



The Stepping Stones News

A Publication of the Stepping Stones Foundation

Spring 2001

A Golden Jubilee For Al-Anon

2001 marks a special anniversary for Al-Anon Family Groups and for Stepping Stones because 50 years ago, the Al-Anon fellowships began in the upstairs corner of the library. There, Lois and her friend, Anne B. answered 87 letters from non-alcoholics who had written to the AA's General Service Office asking for literature and to be listed at GSO.

Almost from the beginning in the 1930's, families were involved with AA, especially since most meetings were held in private homes. Lois wrote that her own house was "as busy as an anthill". Dr. Bob's wife, Anne S., and Lois had been meeting with wives of other AAs who had decided to live by the spiritual principles of AA, but it wasn't until 1940 that family groups started to grow.

Whenever the Wilsons traveled, Lois would speak at large AA gatherings expressing gratitude for what the AA program had done for her, a non-alcoholic, giving her this wonderful program of living. She counted 62 places where she made talks between 1939 and 1951. Family groups often started after hearing her story, and as time went on, more and more groups started to form.

It was Bill who gave Lois the idea of organizing a service office where groups could function in a way similar to AA and where those needing help with living with an alcoholic could find it.

At first she balked. Lois was 60 years old in 1951 and ready for her well-earned retirement. She was finally enjoying her home and gardens and living a relaxed and less stressful life. But so much of Lois' life was about service and the need for such an organization became more apparent to her. In the spring of that year, Lois invited the wives of AA delegates to the AA General Service Conference held



Al-Anon first office — Lois' desk

in New York to Stepping Stones for lunch along with local Family Group members. Whatever happened at that gathering sold Lois on the idea of a service office and she asked her friend, Anne B. of nearby Chappaqua to help.

Working in the upstairs library at Stepping Stones, Anne and Lois wrote to the 87 non-alcoholic individuals and groups from home and abroad that had contacted AA's GSO asking for help and direction.

In essence, Anne and Lois' letter noted that it seemed that the time had come to unify the groups and that the AA way of life could be helpful to non alcoholics. It stated that the purpose of the Family Groups was to give cooperation and understanding to the AA at home, adhere to the 12 steps so to grow spiritually with the AA and to welcome and give comfort to the families of new AAs.

The letter also asked for approval of a name for the organization, if it should adopt AA's 12 steps and, if so, should they be adopted with any modifications.

The letter was signed by Lois as "chairman" and Anne as "secretary". The responses were rapid with 48 replying that their groups would be happy to create a fellowship and have their own service office.

The Family Groups met at Stepping Stones with Lois and Anne working there at least twice a week. The following year the membership had grown from 48 to 200. AA offered the fledging fellowship use of a large room at the 24th Street Clubhouse in New York City. Since a larger space was needed, and volunteers would find working in the city easier. Eventually, the fellowship would be called "Al-Anon Family Groups," grow to include Alateen and find offices of its own. Lois and Anne were deemed the fellowship's co-founders.

Today Al-Anon is headquartered in its own building in Virginia Beach, VA, providing support to some 30,000 Al-Anon and Alateen groups worldwide.

And the growth goes on. Happy Birthday, Al-Anon! ■

In Recognition of An Extraordinary Contribution

In 1985, Lois Wilson received the prestigious Humanitarian Award from the National Council on Alcoholism (now known as the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence). In giving the award, the council's Board of Directors cited Lois for her "unique role in the history of alcoholism" and "her own living testimony to the power of recovery."

The award also noted that Lois had demonstrated "that one dedicated individual seeking neither personal recognition nor financial gain can have a positive impact on the health of a society and on the lives of millions of people."

Perhaps more importantly, Lois was honored because she "pioneered calling attention to alcoholism as a family disease and in bringing hope and health to the spouses and children of alcoholics."

The citation concludes, "We salute Lois W. for her extraordinary contribution to the field of alcoholism."

In accepting the award, Lois gave this humble and gracious address.

I want to thank the NCA for thinking of me in conjunction with their tribute to A.A. during the A.A.'s 50th Anniversary year.

Fifty years!

I suppose I am supposed to say something about how we never thought A.A. would ever amount to anything, but the truth is, as many of you here know, my husband never had any small ideas.

From the moment of his spiritual awakening in Towns Hospital, Bill always believed that if such a miracle could happen to him, it could happen to others, and if it could happen to others, it could happen to all the drunks in the world.

