling. I arrived in country, and was there a few days, when I

## Did you know?

■ The annual Rockford Area AA Intergroup and District 70 picnic will be July 27 at Alpine Park in Rockford, starting at 11 a.m. There will be food, games and fellowship.

**See flyer, page A7.**

■ The 2013 McHenry's Soberfest drew 2,109 guests. They drank 369 gallons of regular coffee and 59 gallons of decaf coffee during the three-day event.

■ Bill W. died on Jan. 24, 1971, of pneumonia in Miami Beach, Fla. He spoke at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual International Convention there in 1970. His final words to the fellow A.A.'s there, "God bless you and Alcoholics Anonymous forever."

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**6-MONTH FINANCIALS (in \$)**

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
Starting	(2,220)	81	5,066	NA	3,442	3,384
Income	2,834	1,665	1,981	NA	2,173	2,052
Disbursement	531	561	2,277	NA	2,230	1,796
Prudent Res. Transfer	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
Balance	81	5,066*	4,770	NA	3,384	3,640

**PRUDENT RESERVE: \$6,886.50** (end of May) \*Bookkeeping miscalculation

**Quote of the day**

*"Should our present success continue, people will commence to assert that AA is a brand new way of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live ...*

*"Fortunately most of us are convinced that these are perilous speculations, alluring ingredients of that new heady wine we are now being offered, each bottle marked 'Success'!*

*"Of this subtle vintage may we never drink too deeply."*

**AA co-founder, Bill W., 1948**

*"Tradition Five"*

*The Language of the Heart*

**Board of Directors**

<b>Chair:</b>	Kevin D.
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Marty C.
<b>Secretary</b>	Becky M.
<b>Vice-secretary</b>	Jo S.
<b>Treasurer</b>	Patti S.
<b>Vice-treasurer</b>	John B.
<b>At Large</b>	Pat G.
<b>At Large</b>	Linda W.
<b>At Large</b>	Brett T.
<b>Office Mgr</b>	Joyce K.
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Doug G.

**Group Donations**

Thank you to these groups that contributed for your generosity:

Augury  
Belvidere Travelers  
Belvidere Bridge  
Downtown  
Eastside H.O.W.  
Healthy Solutions  
Loves Park  
McFarland  
Muddy River  
Upper Room

**April, May office statistics**

Phone calls	142
Visitors	82
Meeting info	67
Literature/coin	
sales visitors	47
12-step calls	6
Miscellaneous	80
Al-Anon calls	2
NA calls	3

**Answering Service** 75

**YOUR CONNECTIONS  
TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Rockford Area AA Intergroup, 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford, IL 61108; 815-968-0333

**Email:** RockfordareaAA@gmail.com

**WEBSITES**

**Rockford Intergroup:** rockfordaa.org

**District 70:** district70aa.org

**District 71:** aadistrict71.org

**AA World Services:** aa.org

**Intergroup volunteers**

Thank you to these volunteers who've given of their time in handling afternoon office responsibilities:

Nancy B.	Steve C.
Maggie D.	John E.
Gail N.	Lori F.
Ray G.	Don H.
Les H.	Theresa K.
John M.	Pete N.
Chris O'M.	Lori T.
Jeanne M.	Don Z.
Shirley Ann N.	Curt B.
Gary D.	Denny S.
Kellie R.	

To volunteer, call 815-968-0333

## AA in Israel

### Continued from Page 1

made the decision to make that phone call. I called the number sent to me, no answer. I left a message. Two days later I received a very cryptic phone call from someone (a man) and he asked me a few questions: (1) was I the person who sent the e-mail from the United States, (2) where was I staying, (3) how long was I going to be in Israel.

Well, again, the hairs on the back of my neck were standing straight up, you know, like you know something bad is going to happen but you can do nothing to stop it. The gentlemen said he would have someone contact me. Still, I had no name.

I received a phone call the next day from a man named David (pronounced Daveed). He introduced himself quickly and said "write this down." He gave me a set of street directions and said to meet him at a city park at that address. Click, he was gone.

OK, now here I was, a business guest of the Ministry of Defense of Israel, feeling like I was being tracked by the Massad (the national intelligence agency of Israel).

Having spent many years working internationally, I had developed a strong sense of gut feelings about things. This didn't feel bad, but didn't feel good either.

I told my teammate I was going, gave him the address, and said if I am not back in six hours to pass the address to the Embassy Directorate of Security (who would be totally pissed because I was breaking pretty much every security protocol for anyone issued a "diplomatic" passport).

