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Step Eight - "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

Forgiving my Brother In AA we get the wonderful chance to heal and let go of the regrets of our past

Back in 1999 when I was still drinking, I left St. John's, Newfoundland, and traveled across Canada. While living in Calgary, I was invited back to Newfoundland to attend a wedding. The church service was in Winterton and the reception took place later in Spaniard's Bay.

As soon as I got to the church my older brother came up to me. We had once had incestuous relations with each other, so I was really nervous. But he shook my hand and said, "Let's put the past in the past."

After the ceremony, my sister drove me to Spaniard's Bay to check into the inn. When I signed the register, I noticed that my brother's name was there. We went to the reception, and at one point he sat right across from me and I saw the images in my head of the things that he did to me. For some reason I no longer felt angry.

The next morning I got up to have breakfast, and about 10 minutes later my brother came in. We sat in the kitchen talking about things in general, like the weather. After breakfast I went to pack up my suitcases and thought about giving him a hug before he left. But by the time I had my suitcase packed and made it to the front door he was gone.

That was the last time I saw my brother. He died a few years later in June of 2009, after I got sober. When I got the call, the first thing I did was call my sponsor. I was not able to reach him, but I knew which meetings he attended. So I had breakfast and got ready and went to find him at his meeting. I didn't want to give my head a chance to get going.

I found my sponsor and we had a long talk about forgiveness and Steps Eight and Nine. For the next two days my sponsor and I tried to figure out a way for me to get back to St. John's for the funeral, but I was not able to go. For those two nights I tried to write in my journal, but I was not able to write anything. My sponsor suggested that I pray for acceptance.

When I got home I wrote a letter to my brother admitting my side of things. When I got to the end of my letter, I began to remember all the good things that my brother did: He taught me how to ride a bike; he took me to the park; he took me fishing; and he gave me my first job.

One year later on the anniversary of his death, I returned to St. John's. I went to the cemetery and put the letter on his grave. I also dropped off a letter to my mother and father.

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Concept VIII

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

Tradition Eight - “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

Big shoes to fill Her grandmother led her to Alcoholics Anonymous, but she followed her mom into the world of special workers

I grew up with an alcoholic mom. She drank heavily on a daily basis, just as her mother had when my mother was growing up.

My first exposure to AA was in the mid-1970s when we pressured Mom to go to meetings. She went. And though she was never stone-cold sober after that, neither was she falling-down drunk. She went to meetings to get us off her back, not to save her own life. But the AA seed was planted. And when she later hit her bottom, she went to treatment and dove into AA.

A few years earlier, her mother had literally drunk herself into a stroke and nearly died. She would never walk, speak or feed herself again, the doctors told us. But they didn't know our Grandma Maggie. She returned to a normal quality of life. She was told that to drink was to die, so she abstained on her own until she began to join Mom at some of her AA meetings.

They both loved and appreciated AA. Over time, our family became the kind of stable family-unit it had never been before. With Mom sober, my younger brothers had a mother, not a sister, to raise them. The youngest was a toddler and grew up going to AA meetings, shaking hands and learning the prayers. He is a very spiritual man today. Although he is not afflicted with alcoholism, he knows what a gift AA is to those who need and want it.

Mom got involved in service work at our local Intergroup office and she gradually worked her way up to office manager. She held that position for years until cancer took her from us in 2000. She maintained her sobriety despite tragedies like my alcoholic and drug-addicted sister taking her own life and Maggie's death from cancer. AA survives and prospers on the efforts of many dedicated servants and there are some who raise the bar for the rest of us. Mom was one of those. She had a capacity to love and an ability to help drunks that was amazing.

My Grandma Maggie had subscribed to Grapevine, and evidently, before she died, she paid for a multi-year subscription. I was blessed with the opportunity to buy her house out of her estate. For the first four years that I lived there, I was a full-blown alcoholic, and Grandma's Grapevines kept coming. I kept them all, reading them occasionally.

