



# Suite 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.  
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VOLUME 1  
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**Step One - "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."**

## On the Way to Work

**She didn't know yet that day was going to be different from all the others**

"Half measures availed us nothing" describes perfectly my first five attempts with AA over the course of 30 years. Although I knew I was in trouble, I had a number of excuses why AA just wasn't right for me. When, at the age of 61, I finally surrendered to my disease, I cried out for help and God led me straight back to AA.

The morning I made the phone call that changed my life was one I will never forget. I had heard about alcoholism being a progressive and fatal disease, but I was astounded by the speed with which it had moved through my life during that last awful year.

The personal losses were piling up and the pleasures of drinking had so diminished that it often felt that my life wasn't worth living. I had become expert at minimizing, rationalizing, and lying about my behaviors and circumstances.

But then it just didn't work anymore. I knew I had to quit drinking, but lacked hope of doing so because of past failed attempts. For the last six horrific months, I looked at myself daily in the mirror and said aloud, "You're going to die a drunk." I had actually begun to accept it.

The day that I finally reached my bottom, I had begun drinking at 5:30 in the morning to manage the shakes before going to work at 8:00. Usually, all I drank was one, just enough to "maintain," but this time I kept going and by 7:30, I was pretty drunk.

Despite my alcoholism, my attendance at a job I had enjoyed for almost 15 years was outstanding. On that morning, I drove the short distance to work. I will forgo the details, but the bottom line is that I did not go into the building.

When I got home, I called our local office of Alcoholics Anonymous, sobbing, and explained the situation to a couple of women, who were very calm, non-judgmental and helpful.

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Intergroup Bookstore  
will be OPEN this year  
on January 20, 2020

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

for your shopping convenience.

Have a safe and  
sober holiday!

## Concept I

Final responsibility  
and ultimate  
authority for A.A.  
world services  
should always  
reside in the  
collective  
conscience of our  
whole Fellowship.

## Tradition One - "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

### January 2014: A Thousand Angels

#### Her journey to learn about Tradition One opened her heart to hope

When I first got to AA, I did not have any understanding of what the Steps could do for me, or how critical the Traditions are for the life of the group. But I knew in my heart that I needed meetings desperately. I knew that I was living from meeting to meeting the same way I had lived from bottle to bottle.

The First Tradition was a difficult concept for me. Having grown up in an alcoholic household, I learned never to trust anyone, never to let anyone see that I was scared, and never to let anything get in the way of what I wanted. Lying and stealing were what I did best (next to drinking), and I was secretly proud of my ability to manipulate and connive. The concept of a "common welfare" was totally alien to me, and to be expected to put the needs of others in front of my own was almost laughable. However, I was motivated by a desperation I can only describe as God-given, because without the certain knowledge that I was spiraling toward a very ugly death, I would never have been moved to accept those ideas. And I did accept them. I made a decision to accept this Tradition the same way I accepted the truth of the First Step, not because I fully understood all the implications and recognized their validity, but because I was desperate and I believed these were the only things that could save me.



I understood that the First Step was my lifeline to this program, and the First Tradition was the lifeline for the group. I understood that my recovery depended on AA unity. I even began to understand that it was just as important to me that others recovered because, for the first time in my life, I realized that I needed other people.

What I learned from the First Tradition changed the way I viewed the world and hence the way I interacted with others. Since this was the first time I looked at other people as important, and not as enemies, I had to learn to listen to them. This was pretty difficult for someone like me. But as I got better at it, I was surprised to learn that there were an awful lot of smart, funny, nice people around. And people started to talk to me, and not just to say, "You keep coming, honey."

I learned to see the bigger picture, meaning AA beyond the groups I attended. I began to see the global power of AA, and I was able to trust AA to be my Higher Power. I have heard it said at meetings that when God sees the tiniest spark of willingness in your heart, he sends a thousand angels rushing to your side. Being able to accept AA as my Higher Power was that tiny spark of willingness, which opened my heart to hope. For me, this was the first gift of Tradition One. I had hope that this precious Fellowship would endure and that I could endure with it.



Another gift was the ability to work alongside others, whether it was to make coffee, reach out to a newcomer, or be a parent and a partner. (Truth be told, the parent and partner part was a long, slow process.) It didn't happen overnight, but I came to realize that I was having conversations with people during the break or while doing service. For the very first time in my life I knew the joy of being one among many, a worker among workers. For the very first time in my life I belonged somewhere, and it was in AA. I learned that putting AA ahead of myself didn't mean that I was "less than," it meant that I was part of. My greatest hope is that that never changes, and my greatest joy is that I know it never has to.

# Recovery Word Puzzle

DADUSENOT  
TANISTOIU  
RATYHUTOI  
NAPGINLN  
PADDATE  
NOSH DATU



Unscramble  
the letters.  
Answers to  
puzzle can be  
found on  
page 7.