I hailed a taxi outside our hotel, and gave the taxi driver the address. I said take me to the park there. He shook his head and said, "I know this area, and there is no park there. OK, what now?" I say, "lets go anyway."

About a half-hour later (I did not know how far it was from the



The inside of a Tel Aviv bomb shelter where a local Alcoholic Anonymous member attended a meeting.

hotel or I might have reconsidered.) We finally arrived, and he dropped me off. He asked if I wanted him to hang around because he was positive there was no park there. Taking a leap of faith, I said no. I would be fine.

My military training kicked in. I started thinking about all the cloak-and-dagger clandestine communication and contacts I had to go through just to get this address. I walked around a while, and I found it.

The park was about the size of an indoor basketball court. It

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## AA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(To submit calendar items, call 815-968-0333)

### JUNE

**20-22:** Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention. Emerald Acres Campgrounds. Pearl City. MMAAC.org

### JULY

**3:** Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

**3:** District 70 meeting, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 4506 Highcrest Road, Rockford

**12:** Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

**27:** Rockford Area AA Intergroup/District 70 picnic. 1 p.m., Alpine Park, Shelter No. 2. Volleyball and kids games. Coffee, Kool-Aid drinks, paper plates, cups, napkins,

utensils and charcoal provided. Bring your own meat and a dish to pass.

### AUGUST

**7:** Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

**9:** Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

**22-24:** Illinois State Convention, Crown Plaza Chicago O'Hare, 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont

**28-31:** Southern Motorcyclists in Alcoholics Anonymous Camping Convention. Fall Creek State Park, Pikeville, Tenn. SMAACC.org

### SEPTEMBER

**4:** Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

**13:** Rockford Area Intergroup board meeting, 9 a.m., 4040 Charles St., Suite 201, Rockford (AA public invited)

### OCTOBER

**2:** Anderson Japanese Gardens meeting, 5:15 p.m., free admission, 318 Spring

Creek Road, Rockford

**3-5:** 31st annual Midwest Woman to Woman seminar, Rockford, Holiday Inn, 7550 E. State St. Info: [midwest-wtw.org](http://midwest-wtw.org), [wtw2014seminar@gmail.com](mailto:wtw2014seminar@gmail.com)

**25:** 21st NIA Big Book Conference, Parkview Community Church, Glen Ellyn, 630-510-3069.

**31-Nov. 1-2:** Stronghold Spirit Retreat, Oregon. \$90. Registration deadline Oct. 15. 815-262-2968. PO Box 419, Freeport, 61032.

### NOVEMBER

**21-23:** 25th annual McHenry's Soberfest, [soberfest.org](http://soberfest.org).

**Note:** Flyers for many of these events are available for printing online at [rockfordAA.org](http://rockfordAA.org).

## NEWS AND NOTES

**New group:** The Two Book Group is now meeting at 1559 S. Mulford Road in Rockford at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. The group will use two books – the Big Book and the 12 & 12 – for meeting topics. Info: 815-494-9316.



**A.A.  
BIRTHDAYS**

(in years)

**AUGURY**

**MAY**

7: Tina M.

**JUNE**

30: Steve C.

**BELVIDERE**

**ALANO**

None received

**BELVIDERE**

**BRIDGE/**

**TRAVELERS**

**MAY**

24: Bob M.

5: Tammy E.

**JUNE**

10: Jeanne M.

**CENTRAL**

**GROUP**

None received

**DOWNTOWN**

**GROUP**

**MAY**

28: Elmer R.

27: Mike P.

11: Steve Z.

5: Steve K.

1: Sue W.

**JUNE**

None

**EASTSIDE H.O.W.**

**MAY**

34: Ron M.

29: Tim J.

28: Jackie I.

21: Kris J.

20: Nancy B.

14: Becky L.

14: Tad R.

13: Dave R.

12: Brad A.

10: Jon J.

9: Sue W.

8: Byron N.

7: Kate T.

7: Tina M.

6: John P.

6: Dugan

6: Jon H.

5: Mark B.

5: Julie B.

4: Roger W.

4: Michael O.

2: Sue W.

2: Al V.

2: Joe H.

**JUNE**

31: Chris J.

24: Sheryl P.

23: Dan T.

16: Joe M.

15: Dan S.

15: Linda B.

14: Harry G.

11: Kelly J.

10: James B.

9: Danielle W.

9: Jeffrey M.

