

Nassau Intergroup of AA, Inc.

361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552-1342

www.nassauny-aa.org intergroup@nassauny-aa.org

516.292.3040 (24/7 Hotline) 516.292.3045 (Business)

WORLD WIDE WED EDITION

MARCH 2016



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are Intergroup events held at 361 Hempstead Turnpike unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 2016

- 3/2— Institutions Committee, 8PM, Simpson United Methodist Church, 30 Locust Ave. (off Sunset Ave. from County Line Rd.), Amityville 11701
- 3/3— **Reps Orientation**, 7PM (Suggested for new Reps.)
Reps Meeting, 7:30PM
- 3/9— Share-A-Day Committee, 7PM
- 3/10— PI/CPC Committee, 7:30PM (Meets every other month.)
- 3/12— NI office closed from 12PM Saturday for cleaning. Reopens Sunday, 3/13, 9AM.
- 3/13— SENY Intergroup Liaison meeting, 12PM-3PM
- 3/16— Website Committee, 7:30PM
- 3/17— NGSC Special Needs Accessibilities Committee, 7:30PM
- 3/18-20— SENY Convention, "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions & Concepts," Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown 10591 (Go to www.aaseny.org for details.)
- 3/19— **Exchange Meeting**, 7-9AM, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Dr. (Stewart Ave. to Lifetime Brands Blvd.), Cluster F, Room 127, Garden City 11530 (Park in East 2.)
- 3/21— Nassau General Service Committee (NGSC) Roundtable Workshop, 7PM; Concepts III and IV.
- 3/24— **Newsletter deadline** for April
- 3/31— **Steering Committee**, 7:30PM. (By invitation.)

APRIL 2016

- 4/6— Institutions Committee, 8PM (See 3/2 above for location.)
- 4/7— **Reps Orientation**, 7PM (Suggested for new Reps.)
Reps Meeting, 7:30PM
- 4/9— **Share-A-Day XXXIX**, "We Will Comprehend the Word Serenity and We Will Know Peace," 8:30AM-4:30PM, St. Joseph's RC Church School, 1346 Broadway, Hewlett 11557
- 4/13— Share-A-Day Committee, 7PM; wrap up
- 4/17-23— 66th AA General Service Conference (Delegates only.)

- 4/18— Nassau General Service Committee (NGSC) Meeting Orientation, 6:30PM (Suggested for new DCMs/GSRs.)
NGSC Meeting, 7:30PM
- 4/20— Website Committee, 7:30PM
- 4/21— **Newsletter deadline** for May
- 4/28— **Steering Committee**, 7:30PM (By invitation.)

From the Chair

Greetings:

As we say, first things first. Thanks to our First Vice Chair, Elise M., and Bill C., our newsletter Editor, for a great Group Inventory workshop last month. Thank you too to all who attended.

We (your NIAA trusted Servants) hope to hold another open house BBQ perhaps in June. Last year's open house was a fabulous opportunity and experience. Watch for more information.

Last, but not least, thank you Regine V., former Public Information Chair, for accepting a new position as Second Vice Chair. Regine has done a great job as our PI chair. Her dedication and enthusiastic spirit in bringing the AA message to our community made her an easy choice as a person who is willing and able to serve as vice chair.

Service=Gratitude in Action

LaRaine A., Chair

516-292-3045 or chair@nassauny-aa.org

AA'S THREE LEGACIES FOR MARCH

Step 3— Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

Tradition 3— The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3— To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."

AA HISTORY FOR MARCH

- March 1938— Bill W. begins work on the "Big Book." Works Publishing, Inc. established to support the book's publication.
- March 1939— Draft of the "Big Book" is edited down, and a final draft is presented to Cornwall Press for printing.
- March 1941— First prison group formed at San Quentin, Calif.
- March 1, 1941— First Jack Alexander article in *Saturday Evening Post* boosts awareness of AA and AA membership.
- March 10, 1946— NY Intergroup formed.
- March 29, 1950— Second Jack Alexander *Saturday Evening Post* article on AA published, "The Drunkard's Best Friend."
- March 22, 1951— Dr. William D. Silkworth dies, Towns Hospital, NYC.
- March 1952— Al-Anon Family Groups is founded.
- March 21, 1966— Ebby T. (Bill W.'s sponsor) dies, Ballston Spa, NY.
- March 1992— The AA General Service Office moves to 475 Riverside Drive, NYC.

"Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness." —From Step 3, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 34.

Who Am I?

I met AA co-founder Bill W. on one of his admissions to Towns Hospital, and at one point discussed with Lois W. his possible institutionalization. When he told me about his "white light" experience, I replied, "Something has happened to you I don't understand. But you had better hang on to it. Anything is better than the way you were." In the "Big Book," I described alcoholics as being "restless, irritable and discontented." An early booster of AA, I remained a lifelong friend to the Fellowship. (Answer, p. 6.)



From the Editor

Got something for the newsletter? Mail it to or drop it off at the office (Att.: Newsletter), or email it to news@nassauny-aa.org. Be mindful of the monthly submission deadlines for anything time sensitive. If you've submitted something but haven't seen it published yet, I hold some items for when extra space allows their use.



"Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule. Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers."

—From, "Tradition Three," *AA Grapevine*, February 1948, in *Language of the Heart*, p. 79.

Also, I've received a number of e-faxes, but have been reluctant to open them since I receive a malware warning when I go to do so. If you've submitted anything in this way, please get in touch with me so we can clear this up. Otherwise, I will probably continue to avoid these messages.

Thanks for your participation with the newsletter.

In Service,
 Bill C., Editor, NI Newsletter
 516-292-3045 or news@nassauny-aa.org

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FAQs About AA History from AAWS *

Q.— Who are the recipients of the milestone printing copies of the Big Book?

A.— The one-millionth copy was presented to President Richard Nixon in April 1973, and the two-millionth to Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, in June 1979. At the 50th Anniversary International Convention in Montréal in 1985, the five-millionth copy of the Big Book was presented to Ruth Hock, who typed draft after draft of the original manuscript. The ten-millionth was presented to Nell Wing, Bill W.'s longtime (nonalcoholic) secretary and AA's first archivist, in July 1990. The 15-millionth was given to Ellie Norris, widow of former trustee chairman John L. Norris, MD, in 1996; and in the year 2000, the 20-millionth copy was presented to the Al-Anon Family Groups. The 25-millionth copy was presented to Jill Brown, warden of San Quentin Prison, in July 2005, at the AA International Convention in Toronto.

* Edited from, www.aa.org > [Archives & History](#) > [History and Resources](#) > [FAQs](#).

NASSAU INTERGROUP - EMAIL ADDRESSES



OFFICERS

- Chairperson chair@nassauny-aa.org
- 1st Vice Chair 1stvice@nassauny-aa.org
- 2nd Vice Chair 2ndvice@nassauny-aa.org
- Secretary secretary@nassauny-aa.org
- Treasurer treasurer@nassauny-aa.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Archives archives@nassauny-aa.org
- Coop. Pro. Comm. (CPC) cpc@nassauny-aa.org
- Corrections corrections@nassauny-aa.org
- Financial Review finance@nassauny-aa.org
- Institutions (H&I) institutions@nassauny-aa.org
- Literature literature@nassauny-aa.org
- Meeting List meetinglist@nassauny-aa.org
- Newsletter news@nassauny-aa.org
- Night Book nightbook@nassauny-aa.org
- Officer Coordinator (Mgr.) officemanager@nassauny-aa.org
- Program Chair/Secretary seclist@nassauny-aa.org
- Public Information (PI) publicinfo@nassauny-aa.org
- Share-a-Day (SAD) shareaday@nassauny-aa.org
- Speakers Exchange speakersexchange@nassauny-aa.org
- Special Needs specneeds@nassauny-aa.org
- 12th Step List 12thstep@nassauny-aa.org
- Website webcommittee@nassauny-aa.org

Or phone 516-292-3045 business hours and leave a message.

Many Paths to Spirituality

"Newcomers are approaching AA at the rate of tens of thousands yearly. They represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In AA we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of AA, so long as he or she so declares."



Hopi Tapaut

Bill W.

