

WEST PASCO/TARPON SPRINGS

AA HOTLINE 727-847-0777

ALANON HOTLINE 352-697-0497

Have you seen the 0777news?



August 2013

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 8

UNFORGIVEN — Sweeping aside fear and resentments are vital in Step Eight

Any alcoholic working the program can tell you that resentments and guilt can lead us right back to the drink. Learning to give ourselves over to God and clear away the wreckage from our past is the solution. The problem, we learn, is not alcohol; it is us.

Over the years, I have completed a number of Fourth Step inventories and each time one name appeared repeatedly, causing flare-ups of anger and resentment, propelling me back to a time when I felt insecure and alone.

Then I noticed a recurring pattern at the speaker meetings I was attending. Each AA member's story seemed to have the primary message of forgiveness.

One member spoke about making amends to her father who did awful things to her. Another exhibited the same forgiveness to a parent who did not treat her the way a parent should. Most recently, I listened to a man who made amends to his entire church, standing before them all and apologizing for his judgment and condemnation of their faith.

Every time I heard this message, my stepfather's face appeared and my heart felt heavy. For the first time in almost 20

years, I started feeling guilty for my actions, rather than anger at his actions toward me and my mother. In my heart I felt the need to make this right.

I had no idea where he was, but figured the internet was a good place to start looking. I searched for his name and his social network page appeared immediately. It was set to private but I could see from his posts that he was somewhat the same, still joking around, a strong love of music, but he was also suffering from cancer.

Fear of rejection crept in, fear of being laughed at, fear of everything else my mind wanted to make up...I could no longer put this off and, after talking to my husband and sponsor about it, I emailed him. I explained briefly about my addiction and the recovery process in the Steps, apologizing for my actions during the years he was married to my mother. I wished him and his family well. I did not, hard as it was, cross from my side of the street over to his and point out any of his actions. I also had no expectations about what would happen.

I received a reply email from him an hour later and practically 20 years of wreckage fell away instantly. Not only did he appreciate me contacting

him but he made an amends for his actions as a father and husband to my mother. He didn't make any excuses, other than simply not being prepared or experienced enough. We have since started rebuilding our friendship.

My step father has three different types of cancer and type II diabetes. He is undergoing intensive radiation and chemotherapy treatment at Johns Hopkins. One of the types of cancer is eerily similar to the same cancer my mother suffered from. He has a teenage daughter, who is very similar to me when I was her age, a loving wife and step children. He also has a love for God, which I wasn't aware of. His life today is rich with family and friends. Today, I can be happy for him.

I have experienced the promises of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and I have seen this amends process work in others the same way it worked for me. I couldn't really understand the joy others spoke of when they told stories of amends toward people who had harmed them. I used to think it was backwards. Amends to those who harmed us? Over

The sunlight of the spirit is warm, bright and encompasses all the promises we work so hard for. Yet we rarely stand in it for long periods of time. We should ask ourselves why. Then we should take action.

Barbara H.

Rocky Face, Georgia

Reprinted from the Grapevine August 2011

"EACH MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS BUT A SMALL PART OF A GREAT WHOLE. AA MUST CONTINUE TO LIVE OR MOST OF US WILL SURELY DIE. HENCE OUR COMMON WELFARE COMES FIRST. BUT INDIVIDUAL WELFARE FOLLOWS CLOSE AFTERWARDS."

Inside this issue:

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STEP EIGHT

Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description is a moving and fascinating adventure. Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree he has already done this when taking a moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to re-

TRADITION EIGHT

Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world's best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alco-

double his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully festering, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.

The moment we ponder a twisted or broken relationship with another person, our emotions go on the defensive. To escape looking at the wrongs we have done another, we resentfully focus on the wrong he has done us. This is especially true if he has, in fact, behaved badly at all. Triumphantly we seize upon his misbehavior as the perfect excuse for minimizing or forgetting our own. **Let's remember that alcoholics are not the only ones bedeviled by sick emotions.** These were some of the ways in which fear conspired with pride to hinder our making a list of all the people we had harmed.

This attitude, of course, is the end re-

holic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromises him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.'s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.