And from the minute I saw Bill at the hospital, I knew something overwhelming had happened. From that moment on I shared his confidence in the future. I never doubted that at last he was free. I walked home on air.

I believed, as Bill did, that he would never drink again, and I believed, as Bill did, that if he could find a way to give to others what he had, he would have begun something which would have the power to change the world.

Progress such has been made over the last fifty years against the ravages of the disease of alcoholism has many beginnings, of course. Roland H.'s experience with the Oxford Group was a beginning, as was Ebby T.'s, and the same could be said of Ebby's coming to Clinton Street to have the conversation with Bill which led to Bill's final trip to Towns.

And that Mother's Day in May of 1935, when Bill and Bob met for the first time, was a beginning, as was June 10th of that year, the day Bob spent making restitution to those he had harmed with his drinking, the day which marked the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous, though the Fellowship - two members strong - then had no name.

The progress which has been made against alcoholism had other important beginnings, of course, and among them is the day when Marty M. first heard of A.A.

At the time, Marty was a patient in the Blythewood Sanitarium

in Greenwich, Connecticut. Her psychiatrist was Dr. Harry Tiebout. This was before the Big Book was published, but Dr. Tiebout had received one of the prepublication copies which had been sent to certain doctors and ministers. Dr. Tiebout had been greatly impressed by the book. But when he handed it to Marty, Marty threw it out of the window.

I don't know for a fact whether it is true that Dr. Tiebout insisted that she go after it, read it, and go to a meeting in Brooklyn. But that, in any event, it was she did.

I will remember the day she came to her first meeting. We were still holding the meetings in our home on Clinton Street at the time. Marty was afraid of what she would find down there and she wanted to stay upstairs with me, but I finally persuaded her that the AAs both wanted and needed her, and we went down together.

After the meeting, Marty and a few others came upstairs and sat around the living room asking Bill questions. She had read the Big Book about twenty times by then and had loads of questions.

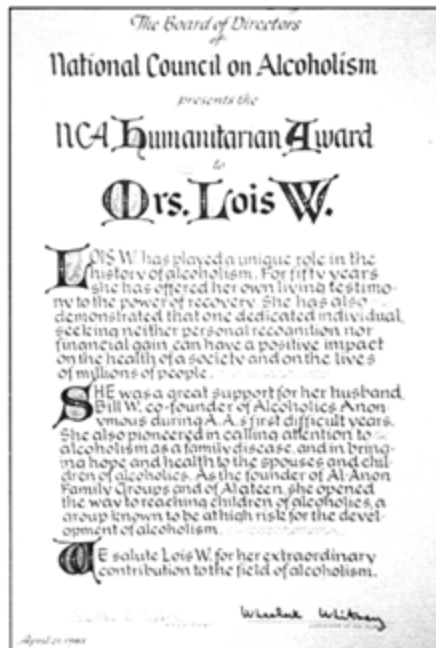
Back in Greenwich [CT], Marty reported her Brooklyn trip to another alcoholic at the sanitarium with the still famous remark: "Grennie, we are no longer alone." Another beginning, per-

haps, for it was not long afterward that meetings were held in the sanitarium. Marty's buddy, Grenville C., also stayed sober, and went on to teach flying during World War II.

Another beginning was when Marty got the idea for NCA. She told the story many times of how, walking along Park Avenue in New York one day and looking up at the windows of all those large apartment buildings, it occurred to her that there might be a person suffering from alcoholism behind each. She wanted to help them, and from that desire came the NCA, an organization which for more than forty years has been dedicated to educating the public and removing their feelings of hopelessness, ignorance and stigma concerning the disease of alcoholism. That we are able to pay tribute to A.A.'s 50th Anniversary is due in no small part to that beginning.

I am deeply honored that the NCA has chosen me as the recipient of its humanitarian award for 1985. As many of you know, Bill always made it a policy never to accept awards or honors himself but rather to accept them on behalf of the Fellowship of A.A. I have followed a similar plan in regard to Al-Anon.

