T*he* **DIA***log*

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION (est. 1947)

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# Welcome to the new eNewsletter

With this issue, The DIAlog begins a new era as a digital publication. This change will make it available to a wider than ever readership and reduce its cost to almost nothing. It will also make it possible for The DIAlog to be published more timely so that we can respond to groups’ needs to announce events. For those who do not have access to a computer, Dallas Intergroup Association will continue to make printed copies available on a limited basis.

I am pleased to act as the new editor and I look forward to assisting your group in using this important communications opportunity. Our newsletter should reflect Alcoholics Anonymous in the DIA service area. To that end I urge all groups to contribute articles and announcements whenever possible. We are no longer limited to a finite amount of space, so the more information the better. Members may contact me directly through the DIA office or submit material through their Intergroup Representative. Please do not be concerned about your writing skills. Members can collaborate on articles as a way of supporting each other in getting stories told. We are not a literary magazine! I will edit all submissions as required.

I look forward to hearing from you and about you. Barney L.

# From the Director:

Some Good News and Some Bad News

The good news is: construction on our outside areas has progressed to the point that we can start opening on Saturdays again by early April. With the front parking lot finished and most of the large machinery gone, the building is almost looking complete. We also need the intercom to be replaced, which is in the works.

The bad news is: our ceiling collapsed after the recent rain and fell on top of our archive area. Thankfully, Esther E.’s book was in a sealed Lucite box and was not damaged in any way. The damaged material was taken to be frozen and hopefully

an inch of water. We still have very large blowers in the sales area to speed the drying process. The lower walls have holes drilled in them and all of the trim has been removed. In addition, the circuit breaker has to be reset every couple of hours. No photos or other items had been hung yet, so the damage was not as extreme as it could have been.

Thank you all for putting up with this yearlong construction with us. Hopefully we are getting close to an end. At least until the next disaster!

Thank you again for supporting us in so many ways.

restored. If not, the management will be doing some 1

bidding to replace the magazines that were laying in

Janis

**My Name is Jack**

 …and I am an alcoholic, and by God’s grace my last drink of alcohol was February 19, 1977 and I am grateful for that today. I introduce myself in this manner every time I share in an AA meeting to remind me of who I am and to be grateful for the precious gift that has been given me by my High Power. I got sober in the western suburbs of Chicago, and my home group was the River Grove Group, which had just one meeting per week on Thursday nights at 7:30PM. So if you wanted to go to a meeting every night you went to a different group every night.

Jim and Jack, the two men who 12-Stepped me into the program, came out in a warm car in cold Chicago to take me to a meeting almost every night for the first month of my sobriety. They showed me a great example of what unselfish service work looks like from my early days in sobriety.

It took me almost 30 days to become somewhat clearheaded and finally start to believe what people were saying about how they stayed sober. I then took an action I’ve come to believe was my full commitment to AA and sobriety – I asked Jim to be my sponsor. My first experience with the feeling of fully belonging was when they asked me to chair a meeting after I had three months of sobriety. In a very small group this meant getting there early, getting out the coffee pot and the literature, hanging the portable Steps & Traditions, collecting the money and sending it to the Central office. I was very grateful for having been entrusted with this responsibility and the opportunity to be of service to the group and AA.

In September 1977, with seven months of sobriety, my employer transferred me to Dallas. I was very busy with my work and for the first three weeks in Texas I did not get to a meeting. Then, with what I believe to be divine intervention, I called the Dallas Intergroup Office and was directed to a meeting at the Preston Group on a Saturday night. I met three people after the meeting, and we went out for pizza – the meeting after the meeting. I was plugged into A.A. in a new city. Shortly thereafter, I asked Bill M. to be my sponsor and he took me through the 12 Steps.

Bill was very active in service work and would take me along to GSR meetings and District meetings. I became very active in helping out around the group - greeter, talking to newcomers, coffee bar, clean up. My sponsor helped me to have appreciation for the importance of service work in keeping me away from that first drink of alcohol one day at a time – keeping the ego in check.

In the fall of 1985, a member of Preston led several of us out of the smoke, and we formed the Clean Air Group. At Clean Air I have served as GSR and numerous times in various positions on the Steering Committee. I have served as treasurer on the North Texas Roundup. For the past 7 plus years I have volunteered on Thursday afternoon at DIA answering the phone and performing other duties. I am so grateful to be the voice of A.A. when a call comes in - that voice was there almost 40 years ago when I called. In 2010 I served on the DIA Board, and I am looking forward to serving on the Board again, this time as Special Events chair.

Yours in Service,

Jack L.

Clean Air Group

 **PJ’s Story**

“You have so much potential.” I started hearing that phrase a couple of years after I started drinking. I thought that was a good thing…but now know that is the mantra of many people whose lives interact with the alcoholic.

I took my first drink at 15 with my best friend’s parents. I found the magic elixir. I drank for the next 17 years. Because I was a black-out drinker I thought that alcohol was working for me. If I didn’t remember…it didn’t happen. If you were upset with my behavior…that was your problem.

The last two years of my drinking, I cut a path of destruction and hurt so many people. In 1987, I gave birth to a stillborn baby girl because I couldn’t stop drinking. I separated and divorced my husband, my kids interfered with my drinking so I gave them to their father. I quit/got fired from my job. With each event my drinking escalated.

