# The Post

### POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT



MAY 2019 Web Version

#### **VOLUME 15 ISSUE 5**

#### A.A. HISTORY

### Bill W's "Hot Flash" in December of 1934

In early December Bill W. decided to visit the Calvary Episcopal Church mission. On the way he picked up a Finn named Alec, a sailmaker and fisherman, and they had several drunken adventures before getting to and after arriving at the mission. Both were disruptive, and after arriving at the mission, Bill asked for Ebby a couple of times. Ebby turned up about 5:00 pm, grinning, and suggested that Bill have a plate of beans, which helped As Bill remembered, "the terrifying settle him down. All three attended a service there after supper. During that service Bill felt strong emotions, and when the invitation was given at the service, went down to the altar and knelt, as he said, with "the other stinking, sweating penitents." As Bill himself put it, "Maybe then and there, for the very first time, I was penitent too. Something touched me." Immediately after Bill stood and talked to the assembly, not remembering what he said, but as Ebby recalled, Bill gave his life to God.

He didn't stop drinking immediately, however. After two or three days he realized that his experience at the mission went beyond mere reason and that he was as helpless to stop his alcoholism as a cancer patient to stop that disease. He finally accepted the

hopelessness and helplessness of his condition. He then went to Towns Hospital again, arriving on December 11, 1934, one month after beginning his binge and just after his 39th birthday, having consumed four bottles of beer on the way, and carrying two books of philosophy.

After receiving the usual treatment, and after a visit from Ebby, Bill fell into a complete and utter depression and sense of hopelessness. He knew that only death or madness were awaiting. darkness had become complete. In agony of spirit I again thought of the cancer of alcoholism which had now consumed me in mind and spirit, and soon the body." Surrendering to his despair, Bill desperately cried out, with neither faith nor hope, "If there be a God, let Him show Himself!" The result was immediate and unexpected. As Bill put it, "Suddenly my room blazed with an indescribably white light. I was seized with an ecstasy beyond description. Every joy I had known was pale by comparison. The light, the ecstasy - I was conscious of nothing else for a time."

"Then, seen in the mind's eye, there was a mountain. I stood upon its summit, where a real wind blew. A wind, not of air, but of spirit. In great,

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Suggestions on topics you want explored? Contact us at Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OR **CONTRIBUTE TO THE POST?** TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US AT Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

THE POST is published to improve communication between local A.A.® groups and encourage the participation of A.A. members in services and activities that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are those of the authors and do not indicate endorsement by Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous®.

#### **CONTACT US**

Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office Office Hours: Monday 10 A.M.-2 P.M. 828 Forest Avenue Montgomery, AL 36106 24/7 Answering Service (334) 264-4122

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** 

Intergroup@centralalaa.org

**Contributions for print subscriptions** are encouraged.

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MILLBROOK PRIMARY PURPOSE **Meeting Changes:** 

THURSDAY 6PM IS NOW AN OPEN MEETING WE'VE ADDED A SATURDAY 6PM OPEN MEETING!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3 4 5 6 7 4 10 10 11 12 13 14 11 11 3

**INTERGROUP MONTHLY MEETING** 

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019 8:00AM @ LEGACIES GROUP 3412 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

**DISTRICT 8 MONTHLY MEETING** 

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019 9.30AM @ LEGACIES 3412 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

#### **MORE EVENTS & INFO:**

HTTP://WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/UPCOMING-EVENTS/

## THE NEXT ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY JULY 12-14, 2019

MORE INFO ON AREA 1 WEBSITE HTTP://WWW.AAAREA1.ORG/ CLARION INN & SUITES HOTEL 1577 S. COLLEGE STREET

**AUBURN, AL 36830** 

#### PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office Intergroup@centralalaa.org
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#### THE POST COMMITTEE

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Español Spoken Here—Oni S.

The Steps— Catherine S.

The Concepts—John V.

The Traditions—Jill Z.

Birthdays—Service Opportunity

Events Recap— Service Opportunity

Literature—Service Opportunity

Mark Your Calendar— Service Opportunity

We welcome your assistance!

Suggestions on topics you want explored?

To get involved, contact us at

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The following is a complete list of registered trademarks and service marks that symbolize Alcoholics Anonymous, its work and its purpose: A.A.; Alcoholics Anonymous; The Big Book; Box 4-5-9; The Grapevine; A.A. Grapevine; GV; Box 1980, LaVina.

## MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A.® GROUP MEETINGS

Updated: September 6, 2018

Group / Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MONTGOMERY	1 monady	1	1100110000	1 maileday	1 maay		Canady
12 Steps Group of AA Heritage Baptist Church 1849 Perry Hill Road, 36106 (Meeting in Room 127)		C-D-ST-BG 6p					
A Vision for You Group of AA Baptist Health Training Entrance 2010 Normandie Dr., 36111			O-D 7p				
Chapter 9 Group of AA CAP Auditorium 1153 Air Base Blvd., 36108						0-D 1:30p	0-D 1:30p
Chisholm Group of AA 1409 Federal Drive, 36107	C-D-Sm - 12p C-ST-Sm - 6p	C-D-Sm - 12p C-D-Sm - 6p	C-D-Sm - 12p C-L-Sm - 6p	C-D-Sm - 12p C-D-Sm - 6p	C-D-Sm - 12p C-D-Sm - 6p	C-D-Sm 6p	0-S 6p
Fellowship Group of AA Grace Church at Bell Road 5 Bell Road, 36117 (Corner of Bell Rd & Atlanta Hwy)	C-L & BG * 6p	C-D-BG * 6p		C-D-BG * 6p	C-L & BG * 6p	0-S 6p	C-D* - 2p C-D-W - 6p
Happy Hour Group of AA 3466 Eastdale Circle, 36117	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p	C-D - 6:30a C-L - 12p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p	C-D - 6:30a C-D - 12p C-D - 6pm	C-D 12p	C-D - 12p O-D - 6pm
(Next to Fortis College)	C-D - 6p	C-L - 6p	C-D - 6p	O-BG - 6p	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 0-S - 7p		
The Legacies Group of AA 3412 Atlanta Highway, 36109 (Enter off Forest Hills Drive)	C-D - 12p C-D - 6p	C-L 12p	C-D - 12p O-S - 8p	C-D 12p	C-D - 12p C-D-CL - 8p	C-D 12p	C-D 9a
Living Sober Group of AA Mental Health America 1116 South Hull Street, 36104	C-D 6p		C-D 6p				
Sole Purpose Group of AA 22 North California Street, 36107	C-D 7:30p			C-L 7:30p			C-D 7:30p
Strange Camels Group of AA Immanuel Presbyterian Church 8790 Vaughn Road, 36117	C-L 7p	C-D 7p		C-D 7p			
<b>Tradition Three Group of AA</b> Bradford Health Services 386 St. Luke's Drive, 36117	0-D 11a	0-D 11a	0-D 11a	0-D 11a	0-D 11a		
We Stopped in Time Group of AA Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2810 Atlanta Highway, 36109 (Enter at back off Dunn Drive)		0-D-YP 8p				O-D-YP 8p	
CLANTON							
Clanton Group of A.A. Trinity Episcopal Church 503 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. S, 35045	O-D 7p			C-L 12p		0-D 7p	
GREENVILLE							
Camellia City Group of AA Greenville Housing Authority 601 Beeland St, 36037 334-437-2015 or 334-662-7129	C-D 7p			C-D * 7p			
HOPE HULL							
County Hope Group of AA Hope Hull United Methodist Church 305 Wasden Road, 36043 (Silver trailer behind church)		O-D 6p					
MAPLESVILLE							
Maplesville Group of AA Highway 139, PO Box 231, 36750					0-D 8p 0-S 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri.		C-D 8p

Group / Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MILLBROOK				<u>'</u>			
Primary Purpose Group of AA Church of the Nazarene 3251 Browns Road, 36054 (In the Fellowship Hall)		O-D 6p		C-D 6p			
PRATTVILLE							
Autauga S.O.S. Group of AA St. Mark's Episcopal Church 178 East 4th Street, 36067	0-L 12p	C-D 12p		C-D 12p	C-D 12p	C-D-W 10a	
Prattville Downtown Group of AA 326 West 5th Street, 36067	0-S 6:30p	0-BG 6:30p	0-D - 12p C-D - 6:30p	C-D - 6:30a C-L - 6:30p	0-ST-S 6:30p	C-D - 12p O-D-Cl - 6:30p	0-D - 12p C-ST - 6:30p
SELMA							
5th Tradition Group of AA West End Baptist Church 504 Cahaba Rd., 36701					C-D 6:00p		
Selma Group of AA Dallas County Courthouse 105 Lauderdale Street, 36701	0-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	0-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	0-D 12:30p		O-D 6p
Braveheart Group of AA St Paul's Episcopal Church 210 Lauderdale Street, 36701	C-D 6p		C-D 6p				
TALLASSEE							
Ray of Hope Group of AA Kent Community Center 2872 Kent Road, Kent, AL 36078	O-L 7p		C-D 7p		0-D 7p		C-D 3p
12&12 Group of AA E. Tallassee United Methodist Church 101 Central Blvd, Tallassee 36078		0-ST * 7p					
UNION SPRINGS							
An A.A. Group Bradford Health Services 102 Conecuh Ave, West, 36089 (In Bullock County Hospital)	O-D 7p		O-D 7p				
WETUMPKA							
Free World Group of AA Elmore County Extension Office 340 Queen Anne Road, 36092 (Metal Outbuilding)							O-D 6p
Wetumpka Group of AA 103 West Tuskeena St., 36092	C-D * 7p						

Montgomery Intergroup provides this schedule of A.A. group meetings in this service area to member groups, individual A.A. members, and appropriate interested parties. A listing in this schedule does not imply approval or endorsement of any group's approach to or practice of the traditional A.A. program.

LEGEND					
	n Meeting A.A. program may attend.	C = Closed Meeting Limited to those with a drinking problem and a desire to stop drinking			
D = Discussion Meeting	Sp = Speaker Meeting	L = Literature Study (BB, 12/12, etc.)	St = Step Study		
CI = Candlelight Meeting	W = Women's Meeting	LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgendered	BG = Beginners Meeting		
Sm = Smoking Permitted	YP = Young People & Young at Heart	* = Al-Anon Meets Simultaneously	** = Alateen Meets Simultaneously		

Montgomery Intergroup Central Office 828 Forest Avenue, Suite A, Montgomery, AL 36106 Open Mondays from 10 am until 2 pm.

www.centralalaa.org • Email Intergroup@centralalaa.org

http://www.centralalAA.org/recovery/AA-meeting-list/

#### **A.A. HISTORY** *Continued from page 1*

clean strength, it

blew right through me. Then came the blazing thought, 'You For more on Bill W's last drunk and his release from the are a free man.' I know not at all how long I remained in this state, but finally the light and the ecstasy subsided. I again saw the wall of my room. As I became more quiet, a great peace stole over me, and this was accompanied by a sensation difficult to describe. I became acutely conscious of a Presence which seemed like a veritable sea of living spirit. I lay on the shores of a new world." "This", I thought, "must be the great reality." He never doubted God again and he never drank again.

disease of alcoholism, see Pass It On: The story of Bill Wilson and How the A. A. Message Reached the World. New York: AAWS, 1984, pages 100-122, among several other sources. The quotes came from pages 118, 120 and 121.

Mike B., Prattville Downtown Group



(This article was originally published in the Dec. 2016 POST)

## The POST is searching for a new layout & design volunteer.

This position, formally called the composer, has the duty of laying out each months POST issue, including articles, events, flyers, birthdays, meeting minutes and anything else you've seen published in our wonderful monthly publication.

Skills needed include document manipulation and copy formatting in MS Word, MS Publisher and Pdf. Light design skills to make announcements and notices. Access to email and computer needed along with a commitment to communicate and meet deadlines!

#### Contact the POST Editor for more information:

Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

#### STEP FIVE

### Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions tells us that -We'd have to have outside help if we were surely to know and admit the truth about ourselves—the help of God and another human being.

Our secrets keep us sick..... no truer words have ever been spoken. No one comes into AA wanting to shout from the roof tops their deepest, darkest, most humiliating secrets. Yet, tell them we must, or we will surely risk our own sobriety that we are fighting so hard to obtain and maintain. We are only as well as we allow ourselves to be. It is up to us. In order to have true peace and serenity, we must share with God, ourselves, and someone else (usually our sponsor) our wrongs, negative actions, secrets, and ill intentions.

It wasn't until I sat with my sponsor and discussed with her all the crap that I had been holding locked down far in the back of my mind that I started learning even more about myself. I was scared to death to tell anybody everything about me. I knew if I did they would be appalled, shocked, unnerved, sad, disgusted, scared, etc. It never occurred to me that I wasn't that unique or special. My stuff is no better or worse than anyone else's, the details just might be a little different. Once I took the leap of faith and told my sponsor all of my stuff, my past actions, my defects, my spiritual ignorance, and all my insecurities, all she asked me was "Is that it? Did you leave anything out?" I mean WOW!!!! How is she looking me in the face like it is any

other conversation that we have had since our first meeting as sponsor / sponsee. She told me if I left even the smallest thing out that it would keep me sick. She was right. A short time later I approached her with one last thing. I didn't realize that by dumping all the stuff that was keeping me sick that I would then start to realize that I could start to have room in my brain for positive thoughts and truth about myself and a better understanding of why I do things I do and how I might do things differently in the future. I found out that I wasn't even honest with my own self about myself, my actions, my motives, my feelings, or my truths. It was amazing to learn how my brain tricked me in so many instances. I had once thought myself to be humble. In reality, that thought had been farthest from the truth. I did not know I could feel so horrible about myself yet still have a huge ego. However, if I am being honest with myself that is exactly how I acted.