Therefore, in closing let me say that I accept this award gratefully on behalf of all the members of the Fellowship of Al-Anon, and I thank them, and you, from the bottom of my heart. ■



Joining in the Joy

On Saturday, April 28, 2001, Al-Anon will mark its Golden Anniversary at its Virginia Beach headquarters with an Open House followed by a banquet at a nearby hotel. The invitation to all reads:

"Join us in celebration of the extraordinary work started by two ordinary women! Join us in a special celebration of the work of hundreds of members who have served in the past! Join us as we reaffirm their hope and vision for the next 50 years!"

If you would like to send a message to Al-Anon on its 50th anniversary or want information or literature, there are a few ways get in touch:

Al-Anon, Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617
Phone: 757-563-1600 Fax: 757-563-1655
Website: www.al-anon.alateen.org E-mail: WSO@al-anon.org

The Empire State Honors Lois

Last year, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services honored Lois W. for her dedication to helping families and friends of alcoholics. She was one of seven women selected by OASAS "for their exceptional role and achievements in assuring service to individuals with alcohol and other drug problems." Lois was featured on a poster titled "An Extraordinary Century for Women," distributed in the state of New York in celebration of Women's History Month.

OASAS described Lois as "a beloved symbol and inspiration to millions of AA and Al-Anon members... Throughout her life, Lois was modest about her achievements, preferring to acknowledge the contributions of others. Her much quoted expression was, 'It takes only one person to start something, but many others to carry it out.'

"For nearly 50 years, Al-Anon has been a constant resource for families and friends of alcoholics. Beginning with 87 groups, it has grown into a worldwide fellowship of



30,000 groups in 112 countries. Al-Anon members have started meetings for Al-Anon adult children, men, women, gays and lesbians, and for younger members called Alateen. Al-Anon literature is translated into 31 languages."

OASAS also noted that for many years

Lois attended Yale Summer School of Alcoholism Studies as well as attending Rutgers University and pointed out that "in her book, *Lois Remembers*, she describes not only the need to understand as much as possible about alcoholism, but also to live by A.A.'s principles of recovery.

"Throughout her life, Lois maintained a simple vision of worldwide Al-Anon. She

talked easily about the spirituality of the program, pointing towards Al-Anon's common purpose of recovery and service to others."

For more on Lois, we invite you to read "Lois' Story" on our website. Copies of Lois' remarkable book, *Lois Remembers*, are available from Al-Anon (See "Joining In The Joy".) ■

The Ever-Wonderful Nell Wing

This photo of Nell Wing was taken last September at Stepping Stones. Nell had come for a visit with her nephew Bill, and, as always, it was a so special to have her here. As almost everyone knows, Nell was Bill W.'s secretary and the



AA General Service Office's first archivist. Lois considered Nell to be one of her closest friends bequeathing to her all her personal items. The beautiful blue bedroom on the first floor of the house was nicknamed "Nell's Room" by the Wilsons because Nell was a frequent and favorite guest. In fact, she was considered more like family to the Wilsons more than anything else.

Nell is a native of upstate New York and moved to New York City in the late 1940's.

For many years, Nell made her home in the downtown area known as Stuyvesant Town. She moved from it last summer and is now residing in New Jersey.

We receive many inquiries about Nell. She was a much-sought-after speaker

for all kinds of AA events, and we still get calls here inquiring about inviting her to speak at a meeting or such. God willing, Nell will be celebrating her 84th birthday on May 27th and is enjoying her much deserved retirement. However, she would be happy to hear from her friends and admirers. Anyone wishing to send Nell a card or note may write to her at this address:

Ms. Nell Wing, 52 Northwood Drive, West Milford, NJ 07480 ■

Al-Anon Timeline

May, 1951: The beginning of Al-Anon. Lois W. decides to reach out to disparate Family Groups around the country to create a common, meaningful program. She opens the first "service office" in her home at Stepping Stones and asks Ann B. of nearby Chappaqua to help.

June, 1951: Lois and Ann begin contacting 87 individuals and Family Groups known to Bill W., Dr. Bob and other AA members.

Nov. 1951: Lois and Ann hold the first meeting at Stepping Stones with various Family Group chairpersons and secretaries to discuss organization and expansion.

Jan., 1952: As Al-Anon begins to grow, activities are moved from Stepping Stones to a new "Clearing House" established at 334 & West 24th St. in New York City.

Feb., 1952: The "Purposes and Suggestions" of Al-Anon are written and published by Lois W.

Jan., 1953: Henrietta S. is hired as the first paid part-time worker at the Al-Anon Clearing House.

