



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 9
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Step 9 - "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

A Box of Pears

A few days ago, I was at a speaker meeting in which a woman named Lisa told her story. I didn't expect to hear anything more than I usually hear, which is always helpful in some small way. I didn't expect to be moved more so than I am usually moved. Lisa is half-Japanese. She grew up on Long Island. She is probably 20 years my senior.

There's nothing terribly similar about our lives, and nothing stands out to me now as the reason I was drawn to her immediately, but I was. Something about her face was familiar, kind. She started to tell her story, and I was captivated. I could identify, of course, with a lot of her childhood angst and discomfort, but it was more than that.

Before I got sober, I could never really hear anyone. Now I could truly listen to other people. So, I listened to Lisa. She told how at 17 years old she gave up a child for adoption. She described the feelings she had after she gave birth and the child was taken from her.

She said something like, "I felt that all the air had been taken out of me, away from me. I felt empty and alone. I was confused and afraid. I didn't know how to do anything, how to live."

I really heard her. I heard her, and I understood what she'd felt in those terrible moments. And I cried. I tried to dry my tears with one finger, instead smudging the mascara under my eyes. Lisa continued with her story.

I raised my hand to share. I don't share very often—not because I don't have joy to share or sadness for which I need support, but because I really do love to listen to my fellows. But this time, I felt a powerful need to share.

I told Lisa and the group that she had given me a great gift: the gift of sympathy.

I told her that when I was an active alcoholic, I never felt sympathy. I never felt anything. Alcohol had numbed me for so many years. I didn't even understand what other people meant when they said they felt sympathy or empathy. I knew how to behave as if I felt those same things, but I didn't really feel them. I had, for various powerful reasons,

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tradition Nine	2
Word Puzzle	4
Committee Updates	4
Monthly Meetings	5
Anniversaries	5
Meeting Changes	8
Upcoming Events	8

**Intergroup
will be closed on
Monday,
September 4
in observance of
Labor Day**

CONCEPT IX

Good service leadership
at all levels is
indispensable for
our future functioning
and safety.

Primary world service
leadership, once
exercised by the founders,
must necessarily be
assumed by the trustees.

Tradition Nine - "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

....We May Create Service Boards..

TO MANY AA MEMBERS it is not clearly known just how the service boards mentioned in Tradition Nine serve us, and as a matter of fact, some members may wonder, do we need them at all? It is quite understandable that the publishing company is needed, and the Grapevine too, but these are both self-supporting businesses. In addition we have General Service Headquarters which is supported by the groups, but the conception of the nature of its services is pretty misty to many members.

Let me present a form of service offered by General Service Headquarters. I choose to present it because I am familiar with it, but to the most members it is quite unknown.

This past summer I achieved seven years of continued sobriety, and I appreciate it very much. During these seven years I have seen the growth of AA in my country, Finland, and have been an active member in our society all these years. Over 180 of our alcoholics have received a birthday cake with a burning candle on it. A great many of them have received several cakes and many candles have burned.

How has this been possible in the country so far north that the Polar circle divides it in two. . .far from members of AA who know something about AA?

Well, we have been able to use the foreign department of General Service Headquarters. Of course, there has been correspondence with other special departments of Headquarters, but I tell only of what I am personally familiar with.

We have succeeded in being able to give a small annual contribution but naturally we understand that it has not in any sense covered the services we have received.

Not once have we been dissatisfied for the treatment we have got. We know Bill's words in our Traditions: "Of course you are at perfect liberty to handle this matter any way you please. But the majority experience in AA does seem to suggest. . ." We have been served in this way and it has been a way that produced good results. We have received all possible material free, and permission to translate it to our own language, and to forward it to the hands of our members.

We have asked many questions--maybe sometimes pretty funny ones--but always the answer has been clear and friendly. At our disposal has been all the experience gathered in AA, and many most talented members have offered their help personally.

(continued on page 6)

Suite 404 is a monthly publication of Broward County Intergroup, Inc. (BCI). The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of BCI or AA as a whole. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month. Material may be edited for space and content. We welcome your stories, news and comments. Please send your submissions to help@aabroward.org.