From, "Responsibility Is Our Theme," *AA Grapevine*, July 1965, found in *The Language of the Heart*, p. 333, and in, [Many Paths to Spirituality](#) (P-84), p. 4.

Share-A-Day XXXIX

Share-A-Day 2016 is fast approaching, and the excitement is building toward the event which will be held on April 9th at St. Joseph's RC Church School in Hewlett. This will be our 39th Share-A-Day, and it has become apparent to me how it has evolved.

We held this event for years at the Kismet Temple in New Hyde Park. We've also met at Nassau Community College and Valley Stream Central HS. I have fond memories of the Old Timers panel at Kismet although that venue was certainly not accessible for members with special needs. I also remember Early Birds in West Hempstead making baloney sandwiches for lunch in those years. I did chair one year at Valley Stream, and afterwards the school wanted us to assure them that all the attendees would be from that district which we couldn't do. That venue was also not so easy to navigate.

St. Joseph's, where my home group meets, has hosted Share-A-Day for about 10 years, and is the perfect place with everything on one level and compact without feeling cramped. We have a good relationship with the church, and I hope when you attend you will be mindful of the smoking restrictions, and that no food or beverages are allowed outside the cafeteria.

On March 9th we have one more planning committee meeting which you are welcome to attend before the event. You'll have the opportunity to meet this amazing committee which is working so hard to make this year a success. In this month's newsletter (next page) you can see the great program we have for the day, and your group can sign up at this month's Reps meeting with our Program Chair, Val B., to cover a workshop. We've come long way from baloney sandwiches too, and will have a fine lunch.

If your group has the means to contribute to this year's Share-A-Day, please make the check/money order payable to Nassau Intergroup and earmark SAD in the memo.

Looking forward to seeing you all there. Bring a newcomer. "We are not a glut lot." Humbly Grateful, Marie M. S., 2016 SAD Chair
516-292-3045 or shareaday@nassauny-aa.org

Is It a Paradigm or Is It a Paradox?

Do you remember the old riddle: What's the difference between visualization and hallucination? The answer lies in the number of people who can see it. To which,

- Did you know that AA got its start when a couple of fellows started selling stock in a company that didn't exist for a book that hadn't been written?
- Next, they went on to say: "Seldom can we keep the precious gift of sobriety, unless we can give it away."
- Then, this nameless bunch of alcoholics went on to fashion an association where the Public Information committee concerns itself mostly with anonymity.
- Well, I suppose I should have seen this coming; after all, at my first meeting they

announced that there are no dues or fees—and proceeded to pass the basket!

Oh well, what do you expect from an organization (that ought never be organized) where the leaders are the servants?! I suppose I'll figure it out one day; but, by then it will certainly be time for me to set my sights towards rotating on. After all, I once believed that "Rule 62" meant that you get to laugh at others; but, now, I see that "Rule 62" means that you get to laugh at yourself!

In fellowship, Francis G.
Chelmsford Stone Church Group
Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Francis G. served on the Nassau Intergroup Steering Committee, 1993-1998, and was a member of the Sobriety with Hope Group, Merrick, before moving to Massachusetts. He will be the keynote speaker at this year's Nassau Share-A-Day.

"Within the framework of their general responsibilities . . . it should be the traditional right of all world service boards, committees, and executives to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. We ought to trust our world servants with these discretions, because otherwise no effective leadership can be possible."

—From Concept III, *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, p. 13.

AA Grapevine Highlights for March

March Issue— With a Special Section, "Oldtimers."

Books— New, *Forming True Partnerships* (GV34). Also, *The Language of the Heart* audiobook now available.

Sobriety Calculator— It's fun to [count](#) your years, days, hours or minutes in recovery.

The Laugh's On Us— Submit a caption for a *Grapevine* cartoon.

Daily Quote Subscription— [Sign up](#) to receive an inspirational daily quote from the *Grapevine* via email.

Consider a *Grapevine* or *La Viña* subscription or one of the many other AA Grapevine publications as a gift for that special AA friend.

For more info or to get an AA Grapevine [catalogue](#), go online to www.aagrapevine.org.





