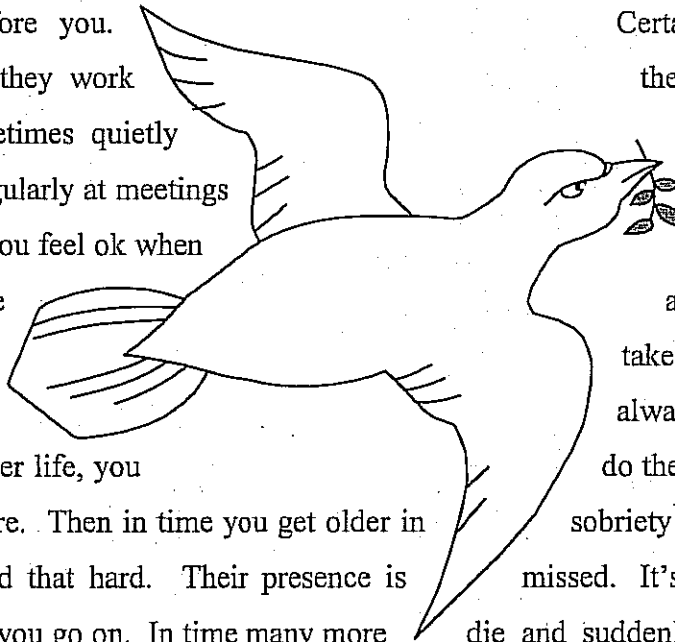


DECEMBER 1999

NEW FRONTIERS

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS OF
WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
We request that this newsletter be kept within the Fellowship to insure anonymity.

When you first come to sobriety, no matter what age you get sober, you learn to watch those who got sober before you. Certain ones stand out and you admire how they work their program. They walk the walk, sometimes quietly and sometimes out front. You see them regularly at meetings and events, active and helping others. You feel ok when you see them there because they are always there. Gradually, you sometimes take them for granted, like they will always be there. You get busy with your sober life, you do the deal, you help others. They are... still there. Then in time you get older in sobriety and one or two of them die. You find that hard. Their presence is missed. It's not the same, but life is for the living and you go on. In time many more die and suddenly you are the one who others are watching. We are only here for a little while. We are the fortunate who have been blessed with sobriety, a host of friends, and the good times. But our time will come. Now is the time to spend passing on what has so freely been given to you so that others may also have the gift that you received. It is a wonderful life and we are meant to be happy, joyous, and free. People in our fellowship experience God, as we understand him in those who pass it on, who welcome us and share with us. Don't miss a moment in your recovery, new or older in sobriety to give what has been given. You are only on this planet for a short while. Someday we will all have to go to the Big Meeting in the sky.



THE HOLIDAYS AND SOBRIETY

My first Holidays sober were a difficult one. The problems that make early sobriety, or any sobriety or any sobriety difficult were compounded during this time. I felt awkward around my drinking family. I knew that I could not take the first drink, but I was angry that no one offered me a drink. Insanity right? More and more, I found myself gravitating towards the kitchen counter that served as an impromptu bar. I was angry that I couldn't drink and celebrate this joyous occasion with my family in the only way that I knew how.

On the HALT scale I was: Angry, Lonely and my mind was tired of fighting. The only thing that I wasn't: Hungry. It was at this time that my AA training allowed the Grace of God to come to the rescue. I remember my sponsor telling me that if you're miserable around the holidays or anytime you're miserable: *you take action to get out of yourself*. I remembered this and said a quick 'Thy will not mine be done,' and looked around for something to do. My younger cousin who was too young to drink and too old not to be bored easily was wandering around feeling much the same way that I was. Even though he is ten years younger than I am I grabbed him and we went in the basement and played some foosball. I made an effort to cheer him up and pass the time. We ended up having a blast. It was a lot of fun.

I wanted to help him and by so doing I helped myself. The old holiday aphorism rang true: **It is better to give than to receive.** The understanding that I came to: is that the holidays are not about me. My selfishness has caused nearly all of problems. When I am stuck in myself, I must take action to get out of myself. Life is about what I can give not what I can get.

A Holly Jolly drunk.

Honesty

Honesty is a door that remains unlocked.

If not opened,
no light is seen.

The world
can not be viewed as it is.
Instead I only perceive all in
darkness.

Only to be driven by deceit and
selfish pride.

Never to realize that
beauty inside,

when it is opened,
all is illuminated

by gracious light

Hope, Help Acceptance & Love
are in sight.