8: Dan S.

6: Steve P.

5: Chuck T.

5: Doug R.

4: Mike L.

3: Craig L.

3: Kris B.

3: Bridget H.

3: Amber W.

2: Leon W.

2: Tommy D.

2: Alex S.

2: Heather V.

**FIFTH AVENUE**

**MAY**

23: Lisa M.

21: Trice R.

19: Shane N.

15: Tom J.

12: Anita F.

11: Frank B.

**JUNE**

33: Kevin H.

19: Rob T.

16: Joe M.

9: Patti B.

7: Laurin B.

5: Bob D.

5: Nichole W.

2: Heidi G.

**5 O'CLOCK**

**SHADOW**

**MAY**

1: Rick L.

**JUNE**

37: Sandy H.

**HEALTHY**

**SOLUTIONS**

**MAY**

36: John K.

34: Ernesto

33: Jerry H.

28: John E.

28: Joanie

28: Jim B.

26: Bill W.

25: Nancy M.

25: Dan K.

21: Kris J.

12: Kevin R.

11: Frank B.

11: Mary Beth S.

10: Lyn B.

10: Steve R.

8: Corey B.

8: Matt M.

8: Byron S.

6: Jim G.

6: Brian C.

6: John B.

4: Jim C.

3: Larry S.

3: Kathie A.

2: Brett T.

1: Ed P.

1: Mike O.

**JUNE**

40: John M.

39: Bill C.

31: Chris J.

28: Chris A.

28: Nick N.

22: John K.

19: Valerie S.

15: Jay S.

13: Brad D.

6: John C.

4: Rick W.

2: Todd J.

1: Mark O.

**LOVES PARK**

**GROUP**

**MAY**

20: Todd K.

11: Pat K.

**JUNE**

None

**MCFARLAND**

**GROUP**

**MAY**

None

**JUNE**

15: Dan S.

**MEDINA GROUP**

None received

**MUDDY RIVER**

None received

**NEW ATTITUDES**

**MAY**

26: Barb W.

24: Don Y.

12: Anita F.

11: Frank B.

10: Steve R.

4: Jeff P.

3: Kattie A.

1: Don S.

**JUNE**

2: Shaila H.

**NEW**

**BEGINNINGS**

None received

**NEW**

**HORIZONS**

None received

**OVER FIFTIES**

None received

**Continued on**

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**A.A. BIRTHDAYS**

Continued from Page 5

**PECATONICA GROUP**

None Received

**PRIMARY PURPOSE****MAY**

3: Kathie A.

**JUNE**

39: Keith H.

16: Joe M.

8: Rosie L.

4: Steve M.

2: Kellie R.

**RAINBOW****RECOVERY**

None received

**ROSCOE RECOVERY****MAY**

26: Gerry R.

**UPPER ROOM****MAY**

36: Sharon M.

23: Lisa M.

16: Chris Q.

12: Bob S.

8: Michael P.

4: Jess H.

2: Connie E.

1: Daniel S.

**JUNE**

5: Sue H.

5: Tanya T.

5: Lauri M.

5: John M.

2: Zig S.

2: Theresa K.

1: Alyson M.

1: Patty R.

9: Chuck C.

**AA in Israel**

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consisted of an open area, with one bench, shrubbery and a concrete something sticking straight up out of the ground.

I walked over to the concrete, and realized it was a doorway to a stairway that went straight down. I was early, so I sat on the bench and waited for others to show up and go through that strange door.

After 10 minutes or so, I saw a lady walk to the park, go to the door, unlock it, look to her left and right, and disappeared. Another person showed up and did the same. I finally decided it was now or never so I went over, opened the door, and went down the stairway. About halfway down the stairs I saw the international AA symbol, and the 12 steps and 12 traditions on the wall written in Hebrew. I knew I was in the right place.

The location was actually an active neighborhood bomb shelter. Every neighborhood has one. This neighborhood allowed us to share it.

I spent two hours getting to know the people, and the reason for all the cloak-and-dagger behavior. In Israel, and Judaism in general, alcoholism is a shame-based character defect, so, to be an alcoholic, is a shame and disgrace on the alcoholic's family. AA, there, had to be "underground."

The bottom line was that no matter what country you are from, no matter what your religion, AA is there and it is still in the same format, the same protocols, the same group discussion – just in a different language!

