



**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
(705)725-8682 BARRIE AND AREA INTERGROUP

## **Barrie & Area Intergroup Newsletter February 2010**



### **Barrie & Area Intergroup Meeting**

**February 12th** at 7:00 pm

Central United church, 54 Ross Street, Barrie

**&**

### **Georgian Bay South District 8**

**Committee Meeting**

**Sunday, February 14th**

St. Georges Anglican Church

Corner of Burton Ave and Granville St, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

### **"Bradford"**

**One Day Round-Up**

**21st Anniversary**

**Saturday, February 20, 2010**

**Holy Martyrs of Japan Church**

**167 Essa Street, Bradford,  
Ontario**

**PANELS, GUEST SPEAKERS,  
FELLOWSHIP  
AA & ALANON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**LORRAINE S. (905) 775-3806**

**TOM W. (905)-841-3641**

*\$25 per Person includes Banquet and Dance*

**FEB 4<sup>TH</sup> DEADLINE FOR BANQUET**

### **"Celebrating Sobriety"**

**Ontario Regional Conference**

**of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**March 19,20 &21, 2010**

**Fairmount Royal York Hotel,**

**Toronto, Ontario**

**call 1-416-487-2677 or**

**[orc@aatoronto.org](mailto:orc@aatoronto.org)**

# Came to believe...

## Central Office Notes **A. A. GOES ISLAND--HOPPING BY MAIL**

*Oct. 8, 1943 Naval Cantonment, Honolulu, Hawaii,*

Alcoholics Anonymous Dear Sirs:

I have been an alcoholic for 10 years. Three months ago, on July 8th, I went to the hospital for alcoholism. It was the third time in that same hospital . . . While there a nurse told me of your organization. I went to the Public Library and found your address. . . I have since talked it over with a number of alcoholic patients in this same hospital, and also with the doctors and nurses there, and I have decided that we have the material to form a branch of your organization in Honolulu. . . I am assured of the co-operation of the Mental Health Bureau of the Territory of Hawaii, and I'm sure we can make a success of it. I am enclosing postage. Will you please send me all the information you can on the organization? Respectfully yours, E.G.

On October 19th the Central Office received and answered the above letter. The answer covered one sheet of typewriting paper, single-space, on both sides, in order that it might be light-weight enough to go Air Mail with a pamphlet enclosed. That one sheet of paper constituted as clear, as concise, and as comprehensible a picture of A.A.: what it is, how it works, and what kind of people make it the amazing thing it is, as the Editors have ever seen. Now we know how the Central Office creates groups!

*Nov. 16, 1943 Shop----, Pearl Harbor*

Gentlemen: Received your Air Mail letter enclosing one pamphlet 4 weeks ago, and your package of literature today. . .We have not yet had a meeting. I have been visiting the prospects armed with only one pamphlet and a handful of bus tokens. There are some problems peculiar to this place. . .in dealing with permanent residents and transient workers. Although I believe that alcoholics are usually more broadminded than others, we are taking precautions to see that the effort we are making is not isolated in either group. There are 6 who have promised to make the effort. Three of them are permanent residents and 3 are workers from the mainland. It is quite a representative group. One lawyer, one radio telegraph operator, one member of a Federal commission, one electrician, one carpenter, and myself--a small-boat builder, aged 32. I am enclosing \$5.00. Please send me a copy of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and some more pamphlets. If there is any left it is my donation to the Foundation. Sincerely yours, E.G.

*Dec. 14, 1943 Shop----, Pearl Harbor*

Dear ----: You may definitely stick a pin in Honolulu on your map. Tonight we had a meeting of the entire group for the first time. There were supposed to be 7--but only 5 came. All have been sober with the help of the A.A. program for a time varying from over a month to 1 week before their first meeting. The meeting was so interesting to everyone we had trouble leaving in time to get home before curfew. And not bragging (much) I don't think there are any more intelligent 5 people in Honolulu who meet as a group than we had there tonight. . .One reason that I am so optimistic about our little group is that every one of them sought the help. There has been no evangelism, no compulsion. All of us really want to quit. . .Please don't think you're presuming to give me advice. We have not been able to contact any old members here. *If ever there was a place where the blind are leading the blind, that place is Honolulu right now.* We not only will accept any advice you care to give, we're begging for it. . .I have had several bitter disappointments. . .I have discovered that a desire to stop and mere knowledge of the program of A.A. are not enough. It is those of us who are really trying to put into practise the 12 steps who are succeeding. Now that we are holding meetings I feel sure that more of us will be able to put them into practise.

About my own case. I have for years considered myself an agnostic. After reading the A.A. literature, especially the part about an alcoholic who wanted to get well not being able to afford the luxury of a closed mind, I began asking myself what I really believed. The more I thought and worked with others the nearer to faith I came. . .The psychiatric social worker at--Hospital, who has been trying to help me since July to quit drinking has remarked at the great change in me since I became acquainted with A.A. When I told her of my new source of strength she suggested that maybe that strength had been lying latent in me all along. I told her I didn't really know what the source of strength was, but that I did know the formula I had used to tap it, and that was humble, sincere, unselfish prayer. . .

