



# SARA-MANA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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aasrq.org

## The Fellowship We Crave

The Big Book tells us God will show us how to create the fellowship we crave, and he will constantly disclose more to us. What I realize at this stage of my sobriety and length of service is that the fellowship I crave has constantly changed since I came into Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I came to my first meeting, I had about twenty minutes of dry time, since I'd had a drink on the way to the meeting. I was confused and bewildered but impressed at the things taking place around me. It was a new experience for me to find a group of people who were willing to accept me for what I was and not for what I could contribute to them. In the beginning, there was nothing I could contribute except to help set up the hall and make the coffee. It was some time before I could share my experience, strength, and hope, but that didn't stop me from soaking up everything I could about the AA program and this new way of life. The things I had always looked for were unfolding before me day by day. The fellowship I craved then was based solely on recovery. I was a taker, having very little or nothing to give in return.

It was after I got a sponsor and, at his direction, a home group, that I started to learn about unity. Many of you will be familiar with this part of the story. I was now ready to get things moving! Several other groups could use my help, so I joined every group that made an invitation to join. I backed every cause that seemed just and was ready to twelfth-step anyone who needed help. But I started to learn about the Traditions and found out that our common welfare came first and our personal recovery depended on AA unity – and these things were ahead of my personal ambitions and desires. I became active in the business affairs of one group, which was now my only home group, and offered my support to the others. I started listening to the Preamble and learning about our singleness of purpose and knew that I was experiencing the spiritual growth we talk about when we're ready to move along in service.

The fellowship I craved, at this point, was based on spiritual growth and service work guided by the Traditions for the good of AA.

It was now that I began to see AA as a whole and understand how all three sides of our triangle (Recovery, Unity, Service) made up the whole picture. I was more aware of our singleness of purpose and the problems that developed when our message was diluted as people came to the meetings and discussed problems other than alcohol and problems belonging to other twelve-step programs.

The fellowship I crave now is the one that was passed on to me based on the basics where the newcomer is met at the door and welcomed into the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, where he is active in a home group with a sponsor for guidance, where recovery is possible through the principles of our Twelve Steps and made to work by the unity insured by the Twelve Traditions and a service structure guided by the Twelve Concepts.

This is a fellowship, undiluted with personal changes, that we can pass along to the alcoholics that have yet to reach our doors.

**Editor's Note:** *Twenty years ago, the following article appeared in the Grapevine under the byline, "Dick L., Sarasota." In addition to its thoughtful, timeless message, District 4 Chairman Tom M. provides context for its inclusion this month:*

*Dick LaGasse was instrumental in shaping the District 4 structure as it stands today as well as obtaining tax exempt status for this District. Dick was also past delegate for District 4, Panel 41. The man that Dick was as well as the article he wrote for the Grapevine is why I am in service today and hope to continue in for as long as possible. Dick, I believe, has been an example of service to many. We lost Dick one year ago this October, and he has been deeply missed.*

## “Warrior Women” Invited to New Meeting

It was only with the help of a Power greater than myself that I began to remove doubt and fear to discover my inner "Warrior." A Warrior Woman connects with the hope, strength, courage and unconditional love found deep within. She is the beauty waiting to be seen and the music longing to be heard, but she can never grow and mature unless fully awakened and embraced.

A new Serenity Room meeting at St. George Episcopal Church encourages women to do just that – to awaken, nurture and strengthen the "Warrior" inside. Every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm, the Women Warriors unite to put on their armor of recovery to carry the message and share experiences, strength and hope with one another that they may solve their common problems as they relate to alcoholism. With a Higher Power and each other, we fight and overcome this disease one day at a time. Please join us and share the journey of recovery at 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Serenity Room, 912 63rd Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34207.

We thank our "Serenity Brothers" who saw our strength and courage before we did and who encouraged us to fly instead of jump. All men are welcome to experience the brotherhood at the Serenity Room every Wednesday at 7:30pm and be empowered to conquer life on life's terms. Thank you Tim G. for the opportunity to contribute to the Newsletter. May everyone find inspiration, hope and strength one reading at a time.

## SERENITY ROOM

### THANKSGIVING DAY

#### MEAL

**NOVEMBER 22, 2018**

**ST. GEORGE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

912 63<sup>rd</sup> AVE. W, BRADENTON, FL

11:30AM – 2:00PM

**TURKEYS & ALL THE FIXINGS !!!!!**

**BRING A YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE**

## SERENITY ROOM

### CHRISTMAS DAY

#### MEAL

**DECEMBER 25, 2018**

**ST GEORGE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

912 63<sup>rd</sup> AVE W, BRADENTON, FL

11:30AM – 2:00PM

**TURKEYS, HAM & ALL THE FIXINGS!!!!!!**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE**

## AA New Year Celebration

2019

### *Reflections & Transformations*

"Every day I stand at turning points..."



"To get over drinking will require a transformation of thought and attitude."