After a while, I became sick of myself and my life. In essence, Maggie had Twelfth-Stepped me from the grave with those magazines. Yet I was sure that all my problems stemmed from everything other people had done to me. So I began to go to Al-Anon meetings, where I soon found out that I was my problem. Someone suggested to me that my drinking might have more to do with my unhappiness and unmanageability than I was willing to admit.

I am still learning the job. But I'm forever amazed at the love, help and support that I have received from so many. Every day as I drive to work, I am blown away that

I get to do this job.

(continued on page 4)

Recovery Word Puzzle

S I G N S E R V E O F
L E A P S Y E T A R
P O R T N I C E E
S E N T A D A B I
T A I L F E C D F
S E A T R E D I G



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

L I P P C R E N I
L I F T U F H A
H I T H E G
N E A R B L E S T C
S I T T N O B R U N C O I
P H G I N S I P

Unscramble the blue, underlined letters above to discover the message below.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our first **Sober Camping Conference** will be in January 2021.

NOW CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Zoom planning meeting to be held on Thursday, August 20th at 6:30 PM. Please call or email for ID to 954.462.0403 or help@aabroward.org

Our **45th Annual Intergroup Picnic** to be held on October 25 is

NOW CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS.... Our next planning meeting will be held following our Intergroup meeting on Zoom **Sunday, August 23rd at 2 PM.**



The bookstore is still open on a limited schedule,

Monday—Friday 1-6 PM,
with mask — one person at a time.

Place your order in advance by phone, email or online at www.aabroward.org for shipping or come by and shop.

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



(continued from page 1)

When I first came into the program in July 2005, I was one great big ball of anger and I didn't want anyone to see me that way. I'd much rather stick my head under a rock, but I had to go to meetings because I didn't want to drink. There was a guy there at the meetings who would always say, "And this too will pass." That used to tick me off. I wanted to give him a good kick in the chair. "What does he know?" I'd say. But he did know—and things do pass.

BY: JOHN R. | ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

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(continued from page 2)

So I finally surrendered in May of 1983. I began to make my own way in AA. I worked hard to stay sober and not feel as though I was living in Mom's shadow. She and I were not close at that time. I found that it was going to take a lot of effort on both our parts to build a loving relationship. We received help from other folks in AA and our respective sponsors, and especially from our Higher Power. Eventually, Mom became my best friend, my confidante and my heart. And when she died, I was devastated. I never considered leaving AA, but had trouble going to meetings and encountering people who wanted to talk to me about Mom.

Now, it has been 12 years since Mom went to the "big meeting" in the sky. Recently my dear friend June, who was Mom's sponsor, informed me that our central office manager was leaving the job. She said that applications were being taken for his replacement. I didn't respond. But June pursued the issue and suggested that I apply. I told her that I couldn't see myself in that job. It was Mom's job, not mine. After more conversation and serious consideration, speaking with my partner and my sponsor, I applied just under the deadline.

Knowing there had to be more qualified people in AA than me, I assumed I would never be hired. Much to my surprise, within a month of applying, I had my first interview. Then I had a second interview, and before long, I was offered the position. I was told that I had been in training for the job for many years. This is another example of how I never know what God has in store for me.

The office I work in is in a different building than the one Mom worked in, which made it easier for me when I started. On the wall across from my desk is a picture of Mom at her desk with the phone to her ear.

It has been almost a year since I started. I am still learning the job. But I'm forever amazed at the love, help and support that I have received from so many. Some of the same volunteers from Mom's time are still here. Every day as I drive to work, I am blown away that I get to do this job. For many years I was envious of my parents for having jobs that they felt such passion for. Now, I have such a job.

The many trusted servants who have had this job before me did the job with the best interest of AA and the still-suffering alcoholic uppermost in their minds. I pray to be able to do the same.

—Patty B., Columbus, OH

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AA BIRTHDAY'S

August Celebrants

Broward Men's

Max ~ 6 yrs.
JD ~ 6 yrs.
Will ~ 6 yrs.
Brian E. ~ 5 yrs.

Oakland Park

Don W. ~ 38 yrs.
David S. ~ 38 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Charlie G. ~ 26 yrs.

