

# Stepping Stones Selected to Participate in National Museum Assessment Program

## For Immediate Release

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**Stepping Stones, the Bedford Hills, NY, home of Lois and Bill Wilson has been selected to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP).** MAP is administered by the American Association of Museums (AAM) through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Through guided self-study and on-site consultation with a museum professional, participation in MAP will enable Stepping Stones to evaluate its current practices, establish priorities to achieve professional museum standards, and plan how to best and most effectively serve the community.

Stepping Stones shares the story of hope for recovery from alcoholism, in the individual and the family, embodied in the lives and home of William G. Wilson (“Bill W.”) and Lois Burnham Wilson, who lived in the house from 1941 until their deaths in 1971 and 1988, respectively. Wilson was the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Among other important works, he anonymously authored Alcoholics Anonymous (“The Big Book”) in 1938, which has sold over 25 million copies in English, and has been translated into over 50 languages. Lois was the co-founder of Al-Anon Family Groups, the self-help groups for family members of alcoholics.

“We are thrilled to participate in MAP and learn how to serve our community in the most effective way possible”, said Annah Perch, executive director of the Stepping Stones Foundation. “We know that our museum and website have touched people around the world whose lives have been affected by alcoholism, and feel that the entire community can enjoy learning about the lives of these two humanitarians. Their legacy is a precious piece of American and world history and is inspirational to all who learn about them.” In 1990 *Life* magazine named Bill W. one of the 100 most important Americans of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and in 1999 *Time* magazine selected Bill W. as one of the 100 most influential people of the century.

“We congratulate Stepping Stones on their participation in MAP,” said Edward H. Able, Jr., president and CEO of AAM. “This process of self-reflection and improvement is designed to make an already high performing organization even stronger.” MAP is a confidential process of self-study, peer review, and implementation. Museums use the assessment process to strengthen operations, build capacity, energize staff, and enhance communication in response to community needs. Museums of all types, including art, history, science and technology, children’s, natural history, historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens, and zoos participate in the program.

The interior of Stepping Stones is furnished exactly as it was upon Lois’ death. A simple and humble home filled with family heirlooms, personal memorabilia and an extensive archive, there is also a museum that Lois left as her gift to future visitors. Social and cultural historians, community members, and members of 12 Step programs are among the museum’s most frequent visitors. Stepping Stones provides guided tours year-round by appointment. Off-site presentations are available upon request. The grounds and garden are open from sun up to sun set at 62 Oak Road, Katonah, New York. Admission is free, although contributions, to help preserve Stepping Stones, are encouraged. For more information including photos, call 914-232-4822 or visit [www.steppingstones.org](http://www.steppingstones.org). For more information about AAM, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). For information on IMLS, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov).