

QUEENS INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEWSLETTER

105-29A METROPOLITAN AVE.

FOREST HILLS, N.Y., 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

2019 4TH QUARTER/(OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER) NEWSLETTER



Due to the small font size in the 3rd Quarter Newsletter, I was asked to reprint Manny A. – A Legacy of Love and Service.

MANNY A. – A LEGACY OF LOVE AND SERVICE

It's with great sadness to report the passing of Manny A., Senior Advisor to the QIAA Steering Committee. Manny left us on June 24, 2019. John Francis B., Advisor to the QIAA Steering Committee and Manny A's Service Sponsee, submitted the following article.

I met Manny A. in 1993, when I was first counting days at meetings, calling AA Members daily, and making coffee. We did not know each other well then, but Manny was always kind, low key, and humble. When I, or anyone else, needed support or guidance, Manny was always there. Little did I know that shortly after that Manny and I would bond through both Intergroup and General Service, and that he would eventually become my Grand Sponsor, Mentor, and Service Sponsor.

When Frank R., the Queens intergroup founder, started the Share-A-Thon, it was basically 9 or 10 individuals covering various time slots. The Share-A-Thon's growth and popularity coincide with Manny's strong involvement with the Share-A-Thon. Over the years, Manny created forms and documents that made everything run smoothly. Some of these forms are: "A list with clearly designated time slots", "The Ground Rules", and "the 12th Step Contact List". All these forms made it easier for AA Groups to participate in the Share-A-Thon. Manny also spearheaded and perfected the Share-A-Thon Lottery process.

The gradual conversion of a smooth-running Share-A-Thon created a solid blueprint for QIAA Special Events Chairpersons that followed Manny over the years. Adina C. and Chris R., who later served as Special Events Chairpersons have remarked to me: "Manny created all those forms to make the Events Chairperson position easier."


Manny did service for Queens County and SENY in multiple capacities. It is funny, we would be driving home from the Queens Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting or the SENY Assembly, and we would discuss various things that went on. Manny's insights and ideas were always based on the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts and the by-laws that applied to the situation. It was never based on his opinion.

Bert L., another QIAA Steering Committee member reminded me: "Manny always wanted to stress by-laws in all QIAA policies, and he strived to help us all understand and utilize the QIAA by-laws.

While Manny was a vital part of the AA "service structure", that did not prevent him from AA Spiritual Service. Manny's Sponsees, who I have known for years (Billy, Hector, Linda, Mike and others), all said they loved Manny "like a brother." They all realized they were fortunate to have a loving, humble mentor who really cared about them to guide them on a spiritual path.

Upcoming Events:
Holiday Share-A-Thon
Lottery
December 14 at 12 Noon
Christ the King School
145-02 Farmers Blvd

March 7, 2020
Queens Speaker Exchange
7:30 AM
Followed with
The Delegates Meeting
8:30 AM
Location:
All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432



2020 Queens County 36th Annual Share A Day
Saturday – April 18, 2020 8am to 3pm
Archbishop Molloy High School
83-53 Manton Street
Briarwood, NY 11435

Theme: A Clear Vision For You

Planning Committee (QSAD) meets at 7pm
January 13, 2020, February 10, 2020, March 9, 2020,
and April 13, 2020 (2nd Monday of the month)
until the 2020 Queens Share A Day event

Queens Intergroup Office – 105-29A Metropolitan Avenue
Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375 (3 doors off Metropolitan Ave)

Let's get busy – lots of service opportunities!!

Please bring your ideas, experience and joy to general service and help plan Queens County's Premier Service Event – we need you!

To Make A Contribution for 2020 QSAD – Mail Check to PO Box 670533 Flushing, NY 11367 – please write QSAD on check and envelope!

Questions – please contact Maura Z. - Qsadi@ccgsa.org

Thank You

Continued-

At Manny's wake, those who spoke shared a loving gratitude that they knew Manny, and the fact that he enriched their lives immensely. His daughter Roxanne was touched, but not surprised by the AA outpouring of support. His daughter also reminded us that Manny was loving, never judged us, and only gave us an opinion if we requested it (in a kind way).

Manny lived a life we should all strive for: Serving God and Fellowship, and in doing so, enhancing the lives of others. This was true both in his involvement in spiritual and fellowship service. Our current QIAA Chair, Antonio G., reminded me that all he learned about QIAA service was from Manny, as well as others. I personally grew in service with Manny, and we were always there for each other.