-Anonymous

Come on down!!!

My name is Jimmie A. My home group is Positively Living II. I volunteer at the Central Office. It is a great privilege to work with the Archives by rewinding tapes and in so doing, I ran across a great tape recording by Lorenzo R. This and many others are available at the Central Office for your listening pleasure!

--Jimmie A.

December 25, 1976 was the first Christmas I had seen sober in years. Before then I would wake up in any one of the various states of hangover: the room spinning around; head aching like someone was pounding on my skull with a jack hammer; about to throw up my guts on the dry heaves. This was routine for about every day.

Finally, I would be able to dress and go out and celebrate. I love the Christmas season and I always have tried to make it merry and bright for the family and everyone else. I really thought I did a good job of it, too.

Today I agree with everyone it was mostly a superb job of being miserable and a pest to all.

On March 31, 1976 I found Alcoholics Anonymous and began a change in the way I was living.

It had been years since I had sent anyone a Christmas card and so naturally I was shocked when I received some cards from AA members. This got me back into the practice of sending cards and giving gifts again.

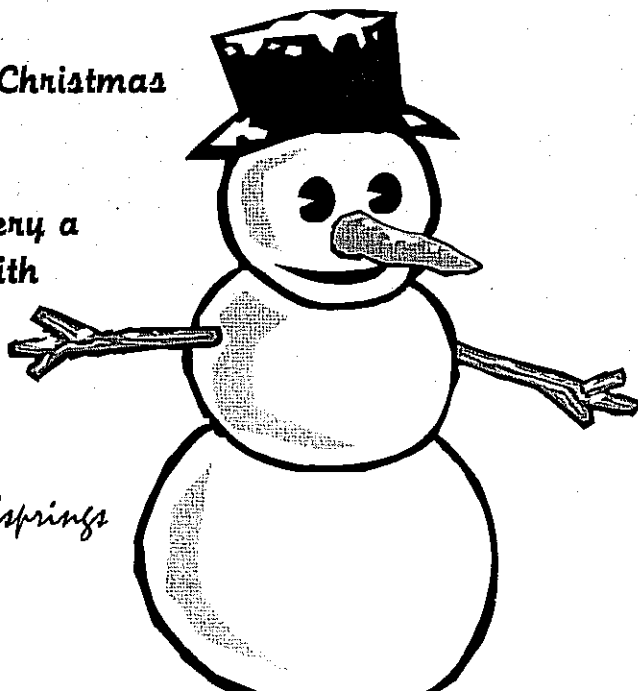
In 1976 I had to go out and buy cards, they got them after the first of the years.

I go visit the family and friends and they are honest when they say they are happy to see me these days.

I celebrate Christmas today by going to Christmas Vigils and AA meetings.

It comes from the heart when I wish every a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with love and honesty. So Merry Christmas and a Happy Millennium. Keep living and loving yourself and everyone.

Elvester McR., Coldsprings



There are two more functions of the Corrections Facility Committee. One, which is handled locally and one that is handled out of the General Service Office(GSO) in New York City. The local service is the 'Bridging the Gap' program that is implemented to connect the inmate AA member with AA in their community upon their release. When a soon to be released AA inmate contacts us we match them to a Bridge Volunteer in their community. We call you get the okay, and then send the information along to you. Your job is simple. You contact the AA inmate and arrange to pick them up and take them to an AA meeting within forty-eight hours of their release. Your commitment is taking them to a minimum of three and a maximum of six meetings. During this time, you help them to get acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps locate a sponsor or home group. Please note, it is not intended that you become their sponsor, even temporarily. It is best if that work is not used in anyway to describe your service. Bridge Volunteers are 'bridges' to the AA community. You introduce them to other winners so they have a broad healthy base and you are available to 'bridge' again. Lastly, we request that Bridge Volunteers have an active relationship with their own sponsor and a minimum of one year sober. If you are willing to be the hand of AA when an inmate reaches out for help, please contact your group Correctional Facility Committee Representative, Intergroup Representative or your General Service Assembly Representative, or contact your Central Office for further information.

The 'GSO' provides a special kind of AA service called Corrections Correspondence. This is a type of pen-pal service with inmates who desire outside sober contacts. The inmates who participate contact GSO, who in turn matches them up with an outside AAer. As anything else is perferred in AA it is men to men and women to women. The GSO usually has a glut of female volunteers, but lack outside men volunteers. Geographic location is taken into consideration when making a match, the GSO keeps the correspondents states apart, and stresses that Post Office Boxes be used. Again, if you are interested in this type of work contact your group Correstional Facility Committee Representative, Intergroup Representative or your General Service Assembly Representative, General Service Office, or contact your Central Office for further information.