Despite this certainty, it is nevertheless true that few subjects have been the cause of more contention within our Fellowship than professionalism.

Neither could A.A. itself function without full-time workers. At the Foundation and intergroup offices, we couldn't employ non-alcoholics as secretaries; we had to have people who knew the A.A. pitch. But the minute we hired them, the ultraconservative and fearful ones shrilled, "Professionalism!" At one period, the

sult of purposeful forgetting. It is an attitude which can only be changed by a deep and honest search of our motives and actions. Though in some cases we cannot make restitution at all, and in some cases action ought to be deferred, we should nevertheless make an accurate and really exhaustive survey of our past life as it has affected other people. Very deep sometimes quite forgotten, damaging emotional conflicts persist below the level of consciousness. At the time of these occurrences, they may have actually given our emotions violent twists which have since discolored our personalities and altered our lives for the worse.

Thoroughness, we have found, will pay—and pay handsomely.

(can be read in its entirety on pages 77-82 of the Twelve Steps and Twelve

status of these faithful servants was almost unbearable. They weren't asked to speak at A.A. meetings because they were "making money out of A.A." At times they were actually shunned by fellow members.

Perhaps the fear will always lurk in every A.A. heart that one day our name will be exploited by somebody for real cash. Even the suggestion of such a thing never fails to whip up a hurricane, and we have discovered that hurricanes have a way of mauling with equal severity both the just and the unjust.

"Made a List of All Persons We Had Harmed and Became Willing To Make Amends To Them All."

"Alcoholics Anonymous Should Remain Forever Non-Professional, But Our Service Centers May Employ Special Workers."

Twelve Steps and
Twelve Traditions
Alcoholics Anonymous

ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

TROPICAL ATTITUDES

BILLY P. 6
 CHRISTINA 8
 RON M. 24

A WAY

TERRY J. 27
 PETER K. 8

KIS WOMEN'S

KAY H. 14
 CAROL B. 36
 BARBARA S. 41

3 & 11

Dennis B. (July) 31
 Larry G. 28

NEW HOPE BEGINNERS

BEVERLY S. 39
 DIANE D. 17

PASCO BIG BOOK

STEVE L. 2
 TINA J. 4
 RICHIE L. 9
 CHARLIE M. 12
 THERESA M. 16
 DOUG E. 37

TWO OR MORE

MIKE B. 1

HAPPY JOYOUS FREE

SAM F. 26

SERENITY GROUP

NORRIS R. 26

WHY IT WORKS

Phil R. 5
 Norma Jean 1
 Jose P. 1

LIVING SOBER STUDY

MAUREEN G. 4

HOOT N HOLLER

RYAN W. 5
 KEVIN M. 5
 JUSTIN V. 6
 CHRIS B. 9
 JAMES D. 9
 DONNY B. 12

LIFE GOES ON

ERIC T. 16
 NANCY B. 22
 JOHN D. 23
 DON G. 37

NPR KISS GROUP

CRAIG T. 5
 PAULETTE R. 5
 HELEN F. 16
 EDDIE M. 18
 DICK B. 18

YOUNG SOBRIETY

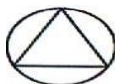
GINA D. 22



JOIN THE INTERGROUP BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your years of recovery
 By giving a little something back!

You get:



BIRTHDAY CLUB
 MEMBER PIN
 MR. _____
 MS. _____



*For A Contribution of \$3.65 or
 More in Gratitude of Sobriety.*

W. PASCO AA
 7121 US 19 - NPR, FL 34652

(727) 847-0777

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL: _____

HOME GROUP: _____

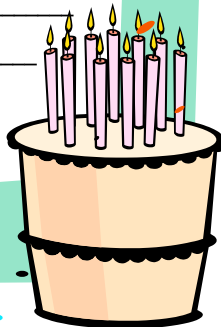
SOBRIETY DATE: _____

PHONE: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Deadline for news submissions for
 0777news printing is the 20th of
 month prior to sobriety month.