(continued from page 1)

kept feelings at a distance.

I explained to Lisa, and to the group, that my biological mother, who had given me up for adoption at birth and whom I had never known, had tracked me down some years ago.

I had seven Bloody Marys before meeting her. She'd found me, and I was angry. She'd found me, and when we met, she asked me to forgive her, and I didn't say anything. I held on to my anger for a while, and then I let it fade into indifference. I let the relationship become one of occasional e-mails and the box of pears I sent her at Christmas.

Not once in the years since she found me—her name is Leslie—had I thought about what she had gone through when she gave me up. Not once did I try to put myself in her shoes. And then, I heard Lisa's story. I thanked her for that very precious gift, and I thanked the group and AA for giving me the ability to accept this gift.

I cried. A lot. That evening, I wrote to my biological mother. I told her the whole story. I told her of my anger when she tracked me down, and I told her of my gratitude for AA and for Lisa. This is some of what I said to her in that letter:

The truth? Being adopted has affected me in many ways, both good and bad. But I'm not writing to you about that today. I'm writing to you to say thank you for making the difficult choice to put me up for adoption. I am so grateful for the life I have had as a result. Until yesterday, I knew it had to have been difficult, but I never fully grasped the pain and fear you must have felt.

So, there's this part of me now that wants to say, 'Let's really get to know each other.' There's this part of me that wants a hug from you so much, and to hug you right back. But there's this other part of me that is afraid. I am afraid. But I suppose I hope we can make some small steps forward. Maybe we can just start to e-mail more often and maybe talk sometimes on the phone.

I would never have written that letter had I not learned about listening to other people and feeling sympathy for their circumstances.

BY: STEPHANIE R. | LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

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**ENJOY A SAFE,
SOBER
HOLIDAY
WEEKEND!**

General Service Office, NY
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Bridging The Gap
877.207.2242

Broward Co. Intergroup, Inc.
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BCIC
P.O. Box 22701
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Area 15 Treasurer
PO Box 590835
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33359-0835

District 9 General Service
P.O. Box 100126
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Recovery Word Puzzle

DET NOM NEI
GO CF UNT NINI
MTR SDFO CIO
RAIL MFIA
LT EDNA ET
GUNGA LEA



Unscramble the letters. Answers to puzzle can be found on page 7. Words for this puzzle have been used somewhere else in this

TGET NOCNIN
CEBUSRO
FCNUSETIFI
ASETDILI
NESPEISADIBLN
FREFUGSNI

The next Gratitude Dinner planning meeting

will be held on

Saturday, September 24th at 1:30 PM

4th Dimension Club, 4425 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, FL

Next Intergroup Picnic planning meeting

will be held on

Sunday, September 17th at 2:00 PM

12 Step House, 205 SW 23rd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Come have fun while doing service



Things we cannot change...

Andy H. ~ George D. ~ Paul E.

They will be missed by all who knew them.

May they rest in peace.

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

September Celebrants

Broward Men's

Angel M. ~ 6 yrs.
Joe C. ~ 8 yrs.
Justin ~ 7 yrs.

Joy of Sobriety

Randall L. ~ 15 yrs.

Mountain Group

Lisa D. ~ 41 yrs.

Riverside Group

Sheldon V. ~ 36 yrs.
Patricia M. ~ 14 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S.

Tim B. ~ 20 yrs.
Chino ~ 22 yrs.
Alan P. ~ 38 yrs.

Sober Women of Parkland

Betsy N. ~ 12 yrs.

Serenity in the Park (SWR)

Carolina F. ~ 2 yrs.
Angie ~ 1 yr.
Serena ~ 1 yr.
Cristina M. ~ 35 yrs.
Richie ~ 4 yrs.

Living in the Solutions Virtual

Laia T ~ 1 yr.
Alex M ~ 2 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Helen ~ 41 yrs.
Marissa ~ 13 yrs.

Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

Aileen W. ~ 28 yrs.

Hollywood Men's

Leon ~ 16 yrs.

Downtown Dry Dock

Kathy R. ~ 17 yrs.
Marlene A. ~ 17 yrs.
Jessica ~ 10 yrs.
Paul ~ 6 yrs.
Mitch ~ 35 yrs.
Walt ~ 40 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Nadine ~ 14 yrs.

Empowered Women

Melissa M. ~ 10 yrs.

Other Notables

Scott W. ~ 30 yrs.
Ed B. ~ 26 yrs.
Peter H. ~ 26 yrs.
Katia L. ~ 16 yrs.
Carol B. ~ 33 yrs.
Thom F. ~ 49 yrs.
Collette D ~ 36 yrs.
Jim N. ~ 45 yrs.
Jami F. ~ 11 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Barry G. ~ 28 yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Sally D. ~ 55 yrs.
Jen L. ~ 14 yrs.
Patty K. ~ 25 yrs.

Just For Today

Mike B. ~ 24 yrs.
Eddie D. ~ 18 yrs.
Nancy A. ~ 21 yrs.

Don't Forget

Bob S. ~ 41 yrs.

Sunlight of the Spirit

Barbaree K. ~ 41 yrs.

Tuesday Night Step

Marty L. ~ 39 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Michael ~ 5 yrs.
Brett S. ~ 28 yrs.
Steve ~ 35 yrs.
Paul D. ~ 22 yrs.
Carmen R. ~ 34 yrs.
Darius ~ 9 yrs.

Sober by the Beach

Steven A ~ 1 yr.
Peter N ~ 3 yrs.

Into Action

Karen D. ~ 22 yrs.

Rule 62

Frannie C. ~ 6 yrs.

Women's Honesty ~ 51 yrs.

Sober Today Club ~ 12 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.)

Big Book Quote of the Month:

"The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called will power becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 24

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on
**Saturday, September 9th
at 10:00 AM**

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

The next **Intergroup Meeting** will be held on
**Sunday, September 17th
at 1:00 PM**

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

.....not previously mentioned

Living in the Solution

Lori B. ~ 15 yrs.

Noontime Sobriety

Dan L. ~ 17 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Mary C. ~ 1 yr.
Sherill ~ 16 yrs.
RuthAnn ~ 43 yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Nicole B. ~ 13 yrs.

(continued from page 2)

What could our work be without the reliable knowledge of collected experiences? We are, like all alcoholics, great idealists. We have millions of "private ideas" and we could have killed AA in our country a long time ago had we not learned that it is always advisable to ask what kind of experience others have had before we start to practice our own "fineries." And thus time and again we have been "dropped on earth." And it is very important to us, for are we not living on the underside of the globe?

Now, one may ask is it worth while for the members of AA to share in the expenses caused by us? What does it matter if the 100,000 Finnish alcoholics would drop into space? Well, maybe it would not trouble you at all. But would it be all the same for all of us if AA had not spread all over the world? Maybe it would be enough that there was only one group in action...The group I belong to?

Would it be quite all right if I was alone again?

We are not "halfway fellows." Either we are alone, or all together.

We have a good AA society here in Finland. You can all be proud, for the work--supported by your dollars--has borne a beautiful fruit.

The foreign department of General Service Headquarters is one of many "service boards." It is not meant to serve you, but it is meant to serve us on your behalf. It has served us magnificently.

A great many thanks to you all, who have made it possible.

BY: V.K. | HELSINKI, FINLAND

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INTERGROUP PICNIC TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$10/each or 3 for \$25
\$12 at the gate



SEE YOUR LOCAL INTERGROUP REP

THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

- ♦ Sept, 1937 – Florence R, first female in AA in NY.
- ♦ August, 2001 – 30 Vesey St, New York. Location of AA's first office is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF YOUR
GROUP ON

OUR WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY

<https://aabroward.org/locations>

We are not responsible for the chair app.

Faithful Fivers are fellow 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 and all our Contributors! You are all so appreciated!