We are truly happy to bring on board a new editor and staff for the New Frontiers. Arnie J., Sunrise Court, and his staff of thousands are ready to start accepting your articles sharing your experience strength and hope. We are looking for to being of service to you and our community of Alcoholics, reminding us all that it is one day at a time. We would also like to extend our wishes to you for happy, joyous and sober holidays.

The *New Frontiers* is published monthly by the Central Office of Western New York. We are supported by your subscriptions and Central Office donations. The *New Frontiers* presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. The staff reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and length. Articles will not be returned. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply the endorsement by the Central Office of Western New York or Alcoholics Anonymous. (Exceptions: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS and other A.A. books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. Articles reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.)

Fellowship Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

They were here for us, now our prayers are there for them.

Brownie C. formerly from Buffalo, moved to Albany but maintained contact

Clarence L. aka "Roscoe",

Jean L. member of the **Purpose Group**

Micki D. member of the **Sheridan Group**

Olive, a member of the **Acceptance Group**, passed September 21, 1999

Patricia E. member of the **North Buffalo Group**

Paul S., who was a member of the **Miracle Group** and moved to Florida, passed Nov. 3, 1999

NERAASA 2000
Greenbelt Maryland
February 25-27, 2000

The Northeast Region of Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is meeting this year in Greenbelt, Maryland. A number of us are going and are looking to charter a bus, in the past group travel has proved quite enjoyable and inexpensive. If you are interested in going please call 883-5079 for further information. In order to make this happen, firm commitments need to be made by December 31, 1999: we are attempting to see if there is enough interest to charter a bus for this trip. We need to have 40 bodies by December 31, 1999.

Sobriety Cights Up the New Century

Members of the Thruway Group are sponsoring their New Year's Eve Dance. Friday, December 31, 1999. Infant of Prague Hennesey Hall. 921 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga. Doors open at 7 pm: buffet at 8 pm and dancing 9:30-1:30. Due to limited space and fire codes. only 300 tickets will be sold. contact ticket Chairman Rich M. 688-5044.

and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

This a restatement of the general warranties of the Conference. In 1955, the Charter for the General Service Conference was adopted at the 20th anniversary of the Convention of A.A. that was held in St. Louis over the 4th of July weekend of that year. At that time a resolution was passed which said in part "That A.A.'s General Service Conference should now become the permanent successor to the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, inheriting from them all their former duties and special responsibilities, thus avoiding at future times all possible strivings for individual prestige or personal powers; and also providing our society with the means of functioning on a permanent basis."

The resolution further said "Neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article 12 of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference, except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups throughout the world." The warranties themselves, which are the basis of Concept 12, have a high and permanent importance to A.A.'s general welfare. They are a series of solemn undertakings which guarantee that the Conference itself will conform to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions; that the Conference can never become the seat of great wealth or government; that its financial policies shall ever be prudent; that it will never create any absolute authority; that the principle of substantial unanimity will be observed; that it will never take any punitive action; that it will never incite public controversy; that it can serve A.A. only; and that it shall always remain democratic in spirit.

These warranties are guides for the relationships of the Conference to all of A.A., but aren't they also guides by which we in our own groups can function. Certainly our system of rotation prevents any small group of persons from becoming a kind of "government" within the group. If they don't move over, we kick them over. Prudence is generally the word as far as money matters are concerned. As a matter of fact, we

sometimes are a little bit too prudent, finding it difficult to get that extra \$1 out of our pocket. The group does not give absolute authority to its trusted servants it just trusts them; the group conscience is the principle of unanimity; in our relationships with others the key is sharing and caring rather than punitive action.

The group bound by Tradition Ten has no opinion on outside issues, hence the A.A. name is not drawn into public controversy. The warranties say that the Conference can serve A.A. only. This is in keeping with our Fifth Tradition which says that A.A.'s primary purpose, and the primary purpose of every A.A. group, is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers -- and this is an extension of the 12th Step which says, "having had a spiritual awakening as a result of practicing these Steps, we try to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." which brings us back -- full circle -- to recovery -- the base of our triangle. And with our recovery we have been given a freedom from bondage we never dreamt possible. Through the practice of the Steps, we have the continued freedom to grow, to serve and to love. We of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live, for the 12th Step call is the first service, and the 12th Step call keeps us sober, and sober we stay free. So let's go back to the beginning, to that book which was written so many years ago and which was the forerunner of all that has been given us over these years of growth, success and service: "Give freely of what you find and join us, We shall be with you in the fellowship of the spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trod the road of happy destiny."