Suggested donation \$3.65 or more



2013 BIRTHDAY CLUB CELEBRANTS

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>HOME GROUP</u> | <u>SOBRIETY DATE</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| DOUG G. | HOW IMPORTANT IS IT | JAN. 29, 1988 |
| TOM C. | MIRACLE GROUP | OCT.16, 1999 |
| DOTTIE I. | HOW IMPORTANT IS IT | MAY 26, 1988 |
| DAN H. | | MAY 24, 2005 |
| MARCY I. | TROPICAL ATTITUDES | OCT. 26, 1983 |
| MARGUERITE L. | AMAZING GRACE | MAY 28, 2013 |
| BARBARA R. | 4TH DIMENSION | JUN 29, 1984 |

Become a card carrying member

Please Support Your

Central Office

Sunday Hotline Office Staff for:

2 shifts daily Mon.-Fri.

10 AM - 1:30 PM

Or

1:30 PM- 5 PM 1 shift Sat.

10 AM - 1 PM

Contact Central Office for
 more information.

727-847-0777

Activity at Central Office

Nightline

calls.....62

Office

calls.....75

Walk-

ins.....67

COME SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

New meeting:

Experience, Strength and Hope noon OD meeting at central office meeting room, 7119 U. S. Hwy. 19, NPR.

UNITY MEETING

TROPICAL ATTITUDES Group will be hosting the Unity meeting this month (see pg. 5 events calendar).

If your group would like to host the Unity meeting, please call the chair coordinator, Vinny at 727-534-5646.

"I HAVE LEARNED THAT FAITH MEANS TRUSTING IN ADVANCE WHAT WILL ONLY MAKE SENSE IN REVERSE." - PHILIP YANCEY

You ever notice in your life how sometimes things just don't quite make sense? Then maybe a week, a month, or even years later you get this epiphany; like a light bulb going off in your head. "Oh, now I get it, now it all makes sense." It's as if I was finally given the lesson plan for whatever the topic is or was. A friend of mine in the rooms always says "I live my life forward, but I understand it backwards." This was one of the

most profound statements for me in early sobriety because it rang so true.

There's been many times God has placed people in my life that are going through something that I myself went through. In retrospect, it makes perfect sense to me that the reason I had gone through it was so that I could help that person and show them the way out. Even more importantly to let them know they are not alone. It talks about this in the promises, "we will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it." Not regret the past? What!? Are you kidding me? I wanted to slam the door not just shut it when I first got here. But thank God you people taught me it would be my greatest asset, and once again you were telling the truth. So for me, life is one big classroom and God is my professor; I just never seem to know what classes I'm signed up for until the lesson has been revealed. That being said I'm in the midst of one of God's Lessons right now.I'm not sure where he's taking me on this one but I know if I have faith he won't steer me wrong. One of my sisters raised me and now she has cancer and has been in the hospital for the last month. Her little organs are in the failing process and she is fighting for her life on the other side of the country. She has four beautiful sons that are completely caught up in their own addiction and are nowhere to be found unless they stop by

Donation Addresses

Please make donation checks payable to: West Pasco Inter-group.

West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup

TREASURER

7121 US 19

New Port Richey, FL 34652

District 15 General

Service

TREASURER

P.O. Box 692

Elfers, FL 34680-0692

Area 15 General Service

Area 15 Treasurer

PO Box 206

Bradenton, FL 34206

AA General Service

Office

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, New York 10163

the hospital to see her but it isn't to check in and spend time with her. It's a quick visit for money to fuel their disease. I have two other sisters that live 15 minutes away from my sister that has cancer. The two other sisters haven't even spoken to the sister with cancer in at least 15 years. I'm planning to take a trip out there but have no idea where to begin or how to be useful. My fears are overwhelming at times: the fear of seeing her so frail and the fear of my anger towards the rest of the family.