**Nassau Intergroup
Proudly Presents**

Share-A-Day XXXIX
**"We Will Comprehend the Word Serenity
and We Will Know Peace"**

**PROGRAM OF EVENTS:
SATURDAY - APRIL 9, 2016**

8:30a - 9:15a	9:30a - 10:15a	10:30 12:00	12:00 1:00	1:00 2:15	2:20	2:20p -3:20p	3:30p - 4:30p
What is Nassau Intergroup? Nassau Intergroup	12-12-12 General Service of Nassau County	O L D T I M E R S P A N E L	L U N C H	K E Y N O T E S P E A K E R	T H E T W E L V E T R A D I T I O N S P L A Y	Young People in AA ESCYPAA	Accepting Ourselves
STEPS 1 - 2 - 3	STEPS 4 - 5					STEPS 6-7-8-9	STEPS 10-11-12
We Will Know Peace	Fear of Economic Insecurity...					Situations which used to Baffle us	Self Seeking will slip away
Shedding Insecurities	Anonymity our Spiritual Foundation					Sober and Out	Healing Through Laughter
Anger and Resentments	Came to Believe					Promesas (En Español)	Living Sober
Freedom from Bondage	AL-ANON					AL-ANON	AL-ANON
Personal Safety & Respect in AA	Loss and Grief					Sex in Sobriety	Building a Foundation in AA

Keynote Speaker: Francis G. from Chelmsford Stone Church, Mass.

AA at the Northport VA

This was a note that I received just the other day from one of the chairs of the Friday morning meeting at the Northport VA Hospital.

Jim,

I just wanted you to know how much I am enjoying chairing the Veterans AA meeting at the Northport VA Hospital. I am not a veteran myself, but have a great appreciation of the sacrifices being made on our behalf. It is very rewarding to share my experience, strength and hope in regard to alcoholism and addiction. To make a difference not only in helping others but to bolster my resolve to stay sober one day at a time.

Thanks,
Jeff M.

The reason I'm writing this is to let you know of the gratitude that I get from hearing this from the meeting chairs, and to keep you abreast of what is going on with the meetings at the VA Hospital.

Another reason is to relate a story of what happened at an H&I meeting, and to ask for your help. I was at the January H&I meeting and a young man came up to me and asked if I would help him in finding a commitment. I told him I would check and see if another AA meeting slot was available. It just so happens that one was made available on Sunday mornings, the time has not yet been established, but it will be once we get some volunteers. This is not a commitment that one person can do, so I'm asking if there is anybody who could help out and chair a meeting at Northport VA hospital (the time has yet to be established). It would be Sunday mornings either 10 or 11AM). If anybody is interested, contact me for more information.

Jim G., c/o news@nassauny-aa.org

From the Night Book

It is with great pleasure that I assume the commitment of Night Book Chair as your Trusted Servant.

Taking the Night Book for one week is a terrific opportunity for the members of your group to do a great service for AA! Service to our fellow alcoholics doesn't get any more basic than answering the phones at night to guide someone to a meeting, explain the AA program to a newcomer, or talk to someone in trouble. We've all been there, and because of volunteers like you,

Night Book is there to help.

Tell your Intergroup Rep that you'd like your group to do this very valuable and rewarding commitment. It's easy and it can also be fun!

I'd like to thank the following groups who've helped us out over the last month:

East Rockaway Group, Extravagant Promises Group, Merrick Bellmore Recovery Group, No Frills Group, Serenity by the Sea/PM Group.

Yours in Service,
Steve S., Night Book Chair
516-292-3045 or
nightbook@nassauny-aa.org

A Big "Thank You" to Nassau AA!

Dear Editor:

My name is Cody, and I'm a twenty-one year old college student. My dad has been a member of your organization for 19 years now. Thanks to you, my brother and I have NEVER seen my dad drunk, or [had to] go through the misery of this terrible illness.

He just keeps going to your meetings, and, well, he's our dad, and mom and us love him. Whatever you did for our dad, keep doing it for others. It works well.

I'm taking a public health course and had to write a paper with the title ["The Stigma of Depression in an Alcoholic."] It got an A+ because I feel it came right from my heart!