Eve M.

4th New York State Convention
Submitted by Cindy N.

**It is easy to sit up and take notice,
difficult to stand up and take action.**

ANNIVERSARIES

Acceptance

Ron S. 2 y
Chris G. 10 y
Sharon L. 13 y
Pete C. 17 y
John W. 21 y

Amherst/Snyder

Scott P. 3 m
Jeff G. 3 m
Don F. 1 y
Jon O'R 2 y
Paul B. 2 y
Gary S. 3 y
Emily H. 7 y
Robert G. 10 y
Chuck W. 12 y
Kevan G. 13 y
Anne P. 14 y
Don McG. 16 y
Mark S. 18 y
Mike E. 25 y

Any Length

Paul C. 1 y
Paul C. 5 y
Mike Z. 7 y
John C. 8 y

Cold Springs

Vivian S. 9 m
Sidney E. 2 y
Tina A. 3 y
Horace M. 13 y
Gigi 20 y
Alfred C. 21 y
Lela S. 29 y

Courage

Wayne L. 1 y
Don B. 1 y
Ben G. 2 y
Dave K. 11 y
Cathy E. 20 y

Fireside

Joan G. 9 m
Sam V. 9 m
Bill M. 3 y
Victor J. 6 y
Maria D. 9 y
Don S. 12 y
Bill G. 13 y

Happy Hour

Anthone P. 2 y
Angie W. 2 y
Paul M. 3 y
Hazelzetta A. 4 y
Derrel B. 4 y
Rita S. 4 y
Gino M. 5 y
Gilbert R. 6 y
Derrick R. 7 y
Rosetta A. 8 y
Dave K. 11 y
Mark S. 13 y
Earl W. 14 y
Paul V. 27 y

Giving

Kathy H. 9 m
Kristen H. 1 y
Janice B. 2 y
Jeff M. 11 y

Honesty

Mike S. 3 y
Dave C. 19 y

Kensington

Neil 9 m
Fritz L. 21 y

Lovejoy

Marcy M. 6 m
Jeffrey J. 2 y
Karen G. 3 y

Main & High

Mae C. 3 m
Kim S. 1 y
Sharon F. 1 y

Matt Talbot

Randy K. 3 m
Monica 9 m
Kenneth W. 1 y
Joe V. 6 y
Louise F. 8 y
Bill B. 16 y
Tim M. 19 y
Ginny K. 19 y
Paul M. 26 y

North Buffalo

Jeff N. 3 m
Dave P. 3 m
Henry J. 6 m
Paul L. 6 M
Courtney R. 6 m
Cathy B. 1 y
John D. 3 y
Chris A. 4 y
Chris B. 4 y
Connie G. 5 y
Gregory P. 10 y
Bill K. 12 y
Judy S. 12 y

Reformers

Raymond C. 14 y
Robert D. 1 y
David P. 1 y

Rise & Shine

Don S. 6 m
Suzi D. 6 m
Sandra C. 6 m
LaDonna R. 9 m
Karen S. 2 y
James M. 3 y

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Mary Ann H. 3 m
Suzie D. 6 m
Bob H. 1 y
Jeffrey T. 2 y
Joy P. 6 y

Thruway

Mike C. 6 m
Mary H. 6 m
John R. 9 m
Josh S. 9 m
Bruce D. 1 y
Dennis W. 1 y
Lauren L. 2 y
Joy P. 6 y
Louise F. 8 y
Norm C. 8 y
Bill Y. 17 y
Cathy E. 20 y
Mike H. 20 y
Fritz L. 21 y

Women's Westside Discussion

Donna S. 6 m
Jennifer T. 9 m
Brandy L. 1 y
Valerie B. 1 y
Karen H. 1 y
Marge S. 2 y
Maguerite J. 21 y

Group Anniversaries

Achievement

Sally

Tri-Step Beginners

Pathway to Peace

12 Steps to Freedom Now

Wilson

Please remember to
have the
anniversaries
submitted by the 10th
of the month
previous.

DECEMBER 1999

PLEASE NOTE: ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ARE OPEN TO ANYONE IN THE FELLOWSHIP.

