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# Q I A A NEWS

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**24-HOUR HOTLINE:**  
**7 1 8 - 5 2 0 - 5 0 2 1**

OFFICE LOCATION:  
105-29B METROPOLITAN AVENUE  
OFFICE TELEPHONE: 718-520-5024

**MAILING ADDRESS ::: ALL MAIL TO:**  
**P.O. Box 754088**  
**PARKSIDE STATION**  
**FOREST HILLS NEW YORK**  
**11375-9088**

**ON THE INTERNET:**  
**www.queensaa.org**  
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EMAIL: [institutions@queensAA.org](mailto:institutions@queensAA.org)  
**JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009**

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OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 7 P.M. TO 9 .M. FOR MEETING BOOK SALES AND INSTITUTIONS LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION.

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(Please see a special announcement on the reverse side for Secretaries and Meeting Chairpersons.)

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## I Stand by the Door

by Sam Shoemaker

I stand by the door.

I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,  
The door is the most important door in the world-  
It is the door through which people walk when they find God.  
There's no use my going way inside, and staying there,  
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,  
Crave to know where the door is.  
And all that so many ever find  
Is only the wall where a door ought to be.  
They creep along the wall like blind people,  
With outstretched, groping hands.  
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,  
Yet they never find it ...  
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world  
Is for people to find that door--the door to God.  
The most important thing any person can do  
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands,  
And put it on the latch--the latch that only clicks  
And opens to the person's own touch.  
People die outside that door, as starving beggars die  
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter--  
Die for want of what is within their grasp.  
They live, on the other side of it-  
-live because they have not found it.  
Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,  
And open it, and walk in, and find Him ...  
So I stand by the door.

Go in, great saints, go all the way in--  
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,  
And way up into the spacious attics--  
It is a vast roomy house, this house where God is.  
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,  
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.  
Some must inhabit those inner rooms.  
And know the depths and heights of God,  
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.  
Sometimes I take a deeper look in,  
Sometimes venture in a little farther;  
But my place seems closer to the opening ...  
So I stand by the door.

There is another reason why I stand there.  
Some people get part way in and become afraid  
Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them  
For God is so very great, and asks all of us.  
And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia,  
And want to get out. "Let me out!" they cry,  
And the people way inside only terrify them more.  
Somebody must be by the door to tell them  
that they are spoiled  
For the old life, they have seen too much:  
Once taste God, and nothing but God will do any more.  
Somebody must be watching for the frightened  
Who seek to sneak out just where they came in,  
To tell them how much better it is inside.  
The people too far in do not see how near these are  
To leaving--preoccupied with the wonder of it all.  
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door,  
But would like to run away. So for them, too,  
I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.  
But I wish they would not forget how it was  
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help  
The people who have not, yet even found the door,  
Or the people who want to run away again from God,  
You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long,  
And forget the people outside the door.

As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,  
Near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there,  
But not so far from people as not to hear them,  
And remember they are there, too.  
Where? Outside the door--  
Thousands of them, millions of them.  
But--more important for me--  
One of them, two of them, ten of them,  
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.  
So I shall stand by the door and wait  
For those who seek it.  
"I had rather be a door-keeper ..."  
So I stand by the door.

*Sam Shoemaker, founder of Faith At Work at Calvary  
Episcopal Church in New York City, in 1926, was one of the  
spiritual leaders who helped draft the 12 Steps of A.A.*

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The General Service Office hosts open discussion meetings on Fridays at 11:00 A.M., at A.A. headquarters in New York City located at 475 Riverside Drive (at 119<sup>th</sup> Street), on the eleventh floor. Tel.: 212-870-3400. Call for directions. Ask about a free tour. Have lunch in the building cafeteria. Meet the friends you haven't met yet. It's your fellowship!

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**Queens Intergroup thanks Queens County General Services for inviting us to participate in Queens Share-A-Day.**

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::::: PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT ALL MEETINGS:

*Queens Intergroup's September Quarterly Exchange & Representatives Meeting will be held at Queens Share-A-Day, on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 A.M.*

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**Queens Intergroup**

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**QUARTERLY EXCHANGE & REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**

*WILL BE HELD*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 2009**

Quarterly Exchange Meeting	8:00 A.M.
Intergroup Representatives Breakfast	9:00 A.M.
New Intergroup Rep Orientation	9:15 A.M.
Intergroup Representatives Meeting	9:30 A.M.

*AT 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL*  
**QUEENS SHARE - A - DAY \***

**I.S. 5**

**50-40 JACOBUS STREET  
ELMHURST, N.Y.**

**(ONE-HALF BLOCK SOUTH OF QUEENS BOULEVARD)**

**(ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHERE WE USUALLY MEET, WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE DAY.  
WE WILL RESUME MEETING THERE AT THE DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING.)**

**GROUP DONATIONS WELCOME !!**

*PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING, OR MAIL DONATIONS TO ...*

**QIAA PO BOX 754088 FOREST HILLS NY 11375-9088**

ON THE WEB: [www.queensaa.org](http://www.queensaa.org)

FOR URGENT MEETING CHANGES & ALL OTHER BUSINESS, EMAIL: [secretary@queensaa.org](mailto:secretary@queensaa.org)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT INSTITUTIONS: [institutions@queensaa.org](mailto:institutions@queensaa.org)

...IT'S **YOUR** INTERGROUP...

...PLEASE **SUPPORT** IT !!

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\* **QUEENS SHARE-A-DAY** IS ORGANIZED AND FUNDED THROUGH DONATIONS FROM GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS  
TO **QUEENS COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY**.

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