**Where:** 12<sup>th</sup> & Beneva

**When:** December 31, 2018

**What:** 6:30 pm: Potluck & Fellowship

7:30 pm: Speaker Jim C, Bradenton

Bring a Potluck dish to share by 5:30 pm

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

## AA Milestones

### November

- 1895 Bill W. is born in E. Dorset, VT.
- 1940 Alcoholic Foundation (precursor to the GSO) publishes the 1st "AA Bulletin."
- 1949 Bill W. suggests AA groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions.
- 1950 Dr. Bob dies.
- 1958 1st International Conference of Young People in AA held at Niagara Falls, NY.
- 1986 Big Book published in paperback.

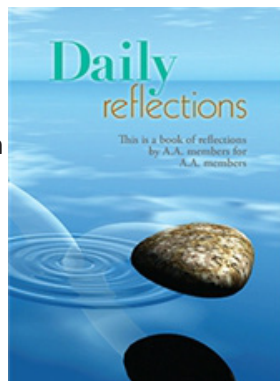
### December

- 1934 Bill W. takes his last drink, has a spiritual experience at Towns Hospital. Bill and Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings with Ebby T.
- 1937 Bill meets with the Rockefeller Foundation to raise money.
- 1938 Bill begins writing the 12 Steps using Oxford Group principles.
- 1945 Rowland H. dies (introduced the Oxford Group message to Ebby T.).
- 1955 "Man on the Bed" painting by Robert M. first appears in Grapevine.
- 1966 Ebby T. dies.

## Central Office Book of the Month

***Daily Reflections* \$10.25**

A book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members. It was first published in 1990 to fulfill a long-felt need within the Fellowship for a collection of reflections that moves through the calendar year—one day at a time. Each page contains a reflection on a quotation from A.A. Conference-approved literature, such as *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *As Bill Sees It* and other books.



# AA Outside the Halls

In a first for AA in this area, an information table was set up at the 2018 Sarasota Pride Festival, celebrating the local LGBTQ community. About 20 people stopped by the booth during the event, and we handed out 10 meeting lists. A half-dozen or so of the visitors were local AA members who chatted for a few, and all were grateful to see our table at this event. There were a few out of town members who picked up meeting lists. A few folks asked questions about how to help their loved ones. There were a few others who discreetly grabbed a card or pamphlet. And one girl had questions concerning her own drinking. Someone else bought a *Living Sober* book.

Tracy Pratt, who was running for Florida House District 71, stopped by also. She is Vice Chair of a non-profit called Project 180, which helps the formerly incarcerated return successfully to the community. She had some questions about AA and took some of the literature. That was an interesting visit to say the least!

-- Dan S.



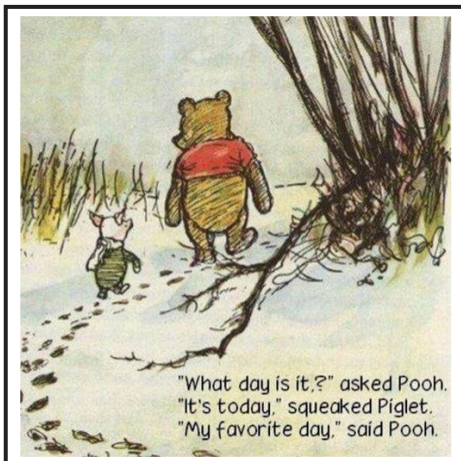
The Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee is pleased to announce that the digital ad is up at the Sarasota International Airport and will run through December 2019. It is located in the baggage claim area with Where and When's available beneath the ad! If you happen to be at the airport, please look for the ad.

-- Laurie - PI/CPC Chair

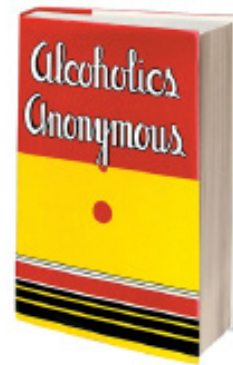
Quote heard recently at a meeting:

"Alcoholics are the only people who try to relieve loneliness by isolating."  
--Bicycle John

You can find the AA mantra, "One day at a time," in many places ...



No Newsletter  
In December



Back  
of the  
Book

Religion & Spirituality

--Edgar C.

Holiday Stress?  
Get to a Meeting!



Online at [www.aasrq.org](http://www.aasrq.org).

In the story "A Drunk Like Me" (page 398, 4th Edition), the writer discusses how he differentiates religion from spirituality.

He wrote, "The big difference to me is that religion is the ritual, and we all differ there, and spirituality is . . . about my personal contact with my personal Higher Power, as I understand Him."

# ANNIVERSARIES

Groups: Please email birthdays to [newsletter@AAsrq.org](mailto:newsletter@AAsrq.org) and put **ANNIVERSARIES** in the subject line. Anniversaries will appear in the month after they occur (ie., December anniversaries will appear in the January edition of the newsletter). Deadline for submission of anniversaries is the 7th of each month. So, please have anniversaries for publication in the January edition submitted by January 7th. Please also submit anniversaries typed within the body of an email or a Word file. We'll publish both November and December anniversaries in January, as there's no December newsletter. Unless otherwise noted, anniversaries listed below are for October.