DEERVEROC  
RYSTIBOE  
DIGTARTEU  
PYROSTIPER  
SLFSEELS  
EGOVURNH

**NEW UPDATED 2020**  
**WHERE & WHENS COMING SOON**



**Things we cannot change.....**

**Maxine**

*She will be missed. May she Rest in Peace.*



## Volunteer Opportunities

9th Annual A's Got Talent show will have the next planning meeting on

**Saturday, January 4 at 1:30 PM**

at the 441 Group, 1452 N State Rd 7, Margate

The next planning meeting for the **57th Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** will be

**Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 PM** at the

Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Ste. 404, Oakland Park

*Pick up a commitment today!!*

**SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER**



*(continued from page 1)*

While still on the phone, I poured the remaining liquor down the sink. I called a cab, went to a noon meeting and then to a women's meeting that night, which later became my home group.

Miraculously, I was able to detox on my own and the obsession to drink was lifted immediately. Those first 30 days were often difficult, not because I was craving alcohol, but because I didn't know how to live without it.

I got a temporary sponsor right away and eagerly began to follow suggestions because my life depended on it. One of the suggestions was "90 meetings in 90 days," which helped build a firm foundation. Reading the Big Book and other AA literature became a very important part of my life. I learned that starting the day with prayer and meditation really made a difference.

As I write this, I am just past the eight-month mark, and working with my sponsor on the Twelfth Step. I can honestly tell you that life today is beyond anything that I could have imagined. The Promises, as described in the Big Book, are coming true in my life.

In the beginning, I had a lot of questions about why it took so long for me to find my way into this fellowship. Why did I get this gift and not my alcoholic brother, adult son, or daughter, all of whom died as a direct result of this disease? Why, on that morning in July, did I call AA instead of finishing the booze that was tucked under the kitchen sink?

Because God has given me the gift of sobriety, my gift to him is to try to practice these principles in all my affairs and be of service. I will never be perfect, but I know that I don't have to die a drunk.

—Susan M., Columbus, Ohio

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*May we all be filled with gratitude  
 for our continued sobriety and the abundance of friendships we have made  
 as the result of living one day at a time.  
 May we continue to be blessed in 2020 with service opportunities and  
 continued growth and awareness.  
 May the endless supply of love we have found here in AA, as the result of  
 our spiritual awakening and a conscious contact with a  
 Higher Power, expand even further.  
 Let us all continue to carry the message and trudge the  
 road of happy destiny.  
 Wishing you joy, prosperity, peace and abundance now and forever.  
 Your Intergroup Staff*

**General Service Office, NY**

P.O. Box 459  
 Grand Central Station  
 New York, NY 10164-0371  
 212.870.3400

**Bridging The Gap**

877.207.2242

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**BCIC**

P.O. Box 22701  
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**Area 15 General Service**

Treasurer, PO Box 1784  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33061

**District 9 General Service**

P.O. Box 100126  
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310



# AA BIRTHDAY'S

## January Celebrants

### Broward Men's

Matt R. ~ 5 yrs.  
Manny C. ~ 28 yrs.  
Domenick ~ 24 yrs.

### Serenity Altogether

Dennis M. ~ 31 yrs.

### Smell the Coffee

George M. ~ 25 yrs.

### FtL Primary Purpose

### Big Book Study

Heather C. ~ 7 yrs.

### Focus on Sobriety

Janet B. ~ 33 yrs.  
Anne B. ~ 14 yrs.  
Jean C. ~ 24 yrs.  
Randi ~ 24 yrs.  
Sherry C. ~ 23 yrs.

### Living in the Solution

Sonia ~ 30 yrs.  
Clay ~ 25 yrs.  
Judi ~ 18 yrs.

### Women's Honesty

Regina H. ~ 26 yrs.  
Lorren ~ 3 yrs.

### NOW Group

Bobby V. ~ 32 yrs.

### Riverside Group

Howie K. ~ 39 yrs.

### Pride 5:45

Steve W. ~ 34 yrs.  
Clint W. ~ 35 yrs.

### One Day at a Time

Mena L. ~ 18 yrs.  
Paulette R. ~ 20 yrs.

### Express Group

DJ ~ 3 yrs.  
Bill ~ 6 yrs.

### Other Notables

Debra H. ~ 24 yrs.  
Glenys H. ~ 34 yrs.  
Kelly T. ~ 17 yrs.  
Nancy F. ~ 19 yrs.  
Charlie C. ~ 28 yrs.  
Ed T. ~ 33 yrs.  
Meghan ~ 9 yrs.

### Westside Men's Group

Allan G. ~ 36 yrs.

### Tuesday Night Step

Don F. ~ 41 yrs.

### Joy of Sobriety

Glenn K. ~ 45 yrs.  
Steve W. ~ 34 yrs.