1954: The Al-Anon Clearing House incorporates into "The Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc." with Henrietta S. as Executive Director.

1955: Al-Anon's first hardcover book, "The Al-Anon Family Groups" is published.

1957: Al-Anon moves its headquarters into larger space at 125 East 23rd St., New York City.

1961: Al-Anon holds its first national Conference in conjunction with AA's convention in Long Beach, CA.

1962: "The Stag Line", Al-Anon's first pamphlet for men is published.

Sept., 1962: The first Alateen conference is held.

April, 1952: Lois completes the writing of Al-Anon's 12 Traditions.

Sept., 1952: The first "Al-Anon World Directory" is published.

1957: The first Alateen meeting is held in California.

1968: Al-Anon publishes "One Day at a Time" in Al-Anon (ODAT).

1972: The Al-Anon film "Lois' Story" is produced and offered to Al-Anon groups worldwide.

1978: Al-Anon's World Service Office moves to larger quarters at 1 Park Avenue, New York City.

1980: The first General Services Meeting for overseas delegates and World Services Office staff is held at the WSO office.

1985: Al-Anon holds its first International Convention in Montreal.

1996: The World Service Office moves its headquarters in Virginia Beach, VA., site of Al-Anon's new home.

Friends Write Online

It's one of my dreams to visit Stepping Stones and the offices of GSO in New York. I just finished reading Nell Wing's book [*Grateful To Have Been There* - Hazelden Publications] about her years working for the fellowship and with Bill Wilson. It was utterly fascinating! I had the pleasure of meeting Nell many years ago when she came here to speak at one of our roundups. I know she would not remember the occasion but I still do! If you should happen to see her give her my best regards and say hello from the members of the Southern Minnesota Area 36 Archives Committee. Take Care. God Bless. See you in Toronto. — Greg M.

Archives Committee Chair Area 36

Visiting Stepping Stones online has been a humbling and touching experience for me. I only hope that, at some point in my life, I may be able to actually tour the home and grounds for real. Bill was, through his writings, my "first" sponsor. Both he and Lois continue to be inspirations to me by their sterling examples of love and service. I feel the same for Dr. Bob and Anne, and I hope to someday visit their home in Akron, as well. Thank you all for maintaining this web site and giving AAs everywhere the chance to capture a little essence of early AA history.

— Terry P., Knoxville, TN

I was touched at the thoughtfulness and care in preserving this wonderful place. AA has given me a home and hope and seeing Stepping Stones was like visiting family.

— Sue R., Oklahoma City, OK

Sober one day at a time since November 25, 1990! Made my first Al-Anon meeting in early May 1989. Thank God for the fellowship! I love AA and Al-Anon, and the beautiful sober life that both programs has given me. AA and Al-Anon history are an integral part of my sobriety, and I appreciate the efforts of

SHARE

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KEEPING THE WOLF FROM THE DOOR
on Page 6

PLUS
TWELVE STEPS UP THE ALPS

Carol from Guildford, England wrote an article for Share, the British version of The Grapevine, about her AA experiences in New York. Here's what she had to say about her visit to Stepping Stones:

"Our friend had arranged for us to take a trip to Stepping Stones in Bedford Hills, Bill and Lois' house from 1941 until their deaths. As we drove up to the driveway that emotional rush ran through me again, and I knew that this was going to be something special.

"The lady who shows visitors around the house greeted us. As Tommy and I sat at the kitchen table with her and drank coffee, she began to share Bill's story. The whole room was filled with electrical energy and, as we hung on to her every word, she said: "This is the table Ebby Twelfth-Stepped Bill at." Well, I nearly fell off my seat and it was all I could do to stop myself crying. When you hear of how they struggled in the early days to get this thing off the ground and what a miracle it was

that Bill ever met Bob, it overwhelms me that AA exists at all.

"As she continued we all shared our spiritual experiences together right there in Bill's kitchen. Beyond my wildest dreams? I think so. After more coffee we were shown round the house and saw pictures of Bill and Lois throughout their lives, all their possessions and books, too, and, of course, the 'spook room'. The house has been preserved as a museum, just as it was left when Lois died in 1988, for everyone in AA to visit and share this experience. Just amazing.