With God and my sponsors' help I can stop practicing old behaviors and start learning to live life in a new way. Instead of being selfish and self- seeking, I can attempt to grow spiritually and try to deflate my ego so I can become right-sized in order for God to use me as a vessel for good. I will try to see where I can be of help to others. I don't want to run from the reality of bad past decisions. Instead, I want to hold my head high, seeking council for instruction on better decision making and exercising healthier life choices. The truth shall set you free!!!! I know it did for me.

Catherine S., Strange Camels Group



http://www.centralalAA.org/recovery/twelve-steps/



## BIG BOOK COMES ALIVE with

## LARRY S. & CAAN B.

Join us for a "Joe and Charlie" style Big Book Study!

JUNE 21 & 22, 2019 FRIDAY 6-9:00 SATURDAY 9-6:00

## **REGISTRATION IS \$25**

located at: Whitfield United Methodist Church 2673 Fisk Rd

Montgomery, Al 36111

\$5 Lunch on Saturday

Register online @ bit.ly/BBCA2019

You may also mail registrations to:

BBCAc/o MOntgomery Intergroup Central Office Inc.

829 Forest Ave.

Montgomery, Al 36106

#### TRADITION FIVE

Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

When I walked through the doors of my first AA meeting, it didn't take me long to see that other alcoholics were very involved in AA responsibilities. They were sponsors, went to prisons and rehabs to chair meetings, District and Intergroup, Area Assembly, etc. These people were involved in the Big Book Comes Alive annual event, the Old Timer's Picnic, and the anniversary celebrations. And, the 5th Tradition tells me that this is what we do-it's our primary purpose.

I like to think of the 5th Tradition as the Alcoholics Anonymous Mission Statement. In the 1930's and 40's, when AA was born and growing, mission statements were not part of the contemporary language. When corporate culture really boomed in the 1980's, mission statements became quite popular. Each hospital, corporation, and business was either developing one or talking about the one they had. Shoot, I even wrote a mission statement for myself!

A mission statement is defined as "a formal statement of the aims and values of a company, organization, or individual." So, it seems that our "mission" is to become sober and carry the message. The 12th Step also tells us to "carry the message and practice these principles in all our affairs." And this is, again, reinforced by the Responsibility Declaration.

The 12th Step, the 5th Tradition, and The Responsibility Declaration, serve as three reminders of what we need to do to fulfill our primary purpose as a group, and our sobriety as individuals. I particularly like The Responsibility Declaration which was written by Al S. for the 1965 International Convention held in

Toronto that year. The theme of the convention was "I am responsible-when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

We have a responsibility to get out there and carry the message, not just for the sobriety of others, but for our own sobriety as well. As alcoholics, we have a unique ability to talk about our journeys-what it was like, what happened, and what it's like now. Selling a program of sobriety, without actually having lived the journey, falls hollow on a suffering alcoholic's ears. But sharing our unique experiences in our journey to sobriety, is full of similarities, shared perils, and accomplishments. There might even be laughter and there may also be tears.

When I finally entered the rooms of AA as a still suffering alcoholic, I had tried therapy, self-help books, other support groups, meditation, and yoga. You name it, I had tried it. It was only when I stopped messing around and came to the source for sobriety, the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, that I was able to admit I had a problem and began to seek real help from others just like me.

Once I got sober, though, I was not allowed to rest on my laurels. I was encouraged, by my sponsor, to get involved in activities and service positions. And, in so doing, I did carry the message. When we carry the message, it doesn't just help the still suffering alcoholic. It also helps us individually and keeps GROWN our groups strong. That's a win/win in my book.

Jill Z., Happy Hour Group

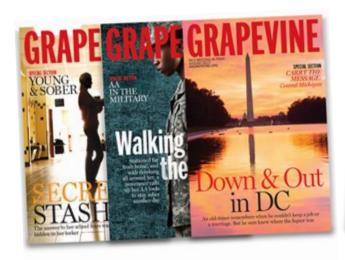
http://www.centralalAA.org/unity/the-twelve-traditions/

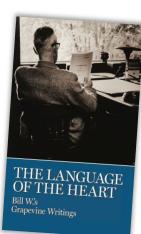
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HTTP://WWW.AAAREA1.ORG/
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The A.A. Grapevine Our meeting in print - now available online and by app at www.aagrapevine.org. Its sister publication, La Vina, a bi-monthly Spanish language publication is currently available in print only, but you can subscribe and learn more here: http://www.aagrapevine.org/espanol

The A.A. Grapevine also publishes many of our favorite books such as *The Language of the Heart, Emotional Sobriety* and *Spiritual Awakenings*. These are available for purchase at many groups and at Central Office.