I know God has a plan

REPRESENTED AT INTER-GROUP

June 2013

4TH DIMENSION

NPR K.I.S.S.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

TROPICAL ATTITUDES

SUNDAY MORNING

GRATITUDE

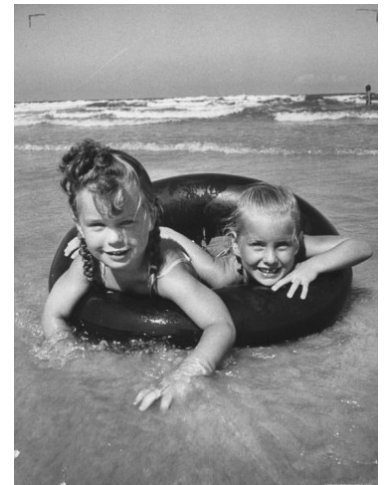
CAME TO BELIEVE

AMAZING GRACE

but I ask that you will pray. Pray for my family, not just my sister but all of us. Her being sick may be the one thing that brings sanity back into our lives and allows forgiveness to begin.

So today when I am going through something that I just don't understand, I remind myself that one day God will enlighten me on what it's all about; and for me it's usually not until that lesson has been learned or I've relinquished control.

Taken from the Watershed newsletter July 2013



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Non AA Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the Newsletter Committee or General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses/phone numbers provided.

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—

August 3: Hernando Unity Meeting 7:30-9 pm, Nativity Lu-Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

August 3: Special Needs Committee, 12:00 pm, 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

August 6: Corrections & Public Info/-CPC Committees both meet at Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. 6:30 pm. Members are needed.

August 10: Hernando Unity Meeting Nativity Lutheran Church 6363 Commercial Way, doors open at 6:30, 2 speakers from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Snacks provided. Questions: 352-683-4597

August 13: Treatment Committee meeting 6:30 pm 7119 U. S. Hwy. 19, New Port Richey.

August 14: WPTSAA Intergroup meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. **Send a representative of your group.**

August 17: Unity Meeting, 7 PM Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd. NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Host: How Important Is It Group. Two speakers, fellowship, snacks. Doors open at 6:30.

August 20: District 15 Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 U. S. 19 NPR. Come & learn. Each group should be represented. All AAs welcome.

August 29: Pasco Big Book monthly Eating Meeting at 7 pm, followed by member anniversaries speakers meeting at 8 pm. Edna Ave. Club, 7137 Edna Ave., Hudson. "Bring a dish if you can."

August 31: Archives Committee meeting, 12:00 pm 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

Elsewhere Around the Globe

Aug. 16-18, 2013: 2013 Southeast "Additional" Regional Forum Charleston Marriott Town Center 200 Lee Street E, Charleston, WV 25401-1508. No Registration Fee. Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, General Service Board and staff and directors from the General Service Office. Forums offer a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message.



Aug. 23-25, 2013: "Women United in the Solution" 18th annual Southeast Regional Woman to Woman Seminar, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA 23666 www.southeastwomentowomen.org or Marybeth D. 804-822-6377 (eves)

Sep. 5-8, 2013 : Seniors in Sobriety 8th International conference, San Diego, CA, more info sandiegosis2013@gmail.com or 855-713-2300.

Sept. 6-8, 2013: Sisters by the Sea, Waldorf Astoria, Naples, 475 Seagate Drive, Speaker Meetings, Open Discussion Meeting, Workshops, Ask It Basket, featuring Polly P. from Jacksonville, FL. Info: Peggy 239-269-7654.

The Newsletter Committee is soliciting info about any AA Activities; group events, dances, picnics etc.

Submit info by 20th of the month prior to publication to:

0777news@gmail.com or dantico18@gmail.com

Subject: Newsletter

Or deliver or mail to: Attn: Newsletter Editor

West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup

7121 US 19, New Port Richey, FL 34652

If you find mistakes in this newsletter, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Please keep in mind the seventh tradition: Every A. A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions.

That means Central Office is supported by your group contributions. Thanks for your support!

