



# *The Stepping Stones* *News*

Spring 2000

## *Welcome to Stepping Stones*



*the home of Lois and Bill W.*  
*Enter*

All rights reserved © The Stepping Stones Foundation 1999

## *We're On The Web!*

[www.stepsstones.org](http://www.stepsstones.org)

If you've got a friend in Singapore and can't make the trip or a friend in New York City who can but won't, a visit to Stepping Stones is now possible without leaving home. The Stepping Stones Foundation is on the internet. Please visit our web site at the address above and help us announce it by e-mailing it to your Fellowship friends or anyone who might otherwise be interested in seeing what we are about.

Visitors to our site will be able to take a virtual tour of the house, read biographies of Lois and Bill, learn about

the Foundation, view some of the treasures in from our archives, see the newsletters and mail from our friends and send us some, too. Also, we'll be posting photos of Stepping Stones from various times of the year, so you can see the daffodils in spring, the rush of floral color in summer, the blaze of leaves in fall and the serenity of a snowy landscape in winter.

Please visit us at the site and let us know what you think. We're very excited about this — Bill would have loved this stuff! (and Lois, too)

© 2000 The Stepping Stones Foundation

---

---

## first picnic of The millenium! picnic 2000!

---

---

Another century! Another Picnic! We wonder if in 1952, when Lois and Bill invited a few Al-Anons and their friends and family to an outing at Stepping Stones, the Wilsons expected the gathering to become the annual event it is hundreds of people attending. Well, that's just what's happened, and we invite you to be a part of it.

Please join us on Saturday, June 3rd for our annual Lois W. picnic. The grounds open at noon and our meeting begins at 2 o'clock with AA, Al-Anon and Alateen speakers.

We are very excited about our AA speaker this year Ron C. from Sydney, Australia! Ron celebrated 45 years in the AA Fellowship last December. He is a frequent (for someone who lives halfway around the world) visitor to this country and has been visiting Stepping Stones for many years, meeting Lois on several trips. He is a gifted speaker, and we are fortunate he'll be sharing his experience with us.

Our Al-Anon speaker will be Lydia M. from Brooklyn, NY who's been practicing the Al-Anon program

since 1966 and will be sharing how she applies it to her life today. She and her husband, Hugh, came to picnics here when Bill and Lois were hosting them. Hugh has agreed to speak for a few minutes about his memories of those events.

The house and Bill's studio will be open for touring (they will be closed for the meeting and speakers and reopened afterwards.) As usual, we will be distributing soft drinks, but please bring your own picnic lunches and blankets. Some folding chairs will be available.

Other important information:

- Parking is very limited — Please carpool!
- Absolutely NO BUSES!
- The picnic is held rain or shine — No rain date.

If you want additional information, call ahead. Phones are difficult to answer on picnic day, and we cannot return calls left on the machine.

The picnic is the terrific event it is every year because of our volunteers. Besides having fun, we also feed you! If you would like to help us that day, please call 914-232-4822 for details. Thanks!

---

---

### RESTORATION UPDATE

---

---

Last year we replaced the roof, and this year it's the ceiling. As some of you more recent visitors may recall, the original ceiling in Bill's studio was showing its age. It was discolored in many spots and noticeably sagging in others. In other words, we needed a new one.

The ceiling has been replaced with sturdier material than was available after the war when Bill built the studio with a friend in 1948, but it looks the same. Instead of



taping the panel seams at the time, Bill covered them with wood strips. We've done both, but with the new ceiling, the wood strips are cosmetic only. As with this ceiling, we strive to maintain Stepping Stones' original appearance as much as possible.

In the main house, we've been painting every room. The colors are the same — pink living room, Nell's room blue, Helen's room yellow — as Lois had chosen. The library upstairs and the master bedroom also get spruced up. The biggest challenge is finding a place to put all the items and, the biggest trick, getting them back in their right places.



