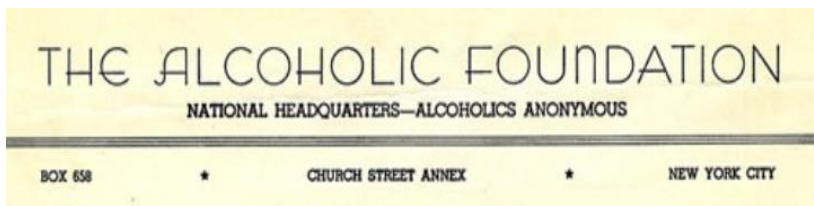


# OUR DISTILLED EXPERIENCE



## **The First Contact from Charleston, IL.**

**February 6, 1947**

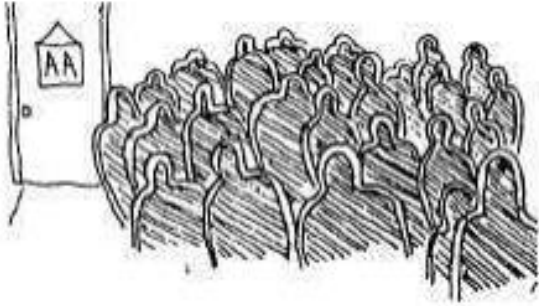
A man named J.E. N. who wrote to the Alcoholic Foundation:

"I have contacted the Chicago group of the A.A. and they referred me to you in regards to an A.A. group in my locality. They said the nearest group was Decatur, Ill. And that you might have some correspondence from this group. The Chicago group told me you might give me some information on starting a group in my home town but as it is a small community and we have no hospitals for alcoholics, I don't see just how I could go about it."

If you know anything about J.E.N or have any more information about the start of AA in Charleston, IL. please contact us at [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org)

## **January Anniversaries**

Greg F. 14 years Jan. 1st  
Kelly C. 7 years Jan. 6th  
Mary E. 5 years Jan. 6th  
Marti W. 25 years Jan. 4th  
Ron S. 18 months Jan. 4th  
Lindsay N. 5 months Jan. 5th  
Bekkah S. 9 years Jan. 9th  
Marion V. 37 years Jan. 10th  
Lisa M. 10 years Jan. 11th  
Randy E. 10 years Jan. 15th  
Jack H. 29 years Jan. 16th  
Greg L. 4 months Jan. 18th  
Terry A. 2 years Jan. 19th  
Adam M. 1 year Jan. 19th  
Doris B. 30 years Jan. 21st  
Terry W. 10 months Jan. 24th  
Tyler B. 3 months Jan. 24th  
Angela W. 1 year Jan. 24th  
Billy S. 11 years Jan. 30th



## The Language of the Heart..

### From October 1988 Box 4-5-9

Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings To Be Published in October In describing his 1960 visit to A.A. in Europe, Bill W. wrote: "As we journeyed from land to land, we had the same magnificent adventure in kinship over and over . . . [T]his was the communication of heart to heart in wonder, in joy, and in everlasting gratitude. Lois and I then knew that A.A. could circle the globe - and it has." In the mere twenty-five years that elapsed between the initial meeting of two drunks in 1935 and Bill's overseas visit, the seed of A.A. developed and grew. Much of the story of how that happened is chronicled in the Grapevine's soon - to - be - published book, *The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings*. Bill began writing for the Grapevine with its first issue in June 1944, when it was a newsletter for New York City A.A.s, and as the magazine became first national and then international, he remained one of its most prolific contributors. Because of a grueling travel schedule and a copious correspondence, Bill could never respond to all the varied demands of a Fellowship that was still in the process of formation, and in the Grapevine, he discovered an ideal vehicle of communication with the members and groups who sought his insights and experience. In more than 150 articles, written over a span of twenty-six years, Bill documented the sometimes-agonizing process of trial and error that resulted in A.A.'s spiritual principles of Recovery, Unity, and Service, and articulated his vision of what the Fellowship could become. *The Language of the Heart* includes virtually all of these historic articles, with the exception of reprints that are readily available elsewhere (for example, the articles

that make up the second half of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions); also omitted are Bill's brief annual holiday messages and some outdated factual material. A general introduction gives the background of Bill's relationship to the Grapevine and sets the context for the book, and brief introductions to each major section describe what was happening in A.A. to prompt the writing of that particular group of articles. Writings in *The Language of the Heart* are arranged chronologically, and because of Bill's highly focused approach to everything he did, the chronological divisions are also in reality topical divisions. Part One: 1944-1950 brings together the history-making articles in which our co-founder "hammered out" the experience that is now our Traditions. Part Two: 1950-1958 sets forth the growth of A.A.'s service structure and reprints the series of articles entitled "Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends." Part Three: 1958-1970 contains a group of articles on the topic of spiritual growth, along with a section describing the Fellowship's growth and some guidelines for the future. Two additional sections include seven memorials to significant people in A.A. history and Bill's reflections on the Grapevine itself. If it is true that those who ignore the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it, then *The Language of the Heart* has great significance. Through this historical record of A.A.'s physical and spiritual growth, Bill W.'s insights of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, may serve as a guide for A.A. members in the 1980s and beyond, reminding us of what it used to be like, documenting what happened and why it happened, and illuminating the present with the wisdom of A.A.'s experience in its first thirty years.

*"It is the belief of the Grapevine editors that the fundamental AA experience expressed here will illuminate every facet of AA life--a way of life that has, over the years, helped one suffering alcoholic to communicate with another in 'the language of the heart.'"*

**District 12 Business meeting**

**March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

**1400 W. Park Urbana, IL**

**Auditorium B**

“If you would win a man to your cause, *first* convince him that you are his sincere friend”

## Lincoln’s Radical Perspective on Temperance

By Sam P.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1842, 33-year-old Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech on Temperance to an audience gathered in the Second Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois.

The Temperance movement had been underway for 20 years but had failed to help alcoholics or draw public sympathy. Only in the years preceding Lincoln’s speech had it begun attracting thousands of “friends” to the cause and helping alcoholics “daily” to “desecrate[] and desert[]” the “rites of his idolatrous worship.”

The reason for previous failure against “the demon Intemperance,” argues Lincoln, was because the forms of “warfare” taken were “erroneous.” In the first decades of the Temperance movement “Preachers, Lawyers, and hired agents” carried its message; and since these men are “supposed to have no sympathy of feeling or interest, with those very persons whom it is their object to convince and persuade,” they lacked “*approachability*.” Indeed, Lincoln maintains that it is not “rational” to think that such men—driven by the desire to convert, pride, vanity, or salary—could convince one to stop drinking.

Only when he/she “who has long been known as a victim of intemperance bursts the fetters that have bound him, and appears before his neighbors...to tell of the miseries *once* endured, *now* to be endured no more”—will people listen. Because of

“this new class of champions” the Temperance movement was growing.

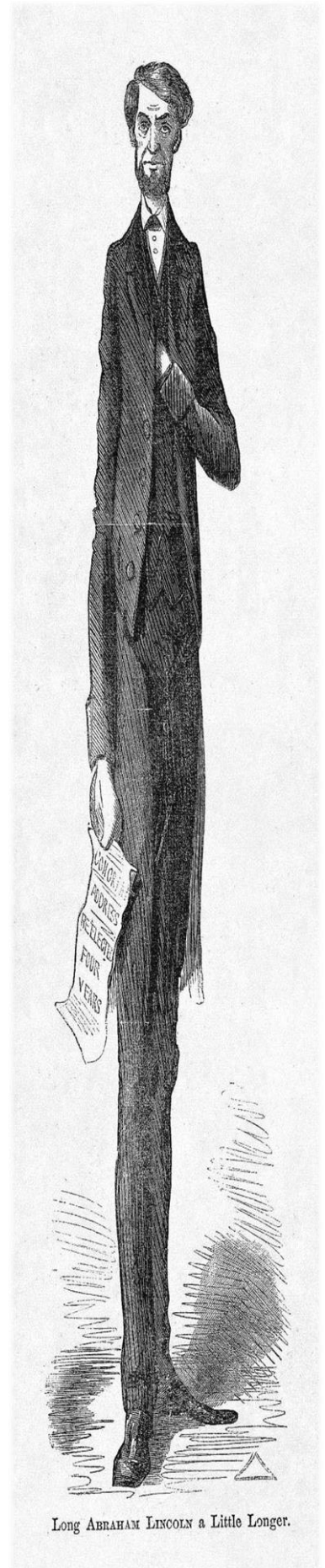
In addition to changing the persons carrying the message, there was also a fundamental change in *how* the message was being delivered. Old reformers did not approach drinkers and alcohol-sellers with “accents of entreaty and persuasion,” but with “thundering tones of anathema [outrage] and denunciation,” which were “impolitic [unwise] and unjust.”

These methods are unwise, Lincoln argues, because men cannot be *driven* to things, they must be influenced and *persuaded*. If you “assume to dictate to his judgment, or to command his action, or to mark him as one to be shunned and despised...he will retreat within himself.”

Previous methods were unjust because they ignore the ubiquity of alcohol—which was considered so honorable that doctor’s prescribed it and the government gave it to soldiers and sailors. “Universal public opinion not only tolerated, but recognized and adopted its use.” We cannot then, in good faith, denounce those who yielded to it because they were “backed by interest, fixed habits, or burning appetites.”