Your organization has the gratitude and love of a very grateful family! Thank You!!
Sincerely, Cody

Special Needs/Accessibilities

Attention all groups: We are updating our meeting lists for Special Needs/Accessibilities. If your group is wheelchair accessible including the restroom, please contact me, especially if you have an accessible meeting and it's not in the meeting book.

Starting a new meeting or group? Please consider an accessible site. Unsure if your meeting is accessible? Please contact me. Meetings accessible for members in wheelchairs are relatively few throughout the Fellowship including in Nassau County.

The next meeting of the Special Needs Committee will be March 17 at 7:30PM at the Nassau Intergroup office.

A blessed member of AA,
Donna S., GSR/Special
Needs Chair, NGSC
c/o news@nassauny-aa.org



Winter Weather Alert



Winter is upon us, and with that comes the increasing possibility that the NI office and some meetings may be closed with little or no notice.

When possible, we will put a note on our website if we close the office, but to avoid frustration and a wasted trip, please call ahead on the Business line (516-292-3045) before coming in. (If no answer, the office is closed.) This is a good practice at any time (since we don't always know when office volunteers aren't able to get in), but particularly if the weather is bad.

Closing your meeting on short notice for any reason? Please let us know.

The hotline (516-292-3040) is always covered, and should have current information on office and meeting closings as available.

Conference Hospitality

While the 66th AA General Service Conference meets in Manhattan next month (April 17-22), members from our area will provide hospitality for the guests of the Conference members. Each day during the Conference week we will coordinate and support a number of touring activities including visits to popular tourist sites and events.

Interested in helping out or want to know more? Get in touch with us. Volunteers willing to offer time during the day or evening most any day or days that week are needed. We always have a lot of fun!

Bill C. & Denis O'B., Hospitality Co-Chairs
c/o news@nassauny-aa.org



Intergroup Liaison

In order to support the relationships between and among SENY (our local General Service area, Area 49) and the 13 area Intergroups, SENY fields an Intergroup Liaison which facilitates quarterly meetings for participants to share their experience, strength and hope on matters of common interest.

The next Intergroup Liaison meeting will be hosted at Nassau Intergroup on Sunday, March 13 from 12PM-3PM. All members are welcome. A light lunch will be provided.

Newsletter E-Subscription

Take an e-subscribe to Nassau Intergroup's newsletter. Go to www.nassaunya-aa.org > [Current Newsletter](#) > bottom of the page under the current issue's "pdf" to [sign up](#). It's easy to opt in or out.



Meeting List Changes

Please help NI keep its meeting information current and correct by submitting a "[Meeting List Changes](#)" form (available through the office or on-line under "Group Services") whenever your meeting details change.

(Changes received as of 2/18/2016.)

- BEGINNERS = B BIG BOOK = BB CLOSED = C
- CLOSED DISCUSSION = CD OPEN = O
- OPEN DISCUSSION = OD STEP = S TRADITION = T
- WC = WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE YP = YOUNG PEOPLE
- NON-ALCOHOLICS ARE WELCOME AT "OPEN" MEETINGS.

NEW GROUPS

- Malverne 11565
Big Book Fever Group, Church of the Intercessor, 50 St. Thomas Pl.; Sun. 8PM BB.
- Rockville Centre 11570
Joy of Living Group, St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Pl. (Dominic Room, basement rear); Sat. 9AM BB.
- Wantagh 11793
Peace Within 11th Step Meditation Group, 3050 Merrick Rd.; Sun. 7:30PM O.
- West Hempstead 11552
Creatively Sober Group, 482 Hempstead Ave.; Mon. 8AM CD, Sat. 7PM B; WC.

CHANGES

- Manhasset 11030
Good Morning God Group, Temple Judea. 333 Seasingtown Rd.; Sun. 9:30AM CD only.
- Rosedale 11422
Sobriety with Love Group, St. Clare's Church, 137-35 Brookville Blvd. (at 241st St.; formerly in the Rectory); Sun. 6PM, 1st week B, 2nd S, 3rd T, 4th C, 5th BB; 7:30PM CD dropped..