---

---

## New Archivist At Stepping Stones

---

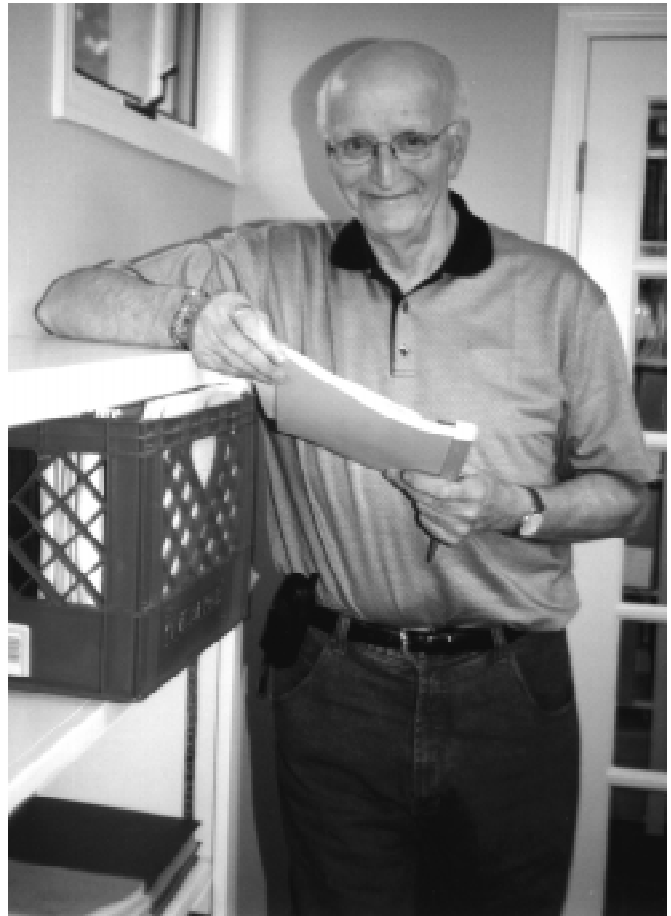
---

In January, a new archivist began assisting us at Stepping Stones. He is Brother Denis Sennett who is cataloging our holdings as he has done for over 90 other organizations during his 23-year career in this field. Besides being the Director of Archives/Record Center at the Friars of the Atonement in Greymoor, New York, Brother Denis consults with collections as diverse as The Vatican and Chad Kriegshauser "Sports Room Archives" in Hereford, Texas.

Brother Denis is the author of several books and articles about archiving and is a member of the Society of American Archivists and other similar organizations. He has been recognized with awards and citations for his work, and we are very pleased to have him here.

Noting that he has a personal interest in Bill W. and the AA program, Brother Denis has been nonetheless surprised at the Stepping Stones collection. "Bill and Lois were Renaissance people, and I am amazed at the scope and influence of their work. It is totally international."

The collection will be open to serious researchers later this year. Inquiries should be addressed to Eileen Giuliani, Executive Director at Stepping Stones.



---

---

## Bill And Law School

---

---

Bill writes in *The Big Book*, "I took a night law course...I studied economics and business as well as law...Potential alcoholic that I was, I nearly failed my law course. At one of the finals I was too drunk to think or write....By the time I had completed the law, I knew the law was not for me."

Dan Demarest, one of our former board members and a lawyer himself, was curious about Bill's almost-law career and contacted Brooklyn Law School for more information. He writes:

"I spoke on the telephone yesterday with Dean Traeger of Brooklyn Law School, who had before him the School's file on Bill Wilson's academic career as a law student in the early 1920's.

"He stated that, in Bill's first year at law school, his grades varied sharply from brilliant (90 in Contracts, 89 in Torts) to mediocre (77 in Agency and in Partnerships). In his second year his grades were ever more up and down, including some high marks and also a 67 and a 68 which were flunking grades. Both of these failed courses Bill took again and passed.

"In February of 1923, Bill flunked a course on Equity and left the Law School. His file shows that he returned in September, when all his course were third year courses except for Equity, which he repeated and passed.

"He was scheduled to graduate in June of 1924, except that he failed a course called "Executors and Administrators" (relating to wills, estates and trusts).

"He again returned in the fall and began repeating the Executors and Administrators course, but left the Law School finally on November 20, 1924 without, according to Dean Traeger's records, again taking the exam for the Executors and Administrator's course.

"My surmise is that in later years Bill remembered that he had more than once made up for and successfully passed a test previously failed but that he did not recall that he had not gotten around to retaking this last examination."

---

---

## Directions to Stepping Stones

1. Take Interstate 684 to Exit 6, Route 35 West.
2. Follow Route 35 West approximately 1 mile to the traffic light at Cherry Street (just before reservoir).
3. Turn Left onto Cherry Street and proceed 1.5 miles, through two stop signs, to Woodfield Road.
4. Turn right onto Woodfield Road and follow to end.
5. Turn left onto Oak Road.
6. Stepping Stones is the first driveway on the left and there will be parking in the adjacent lot. However, if it is filled, please park on the street being mindful of our neighbors and keeping free of driveways.

### By Train

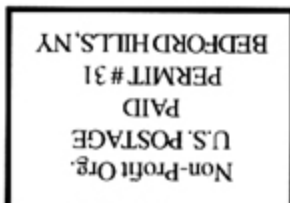
Take Metro North's Harlem line from Grand Central to Bedford Hills. A short taxi ride from the station will get you to Stepping Stones.

*Stepping Stones is in a quiet residential area. Please be considerate of our neighbors.*

**If you intend to visit us anytime other than the day of picnic, please call ahead for an appointment. We suggest giving us as much notice as possible. A few days notice will enable us to make sure someone will be here to show you around. Since visits occur sporadically, we do not have full-time guides.**

---

Address correction requested



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