

Oxford Grape

Washington, DC – 11th Oxford House World Convention

June 20, 2009

Oxford House and A&E Brooklyn Bridge Walk

In a busy world with lots of noise and mass media it is not often easy to come up with an idea or event that will grab public attention. Of course there are some things that few would think worthy of public attention – eating goldfish, for example. However, in the last few years those in



recovery from alcoholism and/or drug addiction have taken the time to get the public focus on the extent of the problem – a lot of drunks and druggies – but more importantly – the solution! Recovery is the name of the game and each year millions of drunks and druggies are getting clean and sober and staying that way. It is called recovery and anything we can do to share that fact with the public is good news.

This year Oxford House will be participating in the Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge along with other A&E Network participants. Last year Gino and Joe – pictured above participated as representatives of long-term recovery from Washington and Hawaii. Look for more information at the website and expect last minute arrangements during the convention September 3rd - 6th at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill.

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Oxford House and Healthcare Reform

The Obama Administration has set the goal high and made the course clear – there will be health care reform this Congress. The health care system has become quite complex and inefficient. One benchmark for measuring the changes and inefficiencies is to compare where we are today, how we got where we are and the differences between how things were at the end of WWII and how things are today.

A large part of any change will be how we as a country deal with behavioral health problems – such as addiction. See article by Paul Molloy on next page.

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Just Days to Go for Discount Registration for Convention

“A penny here, a penny there, all adds up to real money.” smart folks from Ben Franklin to Suze Orman rightly observe. This year acting right away can save 20% of registration costs for the 11th Annual Oxford House World Convention scheduled for DC Sept. 3–6 at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill. The saving if registration begins by July 15, 2009 is big – residents and alumni save \$55 – \$220 instead of \$275. Counselors, state officials, and others save \$75 – \$325 instead of \$400. Now is the time to act whether motivated to save money by old-timer Ben Franklin or new age TV guru Suze Orman!

Individuals, houses, chapters and state associations should act today. Go to the website and contact Mollie Brown with any questions or make arrangements to lock in the discount.

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This Year's Convention Theme – “Together We Can”

Did we steal the theme? Of course – if it is good enough for President Obama, it is good enough for us. In both cases the theme carries with it a common sense meaning – by working together men and women who want to solve problems can usually do so. As those in recovery know, the first step of defining what the problem is can be the difficult one. Sometimes we deny the problem – hoping it will go away – and sometimes we simply cannot fully understand the problem or, even if we understand the problem experience seems to indicate that very little can be done to solve it.

This weakness in problem identification arises both within groups and on an individual basis. We are stuck by the devil we know and find it difficult to sort out problem solving techniques in a systematic way. When groups such as Oxford House – as a whole – take an honest look at a problem and compare perspectives and analysis they are more likely to understand the sorts of changes or practices that can be employed to effectively tackle big social problems.

This will be the 11th year that residents and alumni of Oxford House will gather in a three-day national convention to compare notes and to undertake ways to solve the age old problem of addiction to alcohol and/or illicit drugs. It can help produce a big break through because we know Oxford House works to stop recycling.

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Hundred-Year Awards FY 2008

The Directors of Oxford House, Inc. established the "Hundred-Year Awards" in 2000 to recognize houses or chapters that contribute \$50 a month or more to help fund Oxford House World Services. The following houses and chapters, listed by state, received the award from board Chairperson Jerry Conlon last year. There is still time to get your house eligible for this year. Contributions received through August 15th will count.

Colorado

Oxford House – Aurora

Hawaii

Oxford House-Alaume
Oxford House- Kaihi Valley
Oxford House-Pahee
Oxford House-Puu Aina
Oxford House-Ulupaina EW

Kansas

Oxford House-Chautauqua
Oxford House-Lane
Oxford House-Lawrence One
Oxford House-North Ash
Oxford House-Washburn

Kentucky

Oxford House-Greenup St

Maryland

Oxford House-Silver Spring
Oxford House-Stoneham Court
Oxford House-Weeping Willow