| <u>GROUP DONATIONS</u> | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 24 Hour Group | | 5.00 | 10.00 | | | | | \$15.00 |
| 1001 Reasons | | | 20.00 | | | | 20.00 | \$40.00 |
| 3 & 11 Group | 20.00 | | 30.00 | 30.00 | 20.00 | | 10.00 | \$110.00 |
| 4th Dimension | | | | 200.00 | | | | \$200.00 |
| 7 & Up Group | 100.00 | | | | 130.00 | | | \$230.00 |
| A Club Saturday AM Big Book | | | | 50.00 | | | 40.00 | \$90.00 |
| A Club Sunday AM Gratitude | 100.00 | | | | | | 100.00 | \$200.00 |
| Amazing Grace | | | 141.31 | | | | | \$141.31 |
| Anonymous | | 80.00 | | | 6.00 | | 6.15 | \$92.15 |
| As Bill Saw It | | 25.00 | | | | | | \$25.00 |
| Birthday Club | | | | 38.00 | 29.00 | 53.65 | 29.00 | \$149.65 |
| Black Book | 13.00 | | | | | | | \$13.00 |
| Brown Baggers | | 20.00 | | | | | | \$20.00 |
| Came to Believe | | | | 40.00 | | | | \$40.00 |
| Central Office Meetings | 38.85 | 7.00 | | | | | | \$45.85 |
| Committee Meetings | | | | 10.00 | | | | \$10.00 |
| Daily Reflection | 20.00 | 20.00 | 28.00 | 10.00 | 32.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | \$170.00 |
| Discover the Truth | | | | | 20.00 | 30.00 | 20.00 | \$70.00 |
| District 15 | 474.00 | | | | | | | \$474.00 |
| Each Day a New Beginning | | | | 30.00 | | | | \$30.00 |
| Easier Softer Way | | | | | 50.00 | | | \$50.00 |
| Experience Strength and Hope | | | | | | | 22.00 | \$22.00 |
| Friday 12X12 | 30.00 | 16.00 | 30.00 | | 10.00 | 20.00 | | \$106.00 |
| Happier Hour | | | 200.00 | | | | | \$200.00 |
| How Important Is It | 180.00 | | | | | | | \$180.00 |
| Intergroup AA Meeting | 27.00 | 16.00 | 18.00 | 21.00 | 11.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | \$121.00 |
| KIS Women's Group | | 30.00 | | | | 50.00 | | \$80.00 |
| Let's Get Better Together | | | 104.00 | | | | | \$104.00 |
| Living Sober Group | 20.00 | | | | | 20.00 | | \$40.00 |
| Meeting Room 12 & 12 | | | | 10.00 | 10.00 | | 30.00 | \$50.00 |
| Meeting Room Big Book | | | 5.00 | 7.00 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | \$92.00 |
| MISC. | | 11.50 | | | | 10.00 | | \$21.50 |
| New Beginnings | | | 8.00 | | | | | \$8.00 |
| New Hope Beginners | 35.00 | | | 30.00 | | | | \$65.00 |
| New Life Group | | | 20.00 | | | | | \$20.00 |
| Noon High | 48.32 | | | | | | | \$48.32 |
| NPR KISS Group | 10.00 | | 10.00 | | | 40.00 | | \$60.00 |
| Primary Purpose | 30.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | \$210.00 |
| Pasco Big Book | 120.00 | | | | | | | \$120.00 |
| Serenity Group | | 75.00 | | | | 75.00 | | \$150.00 |
| Sober Sisters | | | | | 31.00 | 20.00 | 30.00 | \$81.00 |
| Sober Not Dead | | 62.25 | | | | | | \$62.25 |
| Tropical Attitudes | 60.00 | | 60.00 | 60.00 | | | 60.00 | \$240.00 |
| Tuesday's Children | 52.00 | 28.00 | 10.00 | 51.00 | 45.00 | 21.00 | 40.00 | \$247.00 |
| Two or More | 61.00 | 55.00 | 53.00 | 44.00 | 74.00 | 61.00 | | \$348.00 |
| Unity Meeting | 22.50 | 28.00 | | | | | | \$50.50 |
| Why It Works | | 50.00 | | | | 35.00 | | \$85.00 |
| Wonderful Step Group | | | 110.00 | | | | | \$110.00 |
| Young Sobriety | 20.00 | 22.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 17.25 | 28.00 | 7.00 | \$154.25 |
| TOTAL: | \$1,481.67 | \$570.75 | \$907.31 | \$701.00 | \$545.25 | 547.65 | 538.15 | \$5,291.78 |

ONLY GROUPS WHO CONTRIBUTED ARE LISTED. IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR GROUP LISTED YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THE CUTOFF DATE (20TH) FOR THE MONTH AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.