NEW MEETINGS

STEP WORK – Medina Closed meeting, 7:30 pm Tuesday (not Monday as previously reported); United Methodist, 222 West Center.

PLEASE NOTE

FIRESIDE PM – Sunday, 7:30 pm, needs your support, they meet at 6320 Main Street, Williamsville.

MARILLA – will not meet Friday, Dec. 24, but will be back on schedule for Dec. 31st.

PASS IT ON – is updating their group files, please contact the group secretary if you are a member.

WESTMINSTER is updating their files; if you are a member please contact Vince R., if you would like to become a member, please attend our meeting, Monday 8 pm; 724 Delaware.

COMING EVENTS

- ~ Members of the **Mod/Living in the Solution** group are presenting alcohol-related movies on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9 pm and Charlie and Joe "Big Book Study tapes" every Thursday at 8 pm; discussions will follow all meetings.
- ~ Dec. 5, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Dec. 5, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Dec. 11, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Ch., 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ Dec. 11, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ Dec. 17, Fri., 8:30 pm, the members of the **Silvercreek Friendship Group**, First United Church of Christ, 31 Main Street, are having a Christmas Party/speaker/eating meeting. Bring a dish; bring an unwrapped \$5 gift to exchange if you wish.
- ~ Dec. 18, Sat., members of the **Remember When** group are sponsoring their annual Christmas dinner at 291 Elm, immediately following the 11:00 am meeting, bring a dish if you wish.
- ~ Dec. 20, Monday, the members of the **Thruway** group are having their Christmas party at 10 am; 921 Cleveland Drive, Infant of Prague. Speaker, Colleen M., Varysburg. BAD meeting (**Bring A Dish**).
- ~ Dec. 21, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Church 6:30 pm.

- ~ Dec. 21, Tuesday, **Pass It On** celebrates its 14th anniversary with an eating meeting and Christmas party, bring a dish to share.
- ~ Dec. 22, Wed., the members of the **Main & High** group are sponsoring their 2nd Annual Christmas Vigil; at 984 Main Street, Buffalo, 7-1; 50/50, Bring a Dish.
- ~ Dec. 24, Friday, the members of the **Lovejoy** group are sponsoring a Christmas Vigil, 6-11; Speaker, food, Santa, refreshments, giant 50/50. Please come and share the Christmas Spirit.
- ~ Dec. 24-25, Fri. - Sat., the members of **F.U.N.** are hosting an alka-thon. Please come and help us share the message during the holidays for the sick and suffering, even for those who are not sick and suffering, but would like a meeting.
- ~ Dec. 29, Wed., **Mod/Living in the Solution** will be having a special guest speaker (famous musician) 8 pm, followed by group discussion; Amity Club, 340 Military Road.
- ~ Dec. 31, Friday, the members of the **Tri-County** invite you and your family to our annual New Year's Eve Gathering. Doors open at 7pm; speaker at 8; music, food, 50/50s, and fellowship; St. Joseph's Church basement, West Main, Gowanda.
- ~ Dec. 31, Friday, members of the **Thruway** group are sponsoring "Sobriety lights up the New Century" New Year's Eve Dance, Admission \$12, only 300 tickets will be sold; Buffet 8 pm; dancing 9:30. Food, music, door prizes, 50/50.
- ~ Jan 2, Sunday, **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Jan 2, Sunday, **Correctional Facility Committee**, St. Michael's Church Hall, 6 pm, 651 Washington Street.
- ~ Jan. 16, Sat., **New Frontier Committee**, Central Office, 845 Ellicott Square, 10 am.
- ~ Jan. 16, Sat., **Coop.w/Prof.Community**, Maryvale Pres. Ch., 425 Maryvale Dr. 9 am.
- ~ Jan. 18, Tues., **Treatment Facility Committee**, St. Paul's, 49 Indian Church 6:30 pm.
- ~ Jan. 30, Sun 4th **Step Stumblers's** movie night, 7pm, 104 West Ferry. Sharing Behind the Walls with presentation and question and answer session with the Correctional Facility Committee.
- ~ Feb. 25-27, 2000, **NERASSA**, Greenbelt, Maryland.
- ~ June 29 - July 2, 2000, International Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NERAASA 2000

Greenbelt Maryland, February 25-27, 2000

We would like to be able to charter a bus for this conference. In order to do so, we need to have 40 paid riders by December 31, 1999. The upfront cost for the bus is \$50 per person. Other costs are: registration \$20; hotel \$89+tax/night. For more information or to make your reservation please call the Central Office at 853-0388.