

# QUEENS INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

105-29A Metropolitan Avenue,  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm  
Saturdays from 10am to 2pm  
Office telephone: (718) 520-5024

Queens Intergroup Mail: QIAA, P.O. Box 754088, Forest Hills Station, N.Y. 11375-9088

## WHERE THE PARTY IS

When people ask me these days, "How are you?" my stock answer is, "Never better." I say that because it's true. Regardless of any physical ailment or mental stress, I have never had it so good just embracing an attitude of gratitude because I no longer have to drink alcohol.

There is no entertainment comparable to a jolly AA meeting. No television, no movie, no live theater will leave you walking out the door with the feeling of joy and well-being that a good meeting brings. Where else can a person go and laugh her sides off as people share about terrible things they did while drunk, or how they embarrassed themselves, or how they fell overboard in a canoe and lost their diamond watch but saved their bottle of beer. We sit there listening and we not only relate, but empathize. And we laugh. Sometimes until tears roll down our cheeks and our stomachs ache. In all my years in the program, I've never been in a bad meeting of AA. True, some are better than others, but if we leave the meeting and stay sober another day, that will be enough.

Speaking of "that will be enough," I love what Meister Eckhart, the Christian mystic, said: "If the only prayer you ever pray is a 'thank you,' that will be enough."

A young friend of mine with many years of sobriety says this about meetings: "Hey, this is where the party is."

I agree. It's a party where a person can find sobriety, health, laughter to heal the soul, and the tools to pass on to another alcoholic on the well-paved path to recovery. If it sounds like I'm up on a soapbox or a rooftop to shout the good news of what Alcoholics Anonymous can do for a drunk, then so be it.

You can't beat it for fun. I have had more fun since I joined AA than I ever did slouched on a bar stool-or sliding off one, for that matter. "Keep coming back," we shout to the newcomer. Good idea. I will.

*Dossie P., Aptos, California*  
(AA Grapevine September 2013)

## DRIFTING AWAY

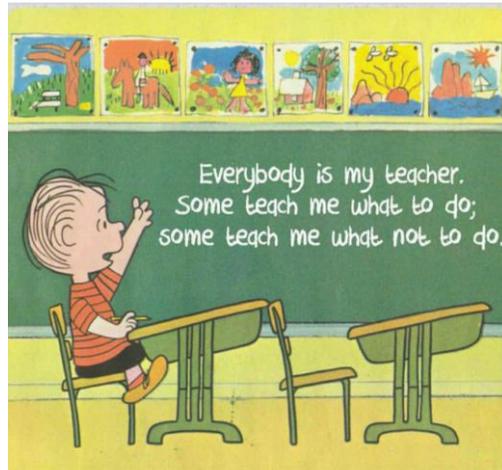
Some years back, after I'd been in AA for eight years, my recovery had plateaued. I was restless. I was in San Francisco while my wife was attending a convention, and I went to a midday AA meeting near the event in a small building behind a church.

One of the attendees was a guy named Tom who was just back after a couple of months of drinking. Maybe because his name was the same as mine, but moreover I think because of his honesty and willingness to share his pain, I was moved by what he said. He had "drifted away from AA," then stopped going to meetings altogether, and then relapsed.

Having relapsed myself once when I had six months, I sure didn't want to do that again. Wow, I thought, here was someone who had had so many years more than me and he sure was not a happy camper. So I made an effort to renew my program and to increase the number of meetings I attended. In fact, most every day since, I've been in a meeting. Last week I celebrated my 32nd AA anniversary.

I've never stopped thinking about Tom and being grateful to him for sharing his pain with us. I've been back to San Francisco meetings twice but I never ran across Tom again. I hope he is well; he sure helped me that day and every day since.