What is perhaps most striking from our perspective today is that the original temperance reformers did not actually believe in an alcoholic’s ability to be reformed—they sought to reform *society* for the sake of future generations. And since “few can be induced to labor exclusively for posterity,” they failed to capture the public’s imagination.

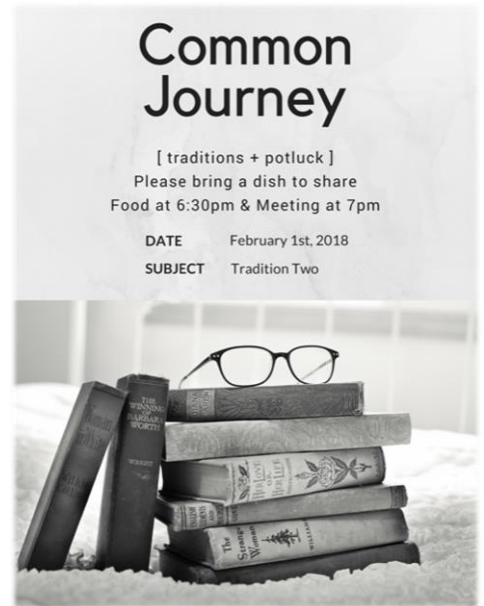
According to Lincoln, those who see the value of recovering alcoholics carrying the message through understanding and persuading are “Washingtonians”—spiritual and civic descendants of our first president, on whose 110<sup>th</sup> birthday Lincoln delivered this speech.



# OUR FUTURE WILL SOON BE OUR HISTORY

## DISTRICT 12 SPEAKER MEETING

- S.W.A.T – Champaign; Feb. 4th at 12pm – Jeanie M.  
 Friday Night Fellowship - Champaign; Feb. 9th at 7pm - TBA  
 Attitude of Gratitude - Charleston; Feb. 10th at 10am - TBA  
 As Bill See's it – Champaign; Feb. 10th at 8pm – TBA  
 Shipwrecked - Champaign Feb. 11th at 6pm - Speaker Panel  
 Cellar Dwellers – Urbana; Feb. 12th at 8pm - TBA  
 We Do Recover - Rantoul; Feb. 17th at 6:30pm - Sharon K.  
 Nuts and Bolts - Danville; Feb. 21th at 7:30pm - TBA  
 Women's Step Study – Champaign; Feb. 15th at 7:30pm - Rachael H.  
 Working with Others – Champaign; Feb. 24rd at 6pm - TBA  
 Monday Meeting - Tuscola; Feb. 26th at 8pm - TBA  
 Ages of Miracles - Mattoon; Feb. 26th at 7pm - Paula P.  
 H.O.W – Urbana; Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 7pm - TBA  
 Charleston Friday Night Group - Charleston; Feb. 23rd at 8pm - TBA  
 Our Common Journey - Mattoon; Feb. 22nd at 7pm - Yasmeen A.  
 Solutions - Rantoul; Feb 25th at 6pm - John M  
 Charleston Sunday Meeting - Charleston; Feb. 25th at 8pm- TBA  
 Grapevine Group – Champaign; Feb. 25th at 8pm – Mindy E.



AA PEORIA  
 INVITES YOU TO GO  
**BACK TO THE BASICS**  
 This is a free workshop for "anyone or everyone interested in a spiritual way of life." Both newcomers and old-timers alike will find this presentation thought provoking and enlightening. Learn how the pioneers took newcomers through the Twelve Steps with a 50-75% success rate. Attendees will have the opportunity to go through all 12 steps in 4, one hour sessions.  
 GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 2101 S. PROSPECT AVE. CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820  
 FROM 6-7PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES  
 SESSION 1 - MARCH 1, 2018-STEP 1  
 SESSION 2 - MARCH 8, 2018-STEP 2,3(4,5)  
 SESSION 3 - MARCH 15, 2018-STEP 5,6,7,8(9)  
 SESSION 4 - MARCH 22, 2018-STEP 10,11,12  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 217-377-3161

**SHIPWRECKED**  
 Young People's Meeting  
 Presents.  
**#ADULTING**  
 (BALANCING LIFE OUTSIDE OF AA) PANEL  
**PIZZA AND STARBURST BONANZA**  
  
**PANELISTS:**  
 MARY E, ELLIOT B,  
 TARA M, TERRY A  
**SUN, FEB 11, 2018**  
**5PM-7PM**  
 (5pm-foods 6pm-Panel)  
 8 HENSON PL, CHAMPAIGN, IL