Westside Men's

Scott Z. ~ 27 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Rick B. ~ 26 yrs.
John T. ~ 9 yrs.
Ken M. ~ 44 yrs.

Downtown Drydock

Terri S. ~ 17 yrs.
Patty M. ~ 14 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

Erica ~ 4 yrs.

441 Group

Sandy S. ~ 23 yrs.

Each Day a New Beginning

Robert W. ~ 9 yrs.

Chickee Group

Sue Y. ~ 37 yrs.

Davie Women's

Helene H. ~ 13 yrs.
Patty L. ~ 15 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Taryn ~ 18 yrs.
Nancy G. ~ 7 yrs.

Entirely Ready

Adie M. ~ 33 yrs.

Riverside Group

Denise J. ~ 42 yrs.

Hollywood Men's

Joe A. ~ 32 yrs.
Tom ~ 25 yrs.

New Day Group

Karo ~ 12 yrs.
Jeanne B. ~ 5 yrs.
Frank M. ~ 5 yrs.

True Self Group

Hannah A. ~ 31 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Kathy G. ~ 42 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Jennifer R. ~ 6 yrs.
Ken ~ 24 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Lisa M. ~ 15 yrs.
Beverly P. ~ 34 yrs.

Other Notables

Cassie C. ~ 9 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Marsha M. ~ 24 yrs.
Laura P. ~ 15 yrs.
Michele B. ~ 14 yrs.
Charmaine ~ 5 yrs.
Ruthie ~ 4 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Men's

Dick R. ~ 60 yrs.

Coral Springs As Bill Sees It

Barbara ~ 10 yrs.
Monica ~ 9 yrs.
Mark ~ 31 yrs.
Kevin ~ 7 yrs.

Men's Independence

Eddie G. ~ 44 yrs.
Nico ~ 10 yrs.

Express Group ~ 44 yrs.

Greg B. ~ 29 yrs.
Paul A. ~ 19 yrs.
Nick ~ 8 yrs.
Joanne ~ 32 yrs.
Vernon ~ 32 yrs.
Esther ~ 14 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.)

**STAY SAFE
AND
STAY HEALTHY**



BCIC

Broward County Institutions
Committee

will hold their next meeting on

August 8th at 10 AM

using Zoom Technology

www.bcic-aa.com

**The next
Intergroup Meeting**

will be held on Zoom

**Sunday, August 23rd
1:00 PM**



JULY Celebrants not previously mentioned

Thursday Night Study

Nicolle N. ~ 7 yrs.

Broward Men's Group

Steven H. ~ 3 yrs.

Eleventh Step Group

Marty ~ 7 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Bob ~ 35 yrs.
Debbie ~ 27 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Deanna ~ 4 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Zane ~ 6 yrs.
Beth ~ 36 yrs.

By Any Means

Peter S. ~ 29 yrs.

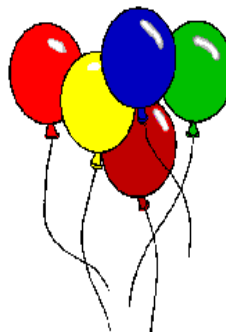
Primary Purpose

Edmark G. ~ 6 yrs.

CORRECTION from JULY

Bikers in Recovery

Emilio ~ 21 yrs.



TRADITION EIGHT

1. Does my own behavior accurately mirror the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward – even if not money – for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. Do I know where my local meeting directory comes from?
7. In my own AA life, have I had any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
8. Have I read the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? How about the pamphlet “A.A. Tradition—How it Developed”?
9. Can my group rely on me to fulfill my service responsibilities without someone checking on me?

Taken from the *Traditions Checklist*, Copyright The AA Grapevine, Inc.

The principle behind the eighth step is



WILLINGNESS

the quality or state of being prepared to do something; readiness

Things we cannot change.....