## Bee Ridge East Group

Bill M. 6 years

## Donut Hour

Debbie S. 15 years  
Dee S. 3 years  
Fernando G. 3 years  
Kate McW. 4 years  
Kathleen F. 36 years  
Kellie M. 3 years  
Nick R. 1 year  
Sheila C. 11 years  
Susan L. 2 years

## Fresh Start Group

Barry H. 14 years  
Carl 10 years  
Laura L. 4 year  
Liz S. 7 years

## Happy Cookie Hour

Billy B. 9 years  
David S. 15 years  
Francis 39 years  
Jerry C. 24 years  
Ron E. 38 years  
Vicky W. 10 years

## Kensington Park

Dave T. 33 years  
John G. 4 years  
John K. 22 years  
John P. 28 years  
Joe S. 21 years  
Kevin G. 8 years  
Lester G. 8 years  
Paula P. 2 years  
Vinnie T. 31 years  
Wanda L. 16 years

## ROSE Group

Debrah E. 34 years

## Sat Night Speakers Group

Jim C. 33 years  
Michael D. 8 years

## Gulf Gate

*June*  
Gina K. 14 years  
Joe G. 35 years  
Kathy F. 1 year  
Kelli 12 years  
Suzanne R. 21 years  
*July*  
Carol 14 years  
Debbie S. 3 years  
Jan 17 years  
Joan 29 years  
Lyn M. 28 years

Patty M. 1 year  
Sandy 1 year  
Shawndra 9 years

*August*  
Diane B. 33 years  
Debbie 4 years  
Gail 9 years  
Henry H. 11 years  
Jay M. 5 years  
Judy M. 11 years  
Susan M. 29 years  
Yvonne J. 1 year  
*September*

Jody K. 34 years  
Ruth G. 7 years  
Mike B. 19 years  
*October*  
Dee T. 24 years

## Palmetto Group

Billy Bob W. 27 years  
Dennis H. 38 years  
Glenn P. 22 years  
Jeremy W. 5 years  
John C. 19 years  
Leah M. 2 years  
Peter H. 42 years  
Steve O. 30 years  
Thad H. 2 years

## Primary Porpoise

Clark W. 12 years  
Tom M. 12 years

## Saint Armand's Noon

*September*  
Carolyn 32 years  
David D. 16 years  
Jason P. 37 years  
Jean G. 27 years  
Maggie 4 years  
Michael O. 37 years  
Paul W. 24 years  
Quay 33 years  
Ronnie S. 35 years  
Ruth G. 35 years  
Sharon K. 18 years  
Stacy H. 9 years  
Sue 39 years  
Terry C. 23 years  
Tracey D. 24 years

*October*  
Clark W. 12 years  
David C. 28 years  
Dick C. 36 years  
Julie. 10 years  
Kathy D. 8 years  
Ken J. 29 years  
Lucia B. 38 years  
Martha C. 13 years  
Michael M. 14 years  
Mike Y. 3 years  
Pat G. 14 years  
Sharon E. 16 years

## The Sunrise Group

*September*  
Eric B. 2 Years  
Greg G. 5 years  
Joshua B. 1 year  
Miriam M. 2 years  
Maira D. 13 years  
*October*  
Joe 25 years  
John C. 19 years  
Ken J. 29 years  
Maura 18 years

## The Serenity Room

*September*  
Frank N. 1 year  
Janet T. 28 years  
Wendy M. 11 years  
*October*  
Jud 1 year  
Kathy 7 years  
Marci J. 34 years

## Central Office

*Thanks*

### Groups & Individuals Contributing this Month

Early Big Book  
Enjoying the Journey  
Friday Night in The Wind  
Friends of the Pelican  
Grupo Fortalenza  
Gulf Gate Noon  
Happy Cookie Hour  
Holmes Beach Men's Big Book  
Kensington Park  
Main Street Men's  
Monday Night Men's  
Oak Street Step  
PMS Group  
Primary Porpoise  
Promises  
Rose Group  
Saturday Spiritual  
Serenity Room  
Singleness of Purpose  
Surfside Serenity  
Turning Point  
We Agnostics  
Wednesday Men's Big Book  
Woman in the Solution  
Woman's Group of Lakewood Ranch

Anonymous | Arnold | Richard

**TO SUBMIT ITEMS TO THE NEWSLETTER:** Anniversaries, articles and meeting notices should be sent to [newsletter@AAsrq.org](mailto:newsletter@AAsrq.org). Submit material as attachments or placed directly into an email. Include your first name, group and type of item being sent. Deadline is the 7th day of the month. Submissions may be edited for length or content. The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of A.A., Sara-Mana Intergroup or the Central Office.