Later we went into the garden to Wits' End where Bill had written the Twelve and Twelve. In the corner of the room was a plaque from AA in Glasgow to thank him for visiting there on 4 July 1950. We thought that was special because were Glaswegians. Imagine two kids from Glasgow who had never seen the outside of a pub sitting in Bill W's house sharing spiritual experiences... Isn't AA fantastic?"

the Foundation to keep this special part of our history intact. God bless all who pass here. Keep coming back.

— Debi E., Bryan, TX

I am very glad today. I found Al-Anon six years past and it changed my life for the better. Thanks for preserving this treasure, and I hope, one day, to go there. Now I know that everything is possible because I am happy with my recovery.

— Sita V., São Paulo, Brazil

It was wonderful to see the house and read about Lois on today her birthday

[March 4]. I am amazed at how much good she did with the help of her faith and Higher Power and grateful that this continues around the world today with Alanon, 50 years later. She is an inspiration to me and I am sure many others. One day I hope to visit Stepping Stones and connect with the wonderful energies that must be there. Thanks to all who have made this site - and especially to Lois and Bill.

— Pam Macy, Moira, England

I visited there last Monday. I haven't recovered from the awesome experience of being there. You *continued on page 8*



May He Rest In Peace

Brother Denis Sennett, S.A was a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement and also the archivist at Stepping Stones. He had been a brother for nearly 50 years and a renowned archivist who worked at many

prodigious institutions, including the Vatican.

Brother Denis was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late summer and died in November. His attitude at diagnosis and throughout was one of optimism and courage. He was a wonderful asset here at Stepping Stones and loved working among the papers of Lois and Bill. His enthusiasm for the Stepping

Stones project was unbounded. He was a friend to all here, and we mourn his loss.

Brother Denis' prayer card reads, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His love is everlasting" Psalm 107
We give thanks for his life and for the work he did here and elsewhere. ■

Canadian Judge Finds For Stepping Stones In Copyright Infringement Case

When the Wilsons took their famous motorcycle trip in the 1920's so Bill could investigate companies and report back to his brokerage firm, Lois kept an extensive diary of their remarkable adventure. Lois Wilson, the author and registered owner of copyright in the diary, entitled it The Diary of Two Motorcycle Hobos.

In or about 1998, an individual in Canada somehow obtained a copy of the diary and subsequently, on the basis of false information, registered copyright in both Canada and the U.S. in her own name. She proceeded to publish and sell the Diary under her name which appeared on the cover of the published book as its editor. This individual had no personal relationship with Lois nor did she contact Stepping Stones, Al-Anon, AA or anyone who had been close to Lois to confirm who owned copyright in the Diary.

After Stepping Stones became aware of this illegal publication, we contacted the individual and explained that Lois herself had registered copyright in the work in the U.S. many years ago. Proof of this was sent to her, but the individual refused to accept it, insisting that she had the right to publish the Diary since she had obtained what she considered to be "copyright" in the work. She refused to stop advertising and selling the Diary on her web site and through retail booksellers. Her responses to our attorneys' requests that she cease and desist were a series of offers to sell the copyright to us for large sums of money. We continued to refuse to purchase something we already had exclusive rights to publish and distribute.

Since Stepping Stones is the steward of all the property of Bill and Lois and is charged under the by-laws of the Stepping Stones Foundation, which Lois crafted, to protect this property, we had no alternative but to resort to the courts in Canada, since all efforts to reason with this individual had failed.

On November 7, 2000, a judge in the Federal Court of Canada (Trial Division), after a full hearing of the case, declared the individual had

infringed copyright in the Diary and awarded against her \$10,000 in statutory damages for copyright infringement, \$3,000 in punitive and exemplary damages for her "malicious and unreasonable conduct," and permanently restrained her from copying, selling or distributing the diary in any form, including on the Internet.

This entire matter was an unhappy situation for us. The attempts to resolve this outside the courts and the subsequent court procedures were very expensive and time consuming and forced us to commit resources that we would have much preferred to spend elsewhere. In addition, during the time it took to resolve this case, we saw the name of Stepping Stones and people associated with it castigated and criticized on the Internet and elsewhere by the defendant and others sympathetic to her illegal actions.

The Canadian court completely supported Stepping Stones' position that we had maintained from the beginning of this unfortunate dispute. Please know that it is not our disposition to litigate and be involved in acrimonious matters. However, it is our moral, as well as our legal obligation, to protect, by whatever means possible, the work of Bill and Lois from those who would exploit it without permission, whether for personal gain or otherwise, either for monetary, ego gratification or both.