Yours in A.A., E.G., **Reprinted with the permission of the AA Grapevine inc,**

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## Fountain of Youth:

February 02, 2010 [Story of the Day, August 1998](#)

Eight months ago I came back to the community where I got sober to find that my former home group had almost completely fallen apart. I walked back in that first Wednesday night to find three newcomers just sitting around talking to each other. A little after seven, when the meeting was scheduled to begin, I asked them who was chairing. They told me that there hadn't been a business meeting in months and that nobody really had jobs. I asked them where the group format was and they told me that they had never seen one. I didn't like what I was hearing and seeing; I couldn't believe how far apart this group had grown in just two years.

Eleven years ago when I first came to an AA meeting, this was where I had come. In 1989, when I finally decided that it was really time to do the work to stay sober, this was the group that I joined. This young people's group had been like a second family to me; my older sister had been one of its founding members three years before I got sober. This was where I learned about recovery, where I made my first real friendships, where I learned how to have fun without drinking, where I was taught how to live sober. I had watched this group of young people change a lot of lives. As far as I was concerned, this group was where we had saved one another's lives. But no one had stuck around to make sure that it was here to save the next person. That hurt me.

I was aware that many of the old group had moved away, or gone back out, but I knew of at least a few who were still in the area who could have been there to show this group how it works, to extend the hand of AA. Where were they? This was the one young people's group in at least a thirty miles radius and there was not one young person with long-term sobriety who could show up for it? I couldn't understand. It felt very wrong to me--this was not what our program was meant to be like. At least this isn't the way I learned it; I was taught that you have to give it away to keep it.

Sad and frustrated, I rummaged through the boxes in the corner of the hall. I found our group's binder--no format, no chips, and there hadn't been an entry in the notebook since 1995. I winged it. I had come for a meeting and so had these three kids. I did what the drunks who came before me taught me how to do; I took responsibility and I passed on the message.

After we had closed with the Serenity Prayer, I let the guys know that I was committed to getting this group going again. I asked them to spread the word that the Young People's Meeting was back. I volunteered to chair for the rest of the month and we decided to hold a business meeting the following week to draw up a new group format.

I drove the twenty minutes home that night feeling very full of all of the best that this program promises us, if we are willing to do the work: success, hope, serenity, joy, satisfaction. And that was only the beginning. In these last few months our group has come together in an amazing way. We put in a bid for the New England Young People's Conference, we traveled to Syracuse for the Great Lakes Conference, we are going out on commitments; two weeks ago I watched a sixteen-year-old girl with five months speak for her first time. She set the room afire and she walked away with a whole new feeling about herself and her recovery. And as a result, so did I.

We now have monthly business meetings, we have jobs and people to show up for them, we are sharing the true joys of Unity, Service, and Recovery. Best of all, at least for me, this last Wednesday night there wasn't an empty seat in the room, there wasn't enough time for everyone to speak, and I had the pleasure of witnessing both white chips and a two-year medallion being given to members of my home group.

Having the opportunity to watch this program work in young peoples' lives the way that it worked in mine is one of the greatest joys of my sobriety. It is an immeasurable gift and I didn't have to do anything special to receive it; I simply took what I was taught and passed it on. I show up early, I am involved, and I reach my hand out to the next person coming through the door. It's amazing how very easy it is to make a difference for others and for yourself just by accepting the responsibility to pass the message on.

Heidi T., New Hampshire, **Reprinted with the permission of the AA Grapevine inc,**

## *Second Tradition Checklist*

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?*
- Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with any AA Twelfth Step job or other AA responsibility?*
  - Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?*
- Do I have to save face in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?*
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?*
- In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?*

**Check our website: [www.barrieaa.com](http://www.barrieaa.com)**  
**Barrie and Area Intergroup/ Central Office:**  
**622-80 Bradford St.**  
**Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7**  
**(705) 725-8682**

**Literature Hours: Tues. & Thurs 12-4 & Mon. & Fri. 4-7p.m.**

**[newslettereditor@barrieaa.com](mailto:newslettereditor@barrieaa.com)**



1. "Honey, I may be sober a long time but I still can't seem to find my car." *Anonymous*
3. "I can't go in there, Helen! I just saw my hairdresser inside!" *Anonymous*
4. **Winner: "Isn't wearing womens clothing taking anonymity a bit far, Bert?"** *James, New Zealand*
5. "Trust me Edith. I told you I'd help you with these steps too." *Brent G., Gut Level Group, Springville, CA*
6. "Only six steps? This must be the "half measures" meeting" *Johnny B.*
7. "No dating for a year, Dorothy...." *Greg M., Decatur, IL*