North Carolina

Oxford House-Brentwood
Oxford House-Carolina
Oxford House-Carrboro
Oxford House-Church Street
Oxford House-Covil
Oxford House-Dellwood
Oxford House-Driver
Oxford House-Dunn
Oxford House-Evans
Oxford House-Firelight
Oxford House-Fleming
Oxford House-Harvard
Oxford House-Homestead
Oxford House-Irving Park
Oxford House-Keaton
Oxford House-Kings Mill Road
Oxford House-Lyndhurst
Oxford House-Durham
Oxford House-Morehead
Oxford House-Morreene Road
Oxford House-Mulberry
Oxford House-North Hills
Oxford House-North Raleigh
Oxford House-Holly Drive
Oxford House-Repon
Oxford House-Smith Creek
Oxford House-Smithfield
Oxford House-Cedar Hills
Oxford House-Walker
Oxford House-Willow
Oxford House-Wimbleton

Oxford House-Wyoming

Nebraska

Oxford House-Cook

New Hampshire

Oxford House-Manchester

New Jersey

Oxford House-Hazelwood

Oklahoma

Oxford House-Meridian II

Tennessee

Oxford House-Hilson

Texas

Oxford House-Beacon Hill
Oxford House-Lugary
Oxford House-Stirrup

Virginia

Oxford House-Chamberlayne
Oxford House-Clay Street
Oxford House-North Loudon
Oxford House-Old Dominion
Oxford House-Pollard Park
Oxford House-Williamsburg

Washington

Oxford House-Ainsworth
Oxford House-Akona
Oxford House-Anoka
Oxford House-Apple Valley
Oxford House-Athena
Oxford House-Atlantis
Oxford House-Atomic City
Oxford House-Bachelor Creek
Oxford House-Bethel Street
Oxford House-Bill Wyz
Oxford House-Brockman
Oxford House-Burien
Oxford House-Cascade
Oxford House-Catin
Oxford House- Celeste Court
Oxford House- Chalet II
Oxford House- Crown Hill
Oxford House- Eagle Harbor
Oxford House- East Side
Oxford House- Fern Hill
Oxford House- Franklin
Oxford House- Grammer
Oxford House- Heaven's Park
Oxford House- Hillyard
Oxford House- Historic Flynn
Oxford House- Keewaydin
Oxford House- Kennewick
Oxford House- Lacey Acres
Oxford House- Lake City
Oxford House- Lake Forest Park
Oxford House- Laurelwood
Oxford House- Lavender Hill
Oxford House- Lavina
Oxford House- Levy
Oxford House- Liberty Bay
Oxford House- Longview
Oxford House- Madrona
Oxford House- Maple Leaf
Oxford House- Match
Oxford House- Matthews Beach
Oxford House- May Woods
Oxford House - Myrna B.
Oxford House- Oaktree
Oxford House- Olympic View
Oxford House- Padden Parkway
Oxford House- Peabody
Oxford House- Phil Tarlton

Oxford House- Pinecrest II
Oxford House- Post
Oxford House- Puyallup
Oxford House- Ridge Crest
Oxford House- Rosemere
Oxford House- Simmons
Oxford House- South Bay Trails
Oxford House- Summitview
Oxford House- Tieton
Oxford House- Tri-Cities
Oxford House- Upland
Oxford House- Viewpoint
Oxford House- Vista
Oxford House- Yakima

Chapters

Kansas - Chapter Four
Kansas - Heartland Chapter
Maryland - Prince Georges Chapter 2
Missouri - Chapter 4
Missouri - Chapter 8
Missouri - Chapter VI
Pennsylvania –
Lehigh Valley Chapter II
Texas - Chapter 6 - Austin
Texas - Chapter 2 - Dallas
Washington - Chapter XIII

In addition to chapter and house contributions, the Oxford House State Association of Oregon has made regular monthly contributions of \$1,500 – earmarked to repay a loan of \$75,000 for attorney's fees arising from a case involving landlord/tenant rights of a person expelled from an Oxford House. Eventually, the state changed the law to enable continuation of Oxford Houses in the State of Oregon.

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What Contributions Mean to Oxford House

Voluntary contributions by houses and chapters permit Oxford House World Services to protect the legal rights of individual houses, to provide technical assistance to houses, chapters and state associations, and to hold the network of houses together. For example, in the last six months legal expenses were incurred defending zoning questions in North Carolina, Colorado, Nevada, Hawaii and Virginia, a slip and fall case in New Jersey and an unpaid landlord in Delaware. At the same time new houses were started for the first time in Arkansas and Nevada. The only source of funds to carry this out was voluntary contributions from houses, chapters and state associations.



Paul Molloy and William White had a major article about Oxford House published in the April 2009 issue of Counselor – The Magazine for Addiction Professionals. A copy of the article can be downloaded: www.oxfordhouse.org by clicking on “About Us/Resources” and then click on the hyperlink “Counselor Magazine Article”.