*Tom H., Madison, Wis.*  
(AA Grapevine March 2016)



## Upcoming Events

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
81<sup>ST</sup>  
BIRTHDAY**



**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
1:00 - 3:00pm  
New York Hilton Hotel  
[www.nyintergroup.org](http://www.nyintergroup.org)**

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**QUEENS SPEAKER EXCHANGE  
AND  
DELEGATES MEETING**

**\*Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016\***

**7:30 AM: Exchange Meeting  
9:00 AM: Delegates Meeting**

**Location:  
I.S. 5**

**50-40 Jacobus Street  
Elmhurst, NY 11373**

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
REPRESENT YOUR GROUP!**

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**THE 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
QUEENS SHARE-A-DAY  
"The Foundation of Our Future"**

**\*Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016\***

**8:30am - 3:00pm**

**Location:  
I.S. 5**

**50-40 Jacobus Street, Elmhurst**

**[www.qcgsa.org](http://www.qcgsa.org)**

**[www.aasenyny.org](http://www.aasenyny.org)**

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**\*September 24, 2016\***

**7:00 pm - 11:00 pm**

**@**

**St. Margaret's Church  
66-05 79th Place  
Middle Village, NY 11379**

**Tradition 7:** Each A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

**Tradition 8:** Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

**Tradition 9:** A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

## THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF QUEENS

The first time I went to AA, I felt like a prisoner on his way to the gallows. I had been given a meeting book and was told to make a meeting close to my home, but I dreaded that idea. What if someone saw me going in there? Neighbors talk, you know. I'd be the laughingstock of Queens. As I walked to the meeting, my eyes couldn't look any higher than the next square on the pavement. I'm an alcoholic, I thought. What a loser.

The door to the meeting weighed a ton, like one of those castle doors. I expected it to be locked, but I pulled and it opened. A woman smiled and said, "Welcome." Now I'm stuck, I thought. How do I get out of this one? "You must be new," she said. I had no idea how to spin a lie, and for some reason I didn't want to, so I went in.

A man inside was putting chairs out row by row. Knowing that I was certainly better off than they were, I sat in one of the chairs and watched them put more chairs up right around me. At some point, I asked if they needed any help. Wow, did their faces light up. "Sure do," they said. How was I to know that when I put my first chair in its place, it would be the cornerstone of my foundation?

As I put out each chair, I made sure it was in exactly the correct position. I wanted perfection so I could be accepted. As more members arrived, no one asked, "Who put up the chairs?" so that I could say, "I did." So I approached the woman who greeted me and said, "They didn't say thank you for setting up the room." She replied, "I don't do it for them, I do it for me. It keeps me coming back." Then she looked at me and said, "When you were putting up those chairs, were you thinking about a drink?" I said "No." It was then I realized that I hadn't even felt thirsty.

The next Friday I went back to the meeting, and I got there early to set up the chairs. I saw the same woman and I told her, "If it were not for me, these people would have to stand." The woman laughed, and said "Keep coming." I soon became the chairperson—as in chairs.

A couple of months passed, and when it came time to make the coffee, the group gave me a key to open early so the coffee would be ready when people arrived. That key they gave me was a key of trust. No one came in to check on me. They trusted me.

Whenever I bought cookies, I'd give the receipt to the treasurer, and he would gladly give me my money back. Once I suggested that he not pay me. "The cookies are on the house!" I said. "No," he said. "They belong to the group." They still felt like mine. That woman who first saw me come in heard that and came over and gave me a look. I know, I know... I thought. "Keep coming," she said. Those two words can really heat you up at first. I thought they meant that I was stupid, but soon came to realize that it was kindness and encouragement.

And guess what? I kept coming.

*Anonymous, Queens, NY*  
(AA Grapevine October 2013)



## Announcements

MAY 2016 MEETING BOOKS  
**\*ARE AVAILABLE\***  
FOR PURCHASE.

As always your first copy is free. Stop by the Queens Intergroup office to pick up your Group's supply

MEETING CHANGES??  
NEW GROUP??

OUR MEETING LISTS CAN ONLY BE AS ACCURATE AS THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO US.

EMAIL US AT

[MEETINGUPDATES@QUEENSAA.ORG](mailto:MEETINGUPDATES@QUEENSAA.ORG)

## Service Opportunities For You

### Institution Volunteers Needed!

Committee Meetings are held at the Intergroup office on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 P.M.

Anyone interested in doing Institution work such as chairing a meeting, coordinating meetings, or speaking at a meeting will learn how they can get involved at this meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!  
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### Phone Volunteers



#### **We Need Your Help!**

Queens Intergroup provides a 24-HOUR Hotline for any suffering alcoholic who needs someone to talk to.

This hotline is 100% Staffed by volunteers and we need YOUR help to maintain it. Help us help the still suffering alcoholic!

**Call the Hotline**  
**(718) 520-5021**