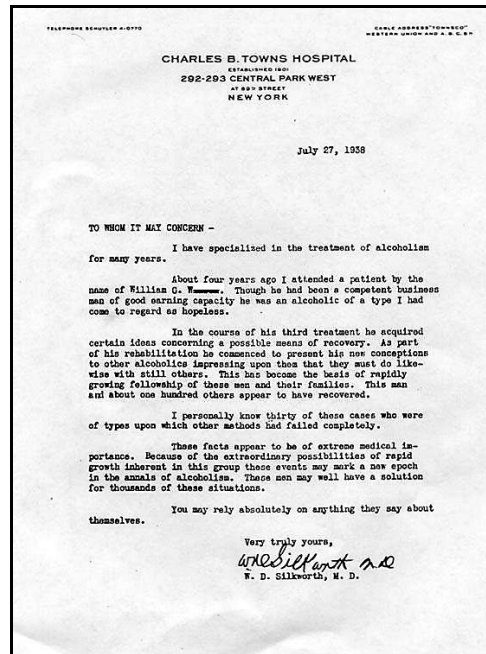
TEMPORARY CHANGES

- None
- CLOSED GROUPS**
- Malverne 11565
Spiritually Fit Group, Bridge Church, 1 Norwood Ave.

Answer to Who Am I?

William D. Silkworth, MD (1873-1951)— A graduate of Princeton University, Dr. Silkworth earned his medical degree at New York University, and interned at Bellevue Hospital where he began to develop what would become an affinity for working with alcoholics. He served at the US Army Hospital in Plattsburg, NY during WWI, and later worked at the Neurological Institute of Presbyterian Hospital. After suffering significant losses in the stock market crash of 1929, the

doctor accepted a job as Medical Director at the Charles B. Towns Hospital for Drug and Alcohol Addictions in New York. It was there in 1933 that Dr. Silkworth met Bill W., a returning patient. It was from him that Bill learned of the true nature of his problem, that he suffered from a mental obsession with and a physical allergy to alcohol, not a moral failing as was the common view of alcoholism at the time, but a true disease. (It may have been this view of alcoholism as a disease which would later in part help Bill connect with Dr. Bob when they first met on Mother's Day, 1935.) It was to Silkworth that Bill reached out after his "white light" experience in Towns during his last admission there to be assured of his sanity. The doctor validated Bill's experience, and encouraged him to hold on to it. Silkworth would encourage Bill as he reached out with little success to fellow sufferers to first emphasize the hopeless nature of the alcoholic's condition, rather than his spiritual awakening which might be off putting at the outset of a contact. A consultant on the drafting of the "Big Book," Dr. Silkworth is the author of "The Doctor's Opinion" which essentially opens *Alcoholics Anonymous*. (The original of the letter in that writing is below.) Referred to by Bill W. as "a founder of AA," Dr. Silkworth would go on to be one of medicine's early supporters of AA (he was



in attendance at the early meetings with the Rockefeller associates, and authored the first medical paper written about AA which appeared in 1939), and a lifelong friend to the Fellowship. (See, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, pp. xxv-xxxii and 14; *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, pp. 13, 143, 148, 160, 168,

183 and 302-308; and, *Pass It On*, pp. 99, 101-104, 108-109, 123, 133, 143, 184-185, 200, 233 and 388.)

Announcements

Nassau Intergroup Office Closed for Cleaning
12PM, Saturday, March 12
Reopens, 9AM, Sunday March 13.

Quarterly SENY Intergroup Liaison Meeting

hosted by
Nassau Intergroup
 361 Hempstead Turnpike
 West Hempstead 11552
Sunday, March 13
12PM-3PM
 Light Lunch Provided

48th SENY Convention
"Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions & Concepts"
Westchester Marriott Hotel
 670 White Plains Road
 Tarrytown 10591
March 18-20, 2016
www.aaseny.org/seny-convention
convention@aaseny.org

Glen Head Group 68th Anniversary
March 22
6:45PM Food, 8PM Speaker
Glen Head Community Center
 200 Glen Head Road, Glen Head 11545

ESCYPAA III
Coming October 28-30, 2016
 For info, www.escypaa3.org



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