At the Funeral Home, many people stated that all Manny did for the fellowship would be sorely missed and hard to replace. To some extent that is very valid and true. What we all should try to do, whenever possible, is to do all we can to volunteer at QIAA, Queens County and SENY. It is rewarding to cover an institution, take a phone shift or be an Intergroup Rep. or GSR. Service outside the group level will not only fill the void left by Manny, but it will also keep us well connected and involved in AA Service. It will also be a tribute to the example Manny set for all of us. Being his "running buddy in service" for 25 years, I know this would please him immensely.

John Francis/QIAA Advisor

The Little Christmas Tree

Here is a touching story as relayed from my good friend, Bob R. aka Bob "The Mechanic" of the Daily Dozen Group:



One day, I was having some car troubles and visited my friend Bob. After diagnosing the problem with my vehicle, Bob said to me, "Hey Eddie, I want to show you something". That's when Bob invited me into his house and showed me a night table with a decorated small Christmas tree on it. That's when Bob relayed to me the story of The Little Christmas tree. When Bob was first getting sober, he was living in a room rented for him by his future wife. The only things contained in the room were a bed and a night table. His future wife bought him a small Christmas tree which he then proceeded to decorate. That tree gave him hope to stay sober through his first holiday season. To this day, Bob continues to decorate that very same Christmas tree. This tradition brings back fond memories of his early days of sobriety and fills his heart with gratitude that he was able to get sober and stay sober.

*I would like to thank Bob R. for sharing the picture of the tree and his heart-warming story.

The holidays can certainly pose a daunting challenge to AA members early in sobriety, as well as AA old timers. Here are some methods that have proved effective for many AA members.

12 Tips for Sober Holidays

1. Line up extra AA activities (help on phones, speak, help setup a meeting).
2. Be host to friends, especially newcomers, at home or at a coffee shop.
3. Keep you're a. telephone list with you at all times.
4. Find out about holiday meetings or celebrations in your local groups.
5. Skip any drinking occasions you're nervous about.
6. If there's one you can't skip, take an AA friend – or keep candy handy.
7. Don't think you have to stay late (plan an "important date" in advance).
8. Go to church. Any church. And don't forget about extra meetings.
9. Don't sit around brooding; catch up on reading, museums, walks, letters.
10. Don't project about holiday temptations: remember "One day at a time".
11. Even if you cannot give material gifts, enjoy the beauty of holiday love.
12. Carry the message. Give the joy away, and it will be yours to keep.

Note: Reprinted from the December 1989 issue of Grapevine Magazine.

Reminiscing about the holidays, my home group Elm-Heights, participated in the 2018 Queens Share-A-Thon which began on December 23, 2018 and ended on New Year's Day 2019. At the lottery, an event which is usually held a couple of weeks before the Share-A-Thon, Groups are assigned various time slots by picking the names out of a hat. I was conversing with our group GSR, Nick T., as to what time slot would we prefer? That's when I said, "Hey Nick...Why don't we let the chips fall as they may!" That's when our group drew the Midnight to 6 am slot on Christmas Day. Without hesitating for even a second, I said yet. When I say yes to sobriety, the Universe conspires to help me. We were met by Richie P., who served as the institution's chair for Queens Intergroup for years. Being that this was the first year our group participated in this event, Richie P. greeted us and showed us the ropes – taking out the garbage, making the coffee, filling out the donation envelopes, etc. I would like to share that this was a great way to kick off the holidays and take out insurance against picking up that first drink!!!

Any comments or questions??...I can be reached on my email

shearseddie@gmail.com

Love and Service,
Eddie F.

Special thanks to Joann M., John Francis B., my sponsee, Atif C., and The Entire QIAA Steering Committee.

Addresses for Contributions:

For South East NY Area 49:
SENY
PO Box 571
New York, NY 10116

Or Contribute Online @
www.aaseny.org

For General Service Office:

General Services Office
A.A. World Services, Inc.
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Or Contribute Online @
www.aaws.org

For Queens County General Service:

Queens County General Service
P.O. Box 670533 Flushing NY 11367

NY Intergroup:

NY Intergroup
307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 201
New York, NY 10001

Or Contribute Online @
www.nyintergroup.org