Copyright law is complex, and anyone who is considering publishing in hard copies or on the Internet, or advertising or selling any written material which they themselves have not written, would be well advised to take all necessary steps, including consulting a lawyer with expertise in intellectual property law, to ascertain their legal rights before doing so. If the infringing individual in this case had done so, a difficult and unhappy situation could have been easily avoided.

The case discussed here was heard by the Honourable Mr. Marc Nadon, a judge in the Federal Court of Canada (Trial Division) as Court File No. T-2146-99. ■



Directions: 1-684 to Exit 6; turn west onto Rt 35. Proceed 1 1/2 miles to Cherry Street. Make a left, proceed to Woodfield Road. Turn right onto Oak Road. Volunteers will direct you. Please observe parking instructions.

Save The Date! • You Are Invited To Attend **The Annual Stepping Stones Picnic** Saturday, June 2, 2001

**The Grounds Open at 12 Noon
The House Will Be Open For Touring
The Speaker Meeting Starts at 2PM With
AL-ATEEN, AL-ANON and AA SPEAKERS
Grounds Close at 5PM.**

**Bring Your Own Food • We Supply Soft Drinks
Cars and Vans Only • No Buses!**

ALL THOSE WISHING TO VOLUNTEER ARE INVITED TO DO SO! The picnic happens with the help of our friends. All jobs are easy, fun and over sooner than you think. Plus, we feed you! In any case, mark the date on your calendars. Start thinking about carpooling - no buses - and having another great day of fellowship and fun!

Call 914-232-4822 or check our website

Making A Difference – NACoA's Sis Wenger



Children of alcoholics— one in four children under the age of 18 — are largely silent, not wanting or able to speak up. Since its inception in 1982, The National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) has worked for a population that has felt, perhaps most sharply, the effects of untreated alcoholism and drug addiction. NACoA has become the vigorous voice for these children.

Sis Wenger has been NACoA's Executive Director since 1995. She is the recipient of many awards on behalf of NACoA's work and is one of the major leaders in the field of alcoholism and drug addiction. We had a conversation with Sis recently about NACoA and its important work.

What is NACoA?

We're a national membership and affiliate organization that brings awareness about the needs of children of alcoholics and other drug dependent parents to people who have the capacity to touch their lives — the people who see them every day and have enormous influence on their lives — doctors and other health care providers, teachers, clergy. Children growing up in addicted families have the highest risk of becoming addicted, developing mental health problems and becoming victims of abuse. So, we're a substance abuse prevention organization and a mental health problem prevention organization and child abuse prevention organization.

How did you get involved in working with children of alcoholics?

I was doing work on child abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency in Detroit in the late 1970s, evaluating programs for the Junior League. I kept seeing alcoholism in the background of problems we were addressing. I met with the volunteers who were working on these projects and asked if anybody was seeing what I was seeing, and they were. We realized it was connected to alcoholism. I went to medical and National Council on Alcoholism conferences and learned about children of alcoholics [COAs]. I met Claudia Black who did so much groundbreaking work on the subject of COAs. I started bringing people like her and Phil Diaz, another pioneer, into

Detroit to train in the schools where we were doing educational programs. They and 20 other outstanding pioneers started NACoA. I originally joined as an advocate for children and, 13 years later, here I am.

How does NACoA differ from Al-Anon?

We are an education and advocacy organization. Our role is to bring attention to COAs of all ages but primarily to young children in order to intervene early and prevent life problems. Half the calls we get are from people who need Al-Anon, and we tell them how to find Al-Anon in their communities. Our early leaders encouraged Al-Anon to create Adult Children Of Alcoholics meetings which became very well attended. In the beginning there was so much publicity about COAs.

Recently, there has been a sharp downturn after a dramatic rise in ACOA meetings. I was discussing this downturn with Al-Anon, and I was told that most of the ACOAs have integrated into regular Al-Anon meetings and that 1/3rd of Al-Anon is comprised of adult children. I used to tell ACOAs in the early days to hit the regular Al-Anon meetings because that's the people with long standing are, those who bring balance to a group. For most ACOAs, the hurt is too fresh, and they benefit from connecting with those who've been in the program for a while.

What are some NACoA activities?