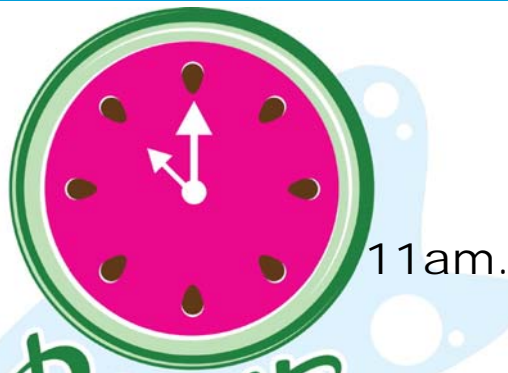
I remember this meeting like yesterday. I had 10 years of sobriety on May 30. This Israel adventure was at a turning point in my sobriety. I just had 6 months, and heaven knows I could have drank there and nobody would know except me and God – but that's not how it works, is it?

**More online**

To learn more about the location of this meeting, check the website [http://mapcarta.com/Petah\\_Tikva](http://mapcarta.com/Petah_Tikva).

**Are your group's birthdays missing?**

If your group's birthdays are not on the list, contact your group chairman or Intergroup representative.



11 am.

Picnic Time

**SUNDAY  
JULY 27TH.**

**Alpine Park**

Alpine Shelter #2

You're ALL Invited to  
*Rockford Area Intergroup &  
District 70 Yearly Picnic*

Bring your own meat to grill and a dish to pass

Join us for a day of Fellowship—Food—Fun

**Kids Games - Volley Ball Tournament**

**The Volley Ball Group Champs will receive a Case of Big Books !**

*Looking forward to sharing with you ,all the joy and laughter  
the day has to offer !*

If you volunteered for one of our picnic committees;

Set-up—Volley ball— Kids Games—Coffee/Kool-aid—  
or Clean-up

please be here by 9:30am.

We will supply— -

Coffee & Kool-aid Drinks—paper plates— paper cups  
napkins, knives, forks , spoons , char-coal etc.





## IF NOT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD ...

(Real headlines for news stories across the U.S in recent months)

- DUI driver 'had less than 1 beer' before plowing through burger stand
- Man arrested for DUI after wife jumps from moving vehicle
- Florida DUI suspect found asleep at the wheel with a burrito in his hand
- Mom of bicyclist killed in DUI accident sues driver
- Groom arrested for DUI in death of bride faces new charge
- Man convicted in DUI death returned to prison after another DUI charge
- Broward judge arrested on DUI charge in courthouse parking lot
- Deputies: DUI-manslaughter suspect was 'laughing' at accident scene
- School Bus Driver Charged with DUI
- Dude Wearing 'Drunk as Shi\*' T-Shirt Arrested for DUI
- Man Drunk at DUI Sentencing, Flees and Drives Drunk During Chase
- DUI for Off-Duty Cop Who Struck Grocery Cart With 2 Kids Inside
- Driver Tries to Avoid DUI Checkpoint, Drives Onto Bike Path, Ditches Car
- Teacher charged in DUI was on her way to school
- DA: Dublin man tried to blame Colma DUI on imaginary black man
- Cops: DUI suspect allegedly urinated on Naperville house
- DUI Suspect Sentenced for Crashing into Rockford Rescue Mission
- DUI-charged driver crashes into pre-schooler bus in D'Iberville
- DUI suspected in wrong-way Lake Shore Drive crash
- Man drives to jail drunk to serve DUI sentence
- Cops: Woman charged with DUI was looking for ATM on railroad tracks
- Kingsport DUI suspect reportedly threatens to kill police
- Man with DUI past killed by alleged drunk driver
- DUI Charge Against Marion Barry's Son Jeopardizes Political Future
- DUI doctor 'didn't know rice wine got you drunk'

(To read these stories online, use Google.com and search for the headline)

## They Died Sober

Local AA members who have died recently:

- Hal Z., 32 years, New Attitudes
- Jerry L., 9 years, Augury
- Val A., 2 years, Augury

**Note:** To submit the name of an AA member who died sober in the past six months, email information to rockfordareaAA@gmail.com.

## Faithful Fivers

Help pay for the printing cost of the newsletter and other Rockford Area Intergroup expenses by enrolling in the Faithful Fiver program. By pledging at least \$5 a month, you will provide much-needed financial help. You will get a copy of each newsletter in the mail or by email. Call 815-968-0333 for information.

## Quote of the Day

"AA works on all kinds of nuts (including myself). I just needed to find the right wrench."

*"The Right Wrench,"*  
AA Grapevine