William White – the well know author of *Slaying the Dragon*, the comprehensive history of addiction and treatment in America – praises Oxford House and its success in showing that relapse does not have to be the norm for those in recovery from alcoholism and/or drug addiction.

The article begins: “Addiction professionals are painfully aware that addiction treatment is all too often followed by relapse, re-addiction and readmission to treatment. Of those individuals currently entering addiction treatment in the United States, 52 percent already have one or more prior admissions to specialty-sector addiction treatment, and 20 percent have three or more prior admissions (for those with opiates as a primary dependency, the figures are 74 percent and 42 percent respectively; OAS, 2007).

“Of those discharged from addiction treatment, more than half will resume alcohol and/or drug use in the following 12 months, and 50 percent will be readmitted to addiction treatment within two to five years (For an extensive review of this data, see White, 2008). When clients, family members, referral sources, funding authorities and members of the larger community ask for an explanation of this cycle, they are often told that this pattern marks the very essence of a chronic, relapsing disorder. “Relapse is part of the disease” is prominently featured in the new litany of addiction treatment.

“But a growing number of addiction professionals and recovery advocates are asking whether relapse is an inherent quality of addiction or the product of a design flaw in how addiction is treated and managed, or more specifically, treated and not managed. It has been suggested that relapse rates might decline precipitously if individuals who initiate recovery within the context of addiction treatment were afforded access to sustained monitoring, recovery support services and a post-treatment environment that is supportive of recovery maintenance.

“For more than three decades, men and women seeking recovery have been involved in a living experiment that has tested this very proposition. This article will describe how Oxford Houses function as recovery support institutions, and review what scientific evaluations have concluded about the relapse and long-term recovery outcomes of Oxford House residents.”

Response to the entire article from professionals in the alcoholism/drug addiction field has been widespread. The magazine which calls itself “The Magazine for Addiction Professionals” is read by thousands of counselors – all of whom are pleased to learn that Oxford House can become the catalyst for making recovery without relapse the norm rather than the exception.

Download the complete article and pass it on to everyone who wants to improve treatment outcome for alcoholics and/or drug addicts who want to make their path to recovery a success.

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Oxford House and Recovery Month

September is national Recovery Month and this year’s Oxford House convention will begin the national celebrations of recovery at its four –day national convention in the Nation’s Capitol September 3rd through 6th. It is anticipated that this year’s convention will be the largest. Make sure to register at the website and make reservations at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill.

The 11th Annual Convention will invite leaders in the Obama Administration as they put together an effective outreach to alcoholics and drug addicts to get the treatment they need to end the enslavement of addiction. Clearly Oxford House can help the nation reduce costs associated with alcoholism and drug addiction recovery with its self-help prevention of relapse.

From January New Republic Magazine

The January 16, 2009 of the New Republic Magazine printed a number of suggests to the incoming Obama Administration about dealing with health care and addiction problems. Among the suggestions:

“Stanford drug policy expert Keith Humphreys recommends doubling the number of Oxford Houses for ex-offenders. In these recovery-house arrangements, a group of residents receive a loan for the security deposit and first month's rent. Every resident must work, pay some of the rent, obey house rules, and stay clean and sober. The house pays back the loan for the use of others who want to start a house. A randomized trial found that after two years, Oxford House residents achieved twice the rate of abstinence and one-third the incarceration rate of peers assigned to outpatient treatment or to self-help groups.”

In addition to the World Convention in Washington, DC this September, all Oxford Houses will be celebrating recovery month by holding open houses to acquaint neighbors and friends of the possibilities for significantly improving alcoholism and drug addiction treatment outcomes. Together we can – the theme of the World Convention – will explore ways and means for all community organizations to work together to greatly increase the number of Oxford Houses available to help recovering individuals to stay clean and sober without relapse.

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For the first time this year the Oxford House World Convention provides CEU's to satisfy professional standards ...

11th Annual Oxford House World Convention

September 3-6, 2009

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill –
Washington D.C.

Register today at www.oxfordhouse.org

Earn Over 12 Continuing Education Credits

The Convention will include keynote speakers, daily plenary sessions and 20 breakout seminars. September 3rd, will feature a six hour Pre-Convention Women's conference.



Admiral Molloy, Jerry Conlon and his wife and Jane Molloy at the New Orleans Convention last fall.

Together We Can is the 2009 Convention Theme that will emphasize how expansion can be improved by working with lots of community organizations.