## April Birthdays

## **PDG-Prattville Downtown Group**

Craig H. 04/03/2016 3 yrs **Total 3 yrs** 

## **Strange Camels Group**

Allison J. 04/08/2016 3 yrs **Total 3 yrs** 

## **Fellowship Group**

	Total	78 yrs
Monica A.	04/18/2018	1 yr
Janice A.	04/15/2018	1 yr
Rachael T.	04/01/2018	1 yr
Will J.	04/21/2016	3 yrs
Tracy A.	04/26/2015	4 yrs
Wade P.	04/10/2012	7 yrs
Raymond G.	04/08/2008	11 yrs
Erin W.	04/23/2007	12 yrs
Irene K.	04/24/1981	38 yrs

APRIL 84 yrs

#### **CELEBRATING AN A.A. BIRTHDAY?**

AT YOUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING ASK YOUR G.S.R. OR GROUP SECRETARY TO SEND IN MEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO THE POST.

Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

## ¿QUÉ ES A.A.?



Alcohólicos Anónimos es una comunidad internacional de hombres y mujeres que ha tenido un problema con la bebida. Es no profesional, automantenida, multiracial, no política y disponible en casi todo el mundo. No hay requisitos referentes a edad ni nivel de educación. Puede hacerse miembro cualquier persona que desee hacer algo para

solucionar su problema con la bebida.

Desde su publicación en 1939, este texto básico ha ayudado a millones de hombres y mujeres a recuperarse del alcoholismo.

Actualmente disponible en la Tercera Edición aprobada por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales, el Libro Grande contiene las historias de los cofundadores, y de muchos miembros de diversa procedencia que han encontrado la recuperación en la Comunidad mundial.

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Nuestra oficina Central, localizada en Montgomery, AL, tiene recursos en Español como literatura y folletos.

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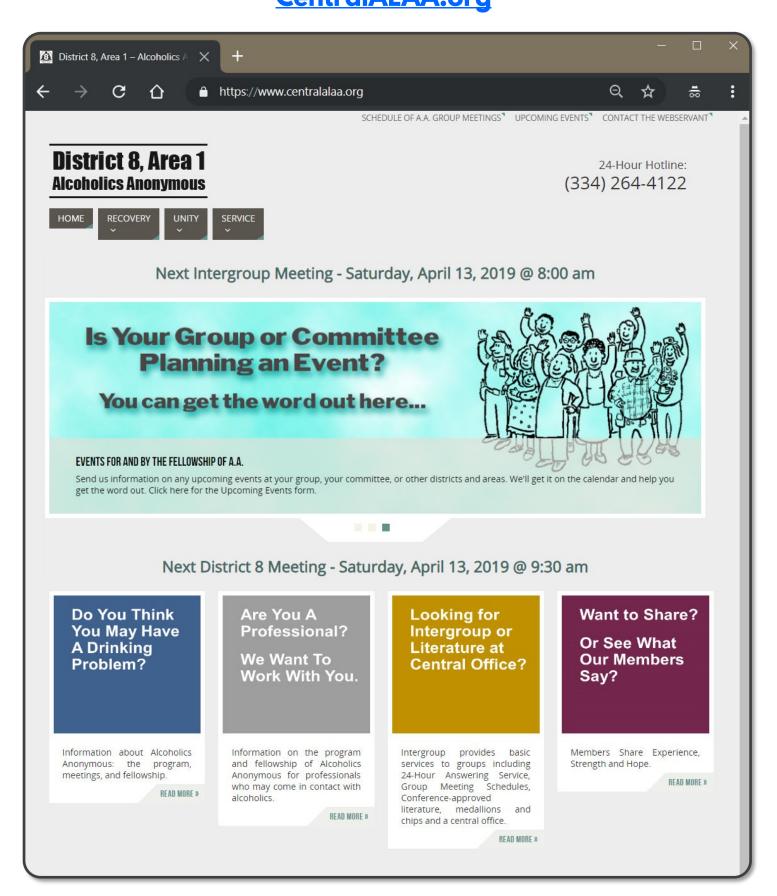
Intergroup@centralalaa.org http://www.AA.org

>> para mas informacion y recursos en Espanol

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce tiene una experiencia o historia para compartir acerca dela recuperación en las reuniones de Alcohólicos Anónimos por favor póngase en contacto conmigo Oni S., a través de Post.Editor@centralalaa.org.



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