*David W., Art P.,
Frank D., and Allan G.*

*They will be missed.
May they Rest in Peace.*

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

PLEASE GO TO WWW.AABROWARD.ORG FOR ALL UPDATES

We are updating the website throughout this crisis to the best of our ability. Thank you to everyone who has kept us informed. We now have a very long list of local groups' electronic IDs and PWs for those who are looking for a local meeting online. This list is now available for download in PDF format from our Website **for the convenience of members.**

Please help us keep it updated by checking your group's information.

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., Vickie T., Howie K., Lewis G., James H., Gerry B., Don W., Eric P., Tara D., Denise J., Robert M., Susan S., Drew B., David S., Bonnie T., Robert H., Sally S., Anonymous II, Michael E., Stephen W., Marla A., Ernie F., HBeta, Brian H., Steven L., Robin S., Barbara S., Jenae R., Jerilynn D., Fran C., Women's Step by Step, Rachel L., Michael T., Alexander W., Gary S., Dave J., Patrick M., Patrick C., Mary C., Patsy K., Joe G., Nancy S., Al G., Ann L., Glen P., Richard M., Ali S., Erich N., Russell S., Nicolle

**WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED YOUR SUPPORT AS
MUCH AS WE DO NOW!**

Please consider becoming a faithful fiver today. Have your bank send us an Auto payment every month from your account, transfer with **ZELLE to help@aabroward.org** or

DONATE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE USING PAYPAL

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE: forgiveness, separately, reception, abstained, afflicted, tragedies, principle, faithful, eighth, celebrants, contributions, shipping; Trudge safely and be grateful.

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



MEETING CHANGES

The following meeting locations have confirmed with us that they are now holding some meetings face-to-face:

Sterling Room, Davie
 West Broward Club, Davie
 Bottom Line Group, Deerfield
 Women's Club, Deerfield
 Sober Today Club, Hollywood
 4th Dimension Club, Hollywood
 Twelve Step House, Ft. Lauderdale
 The Sunshine Cathedral, Ft. Lauderdale
 Cokesbury United Methodist, Margate
 441 Group, Margate
 Solid Rock Church, Oakland Park
 Unitarian Church, Oakland Park
 Epworth United Methodist, Pembroke Pines
 St. Benedict's Church, Plantation
 101 Club, Pompano Beach
 Pompano Beach Group, Pompano Beach
 Unity Church, Pompano Beach
 Our Place 2, Tamarac

Each group is autonomous and every location has it's own guidelines in place. You may be asked to wear masks at all times, and you may not be allowed in due to diminished capacity. Try to practice Love and Tolerance and remember that we are ALL affected by this pandemic together!

A complete list of Local Zoom meetings is now available for download on the Intergroup website.
www.aabroward.org

LAMBDA SOUTH CLUB - NOW CLOSED

WEAR MASKS! STAY SAFE! BE RESPONSIBLE! STAY SOBER!

This month at the August Intergroup meeting the Reps will decide to either have the 57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet in September or just wait until next April.

WE will let you all know soon!!

Thank you for your continued support!



Upcoming Events

- Aug. 6-9 Florida State Convention** in Jacksonville cancelled.
- Sep. 19 57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** Tropical Acres Steakhouse, Griffin Road in Dania, 6-10 PM, Dinner, speakers, basket raffle. Must have ticket, advance sales only. \$45. Reps voting this month to hold this event or wait until next April...
- Sep. 18 ICOAA2020 (National Intergroup Seminar)** will be **VIRTUAL** for the first time. This is the -19 35th Annual Seminar for Intergroups and Central Offices with AAWS and GV participation.
- Sep. 5-6 5th Annual Unity and Service Conference - VIRTUAL** from California, register online now, space limited: unityandserviceconference.org Applying the concepts and traditions to your life.
- Oct. 9-11 Area 15 South Florida Assembly** Sanibel or Zoom? Check area15aa.org for more info.
- Oct. 25 45th Annual Intergroup Picnic** Snyder Park, Caldwell Pavillion, Fort Lauderdale. 11 AM - 4 PM, Food, music, fellowship, games, volleyball, raffles. \$8 in advance, \$10 at gate, kids under 12 eat free. 2 speakers after lunch.