Allison B.	Daniel D.	Ryan W.	Don F.	Kerry W.	Ellen F.
Anonymous	Bob B.	Shannon S.	H-Beta	Marsha M.	Ernie F.
Anonymous	Lee R.	Robert M.	Patricia C.	Mary S.	Walter B.
Beth D.	Anthony M.	Susan C.	Lorraine C.	Michael E.	Marcy B.
Carmen D.	Ashley F.	Margaret L.	Fred L.	Michael P.	Nancy G.
Robert H.	Bill W.	Matthew S.	Jerrod F.	Pat R.	Marlene A.
Craig G.	Charmaine D.	Travis P.	Ken J.	Phyllis P.	Sam B.
Lew G.	Gregory C.	Teri B.	Katrina F.	Robert A.	Sharon G.
Deborah C.	Jan S.	Tim S.	James H.	Ron J.	Stephen H.
Debra B.	Jean Marie	Tim H.	Jennifer S.	Steven S.	Howie K.
Dennis G.	Jeff H.	Todd G.	John B.	Susan O.	Elizabeth W.
Don W.	Jolynn J.	Lois M.	Kerry F.	Suzanne J.	Joyce K.
Liz J.	Tom J.	Pat W.	Victoria M.	Vickie T.	Melinda
Hurbert N.	John L.	Sandra C.	Nancy V.		

Answers from page 4: Mentioned, Functioning, Discomfort, Familiar, Talented, Language, Contingent, Obscure, Sufficient, Idealist, Indispensable, Suffering

If you are interested in becoming a faithful fiver, you can set up automatic payments from your bank account or in PayPal. You can also send payments by Zelle to help@aabroward.org

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 AM-12 PM _____ 12 PM-5 PM _____ 5 PM-9 PM _____ 9 PM-8AM _____

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

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.
The office purchases and sells all conference-approved books and literature to groups throughout Broward County.

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

Light House Point Group moved to Dixon Hall, 2220 NE 38th Street, Light House Point, FL 33064.

Tuesday

Sober Friends which met in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Wednesday

NEW MEETING Free Thinkers South now meets at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Lauderdale, 2810 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312. 7 PM. OD.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

NEW MEETING Surviving Lives now meets at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Lauderdale, 2810 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312. 7 PM. OD.

NEW MEETING West Broward Woman's Group now meets at West Broward Club at 10:30 AM, 8396 W State Rd. 84, Davie, FL 33324. ODw

Thursday

Free Thinkers meets at The Little Gate, 1410 NE 26th Street, Wilton Manors. 7:30 PM. OD

Our Charge which met in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Friday

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

Daily

The Broad Highway which met daily, is now only meeting Thursdays at 8 PM. CBB

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sept 16 | Traditions 1-3 Workshop , Broward County Intergroup Bookstore, FREE EVENT, refreshments and fellowship, 7-9 PM limited seating. |
| Sept 18 | Woman's Honesty 51st Anniversary Celebration , Hollywood Hills United Methodist Church, Hollywood, FL. All women welcome. 7 PM Desserts and speaker meeting |
| Sept 23 | Carry the Message Day , 101 Club, Pompano Beach, FL. 6-9 PM. Free service fair. Learn about the various opportunities available for service in Broward County. Bring a newcomer and a dessert. |
| Oct 6-8 | South Florida Area 15 Quarterly Assembly , Boca Raton Town Center Marriott, Boca Raton, FL |
| Oct 29 | Intergroup Picnic , Snyder Park, Ft. Lauderdale, 11 AM—4 PM, Lunch, Live band, 2 speakers, Tickets \$10 in advance or 3/\$25. \$12 at gate. Kids under 6 eat free. Family fun and fellowship. Caldwell Pavilion. NO DOGS ALLOWED. |
| Nov 11 | Gratitude Dinner First Baptist Church, Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Limited seating. Must have advance ticket. |
| Nov 17– 19 | SSAASA7 Sheraton Orlando North, Orlando, FL. Service assembly. For more info go to: ssaasa7.org |