### Oakland Park Group

Audra P. ~ 41 yrs.  
Stirling ~ 43 yrs.

Welcome Home Beginners ~ 2 yrs.

### JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your sobriety by sending \$1 per every year sober to your local Intergroup office to show your gratitude and give back once a year.

*(Birthday listings are not contingent upon contributions...we just like to celebrate sobriety.)*

## BRIDGING THE GAP

has a new number

**724-680-0430**



## December Celebrants not previously mentioned

### Express Group

Rick ~ 19 yrs.  
Joanna ~ 26 yrs.

### Why It Works

Michael W. ~ 31 yrs.

### Happy Destiny

Violet ~ 3 yrs.

### Victor E.

Larry M. ~ 31 yrs.

### Back to Basics

John A. ~ 22 yrs.

### A Step at a Time

Chris B. ~ 18 yrs.



### Each Day a New Beginning

Mark L. ~ 5 yrs.

### Freedom From Alcohol

Karl B. ~ 28 yrs.

### Downtown Dry Dock

Cindy K. ~ 30 yrs.  
Colleen L. ~ 21 yrs.

### Coconut Creek Group

Robin C. ~ 31 yrs.

### Other Notables

Christopher S. ~ 8 yrs.

### Women's Step by Step

Heather M. ~ 6 yrs.

### 5-3-Zero Group

Dana C. ~ 24 yrs.

**BCIC - Broward County  
Institutions Committee**

**Next Meeting:  
Saturday, January 11 at  
10:00 a.m.**

**Twelve Step House  
205 SW 23rd St.,  
Ft. Lauderdale**

**Next  
Intergroup Meeting**

**Twelve Step House  
205 S.W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Ft. Lauderdale**

**SUNDAY, January 26  
at 1:00 p.m.**

# Happily Giving

## Oh, what a bag of goodies we have to share once we get sober

Before I came into the rooms of AA, I was absolutely clueless on what the word God meant. That's why I drank to oblivion. I had no answers to this thing called life, so I figured I might as well drink away the pain of "not knowing."

I tried to find God in so many ways. I was raised Catholic. But growing into my teens, I would party with my friends on Friday and Saturday nights, then go to communion on Sunday, be forgiven and do it all again the next week. This didn't work for me.

I became a Christian and decided that Jesus was my savior and that I was born again. I studied the Bible with a beer in hand, then started questioning the treatment of the aboriginal people and their shamans. How could God send them all to hell just for not reading the Bible and for loving the earth? This didn't make sense to me. So I placed my Bible on the shelf.

I started studying Shamanism. I bought a medicine bag that I wore around my neck and decided I was going to "heal the world." What was really cool about being a shaman was that some used peyote in ceremony and if that was acceptable, surely alcohol was OK. I performed many ceremonies under the influence. Using crystals, I would dance naked around a map of the earth, imagining I was healing the world, only to wake up hungover and unable to remember taking my clothes off!

I then decided I'd be more practical. It was the year 1999 and I started preparing for Y2K and the end of the world. I packed buckets of food and stored gas. I waited for martial law but nothing happened. I was wrong. So I kept drinking. Having tried everything to find God, I finally ended up just turning to alcohol. I slept with cans of beer on my living room floor all through the night. When I couldn't stand the pain anymore, I walked into the rooms of AA.

It is here where I had my first real spiritual experience, when a woman gave her time to sit with me, listen to me and help me read and underline the Big Book. That experience of a human being giving time to this stinky drunk with DTs was how I found God. God loved me through her—my first sponsor.

Since then, I have found God in the rooms of AA. Some call God a "Group Of Drunks," and that is true to me. I see God in others.

Christmas season is here and I'm reminded that some people have a Santa Claus God. They ask him for things and expect God to fulfill their expectations. I see this differently. I see it as giving service in AA. Giving our presence, or making coffee, or sponsoring others, or serving in a group position—all these are gifts that money can't buy. Santa Claus is a giver. That's why he's so happy all the time.

In the program, instead of asking for what we want, we learn to give what is needed of us. We become a Santa Claus God—giving the gift of sobriety to those we can help. What a bag of goodies we have to share. What miracles we get to watch as our gifts are opened and used by newcomers who attend their first meeting.

When we forget ourselves and make other people more important, we disappear into a giving that becomes selfless. In giving, we receive happiness and a very merry holiday season.

-- Brenda M., Boise, Idaho, USA

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## Definition of Broward County Intergroup, Inc.

Your Intergroup office services all groups in the Broward County area. It is not a governing body and does not attempt to, nor can it, rule any AA Group. Its sole purpose is to act as a clearinghouse for the convenience of members and groups desiring assistance, and to extend the Twelve Step Work "carrying the message" to the sick alcoholic. The Intergroup office is supported entirely by contributions from groups, usually a specified amount each month or at intervals throughout the year.