We produce booklets, videos, and training programs and create Core Competencies, or knowledge and skills, for professional groups. We want to make sure that those who come in contact with children, touch them in some way, have achieved a specific level of competency. We are interested in being involved with those who have the most contact with kids, those who have influence and are a part of the health and development of children, those who are in key positions to make key decisions in these kids' lives. We create our materials in concert with professional groups.

What's an example of that?

Right now we are focusing on developing a primary health care initiative. We have

worked with leaders of major family practice, pediatric and adolescent health care organizations to create Core Competencies for healthcare. We are doing the hard stuff that's quiet and behind the scenes but that ultimately makes a big difference. We published a supplement on the Core Competencies to Pediatrics, an important peer review journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics that some 80,000 pediatricians read. We also commissioned research papers to get the science people behind why COAs need to be addressed.

So you alert doctors, let's say, to look for a depressed child?

Well, the depressed child is easy to identify. It's the 80% who look perfectly all right, good all the time, who get missed. What we have just produced along with top doctors is a kit for office-based physicians to help them, during a routine examination ask, "Is there anybody in your family who takes drugs or drinks too much that you are worried about?"

By the doctor asking this question, the child will realize that this is a health issue. If the kid says "No", the doctor says, "Well, the reason I am asking this is that one in every four children is hurt by alcohol abuse or alcoholism in their family, and many are hurt by illegal drug use by their parents. It is a very common problem, and I am glad it's not the case with you. But if you ever are worried about anybody, don't hesitate to ask me." And then the doctor goes on to the next question. It takes thirty seconds. If the kids do say something, then we have a little pamphlet for the doctor to help them to connect with school counselors or whatever.

What happens when the parent is there?

The question is asked anyway. In most cases, it is the non-alcoholic parent who is bringing the child there. So the parent realizes that this is a health issue. The typical parent who never says anything is usually an adult child of an alcoholic and non-recovering most of the time. You have a person who doesn't say anything, has no idea how pervasive it is, and hears the doctor say this out loud. The parent may or may respond, but the parent learns something, too.

If the parent does say something, then the doctor has an opportunity to intervene or refer. We shouldn't just train doctors how to identify the alcoholic but to understand that there are more people affected by drinking than the drinker. There are children of alcoholics in their offices, and we want to pre- *continued on page 8*

TEAMS ROOTING FOR YOUTH

The Stepping Stones Foundation has joined with 107 organizations to support TEAMS, an initiative of The Center For Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). TEAMS — Time to End Alcohol Marketing in Sports — is a national campaign that aims to reduce promotion and advertising by the alcohol marketing industry of its products to American youth.

CPSI has campaigned for nearly 20 years for improved government and industry policies on alcohol marketing and advertising, particularly to impressionable teenagers and children. It recently announced plans to oppose the "alcoholization" of the upcoming 2002 Winter Olympics and spectator sports in general.

George Hacker, CPSI's director of Alcohol Policies Project, said, "Our concern is based on a growing body of research evidence that young people are influenced by advertising for beer and that positive responses to beer ads may predict alcohol use among adolescents."

Mr. Hacker noted that more troubling are findings showing that white males respond more positively to beer ads with sports content than to ads without such content, and numerous studies show that higher exposure to beer advertising is associated with stronger intentions to drink as an adult. Moreover, underage drinking puts youth at high risk for a variety of alcohol-related problems. Alcohol abuse by teens results in accidents, homicides, suicides and drowning, the leading cause of death among young people.

Recently, CSPI told us of a New York State mother who mobilized a group of parents to have a major alcohol marketer remove a brand ad from the web site of a winter sports organization that receives "sponsorship" from one of the company's products. She was alarmed when her 14-year-old son, looking for information about his sport, was confronted with an ad for alcohol. She contacted TEAMS that subsequently contacted the company's marketing executives to have the ads removed. Visitors to the sport association's web site were greeted with a rotating banner ad featuring the liquor's well-known advertising character. Clicking on the character's icon brought visitors to the sport's race calendar - where young people would be looking - and where the character is predominately positioned. Click on that and one was sent to a web site for the alcohol product and its promotional items. This is a product with well-known character that has appeal to young people. The home page does say that "you must be the legal drinking age to enter" but there is no way to control access.

After several calls to the marketer by parents and TEAMS director Brian Hinman, the ads were removed.