**Faithful Fivers** are A.A. members who donate five dollars (\$5) a month to Intergroup as an act of gratitude. Their generosity helps us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholic throughout the year.

**Thank you to our Faithful Fivers. Your contributions are so appreciated!**

Tom & Liz J., Gregory C., Suzanne J., Bob H., Anonymous I, Elizabeth B., Ron J., Tim S., Lois O., Richard H., Jennifer S., Pat R., Beth D., Craig G., Sandy P., Leo H., Vickie T., Howie K., Kerry W., Lewis G., James H., Joanne D., Gerry B., Don W., Eric P., Tara D., Denise J., Howard S., Bob D., Robert H., Sally S., Anonymous II, Jane T., Fran C., Peter S., Deborah C., Women's Step by Step and Rachel L.

Please consider becoming a "Faithful Fiver." Your commitment of \$5.00 a month to your Intergroup Office will go a long way toward helping carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic who reaches out. Fill out this form and mail it in with your contribution today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date and Home Group \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

Broward County Intergroup, Inc., 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE: astounded, situation, authority, planning, updated, thousand, recovered, sobriety, gratitude, prosperity, selfless, hungover

## I AM RESPONSIBLE....

WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP,  
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. ALWAYS TO BE THERE. AND FOR THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFER: VOICE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEXT: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY OF RESIDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL BACK: \_\_\_\_\_ AND/OR PAY A VISIT: \_\_\_\_\_

AVAILABILITY: MONDAY to FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ WEEKENDS: \_\_\_\_\_

8:00am-12:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ 12:00pm-5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00pm-9:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00pm-8:00am \_\_\_\_\_

TO COMPLETE A 12-STEP CALL, you only need to be sober one day, but you NEVER GO ALONE.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)



## MEETING CHANGES

### Monday

**NEW MEETING The Workshop Group** meets at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 1925 N State Rd. 7, Hollywood. 7 PM, OD.

**Live at 5:30** which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

### Tuesday

**Shoulder to Shoulder** which met at the Sanctuary in Fort Lauderdale at 1:30 NO LONGER MEETS.

**NEW MEETING U Gotta Wahna** meets at 4thDimension Club, 4425 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, 7:00 PM. ORF

### Wednesday

**Live at 5:30** which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

**No Name Group** which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

**NEW MEETING From Under the Bridge** meets at the 101 Club, 700 SW 10 St. & Dixie, Pompano, 5:30 PM. OD

### Thursday

**Live at 5:30** which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

**Shoulder to Shoulder** which met at the Sanctuary in Fort Lauderdale at 1:30 NO LONGER MEETS.

**NEW MEETING AA in the Afternoon** meets at West Broward Club at 3:30 PM, 8396-A State Rd. 7, Davie. OD

**Then and Now** has moved to the West Broward Club in Dave. Time and format remain the same.

### Friday

**Live at 5:30** which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

**Spiritually Based Solution** which met at Blue Waters Recovery in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS.

**Touristique** which meets at Sober Today Club in Hollywood in now a Speaker meeting and meets at 8 PM.

### Saturday

**Living Sober on Saturday Night** which met at the Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

**Here and Now** which met at the Twelve Step House at 2:30 NO LONGER MEETS.

**Doing the Deal** which met at Fellowship RCO in Margate is NO LONGER an AA meeting.

**NEW MEETING The South Florida Group** has added a Saturday meeting at 5:30 PM. OD

### Sunday

**Pozitively Sober HIV** which meets at Lambda South Club in Fort Lauderdale is now an Open meeting and has changed the time to 6:30 PM.

**HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR**

## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 3-5**    **Area 15 General Service Assembly** - Tampa Airport Marriott—Tampa
- Feb. 1**     **9th Annual AA's Got Talent**, Coral Springs Charter School, 3205 N. University Drive, Coral Springs. 7-10 PM. Adult event ONLY. Tickets \$10, desserts and coffee
- Feb. 22**    **7th Annual French Intergroup Conference**, Pat Larking Center, 520 NW 3rd St., Pompano Beach, 9 AM—9 PM. For more info: 954-695-8073 or aa-floride.org
- Mar. 7**     **District 9 Spring Fling Festival** NSU, Terry Building, Cafeteria and Steele Auditorium, 3200 S. University Drive, Davie, 6-10 PM
- Apr. 25**    **57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** Tropical Acres Steakhouse, 2500 Griffin Rd., Dania. Appetizers 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM, 2 Speakers 8:00 PM, Basket Raffles to follow. \$45 Reserved seating only—tickets must be purchased in advance.
- Jun. 5-7**    **FCYPAA** will be held at the Bonaventure Resort and Spa. Pre-register and book your room now. FCYPAA2020.COM