CPSI's goals, Mr. Hacker concluded, is to "oppose alcohol sponsorship and marketing practices that degrade the Olympic movement, exploit young people and distort and cover up the reality that alcohol is this nation's leading and most destructive drug problem."

To learn more about TEAMS and the important work done by the Center For Science in the Public Interest, log onto www.cspinet.org or call 202-332-9100 ■

THE STEPPING STONES FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the disease of alcoholism and its effect on family and society, and to preserve Stepping Stones, the home of Lois and Bill Wilson, and its historic archives for Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon members and those interested in alcoholism education and research.

PURPOSES

(1979 - Created by Lois Wilson)

To promote, sponsor and encourage studies of alcoholism, its causes and cures;

To promote, sponsor and encourage studies for the prevention and treatment of alcoholism;

To render assistance to the families, friends and associates of alcoholics;

To disseminate information, concerning alcoholism and its effects upon alcoholics, their families, friends and associates;

To promote, sponsor, encourage and conduct forums, seminars and meetings concerned with alcoholism;

To establish and maintain information centers, historical sites, havens, meeting places and other facilities for the use of those concerned with alcoholism;

To assist, support and advise persons, agencies, corporations and other; to donate real or personal property, and to give grants and other financial assistance and support, to persons, agencies, corporations and other organizations concerned with alcoholism or its effect upon alcoholics, their families, friends and associates, and generally, to encourage activities which will be of assistance to alcoholics, their families, friends and associates.

To provide alcoholics and their families, friends, and associates with information about the effects, prevention and treatment of alcoholism;

To provide facilities for forums, seminars and meetings concerned with alcoholism;

To publish literature of interest to alcoholics and their families, friends, and associates;

To maintain Stepping Stones, the home of Bill W., co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, as a historical site;

To establish and maintain public relations, and establish and maintain policies for the work of the Foundation.

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE!

Please continue to visit us on the Internet as we change and update our site. Also, click on the guest book to sign in if you haven't before. We'd love it if you leave a note. Looking forward to your visit!

www.stepsstones.org

Sis Wenger *cont. from page 7*

vent them from having problems by having adults intervene in their lives.

Another example — we work to get treatment professionals to recognize that if they treat the alcoholic/addicted parents, they will have better outcomes if they do something for the children. We just finished developing a Children's Program Kit that we hope will be sent to help the children of clients in treatment.

What's NACoAs ultimate aim?

To break the cycle. Inform and help the people who can make the difference, that's what we're all about.

For more information about this excellent organization and its work or to receive its newsletter call 888-554-2627 or log onto www.nacoa.org

Visiting Us

It is important that all visitors call before coming if you want to see the interior of the main house and studio. If you want to just visit the grounds, no appointment is necessary. Call 914-232-4822 or e-mail: StepSFoundation@aol.com

In the Next Edition

Lois and Bill moved into Stepping Stones on April 16, 1941. We will mark this 60th anniversary with special stories in our next newsletter. Also, check out our website www.steppingstones.org for updated information as the year progresses.

You can also access our office. Use your computer, our email address is StepsFoundation@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you either by email or regular mail.

Online *cont. from page 4*

made me feel so welcomed and had such wonderful information to share. I feel I have a new friend in N.Y. I was so excited to find the web site today. I am still crying with gratitude for this wonderful experience. It was the highlight of my whole vacation. I will tell everyone I know to visit. Thanks you for all you do!
— *Sandy S., Monroe, LA*

This is a magnificent site. The way it is put together, the colors and everything about it defy description. I'm most anxious to visit SS in the warmer weather, when the gardens are in bloom. Many thanks for your marvelous example of love and service.
— *George R., Middletown, NY*

I visited Stepping Stones with Nell (learned about her in VERY early issues of

Grapevine) in about 1986. I met Lois W. there and had a wonderful conversation with her. It was almost one year later, to the day, that she died. I have our conversations on tape. Wonderful to find this site!

— *Lillian H., Boston, MA*

Tears have already started to flow. Just connecting with the site. The wellspring of my recovery 27 years ago. Bill W. and Dr. Bob found me in Alaska at the end of the road.

— *Daniel S., Northampton, MA*

Just beautiful. Keep up the Good Work. Your Canadian AA friend,

— *Glen E., Goulair River, Ontario*

Been down there three times. Loved each time.
— *Bob R. Syracuse, NY*

Address correction requested

The Stepping Stones Foundation
PO Box 452
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

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