It took a combination of three unusual interventions for me to hear that drinking was a problem. The first was in March 1988, when I went to see a fortune teller and she told me to go to A.A. (I later found out she was newly sober and telling everyone to go to A.A.)!

**PJ’s Story** *Continued from Page 2, Column 2*

The second was when I danced with the wrong guy at a bar. He recognized I might have a drinking problem when I ordered two shots of tequila and a lemon drop chaser. Little did I know he had 10 years sobriety in AA. I was 12th stepped at the only place I could listen to the message…in a bar.

The final intervention occurred in Santa Fe, New Mexico when my lower companions (2 drug dealers and a stripper) told me I was causing problems for them because I was a drunk. The next day was July 4, 1988…little did I realize when I woke up that morning it would be my independence day from alcohol! Within two weeks I got my kids back, got a new job as a school administrator, and got my husband back (found out later I didn’t want him back)!

It took me over three months to get in the middle of AA. The program doesn’t work very well when you only go to two meetings a month, get there late, and

leave early. I ended up being “kidnapped” by a group of old blue-haired old ladies known as the “filthy five”. They loved me enough to tell me the truth, took my inventory on a regular basis, told me to get a sponsor and to take (and keep) commitments.

Twenty-eight years later, I owe my life to this program. I wouldn’t be the woman I am today without the tools of the program- utilizing all three Legacies (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts) in my life and working closely with a sponsor. My sponsor of 18 years died in July, 2016. I am so grateful that she led by example in life and in death.

This is my second year on the Board. Last year I was *The DIAlog* Editor. This year I serve you as Vice-Chair and chair of the PI/CPC Committee. It is an honor and a privilege to do anything in AA.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

In Service, PJ HR

Allen Group

# Secular A.A. in Dallas

I got sober in the San Francisco Bay area on December 15, 1993. I was a high functioning alcoholic in most respects and that made it easier for me to deny that I had a drinking problem. I knew I was unhappy and insecure

One of the first things that changed was my sense of isolation. I was meeting people who understood the nature of my feelings and I began to make acquaintances. I followed the wisdom of pursuing the people who seemed to have what I wanted and some of those acquaintances became friends. One of them became my sponsor for the next ten years. He continues to be a dear friend.

From my very first meeting I balked at the12 Steps that hung on the wall. I have been an atheist since I began college and that was not going to change.

Indeed, it has not. But that first sponsor accepted that “a God of my understanding” meant no God at all. In that part of the country so far from the Bible Belt my non-belief was not so unusual. I did the 12 Steps then as I do them now: essentially substituting collective human power for divine power. Chapter 5 says “*probably* no human power could have relieved our alcoholism.” I believe that human power is the only thing that can. It’s all the higher power I need.

Moving to Texas in 2008, I found myself in culture shock. Sometimes I still do. A major component of that culture shock was everyone’s preoccupation with what church I attended. AA is largely the basis of my spiritual program and I occasionally refer to it as Our Lady of Inebriation. I didn’t think that was the answer they were looking for.

Generally, I am comfortable at most AA meetings, but I have to say that some of them seem more like Christian revival meetings than 12-Step meetings and that does not feel inclusive to me. At some I have had people go out of their way to try to make me feel uncomfortable.

# Secular A.A. in Dallas

*Continued from Page 3, Column 2*

The We Agnostics Group was started just over four years ago by a small group who felt ostracized in a

Dallas area meeting (we’ll let that meeting remain anonymous). Since then we have been sought out by a substantial number of people who want recovery and generally respect the 12-Step method, but who want a secular meeting. We do not, however, discourage anyone from attending who believes in a supernatural higher power. A desire to stop drinking gets you in the door.

One can have a spiritual life without God. It is simply a matter of getting outside the self, recognizing that we have a role to play on the planet and that the most satisfying role is one that contributes to the common good of humanity. That is, after all, what the 12 Steps try to get us to accomplish.

Our meeting regularly discusses the 12 Steps of AA. We also permit and even encourage meeting topics from literature that is not AA conference approved, as long as it relates to alcohol abuse and is solution oriented. Often this means that we discuss information about recovery that was discovered after the Big Book was published in 1939 and has a more scientific basis. Because of this, we find that our meeting appeals to younger people. Statistically, millennials are less religious and more scientific than their parents. The We Agnostics Group wants to be sure that they are served without any pressure to convert their belief system.

I am honored to be able to serve on the Board of Directors of Dallas Intergroup Association and to serve as the editor of *The DIAlog*. Communications is my professional background and with everyone’s participation I look forward to sharing information that strengthens our individual and collective sobriety.

Barney L.

We Agnostics Group



Coming Soon:

How Dallas A.A.

“Invaded”

Russia

Announcements

DUNCANVILLE AA CELEBRATES 42nd ANNIVERSARY!

**February 18 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Help the Duncanville Group celebrate their 42nd Anniversary on Saturday, February 18th. 2007. 12pm: AA Speaker, Matt A., from the Midlothian Group 1pm: Lunch and Raffle 2pm: Al-Anon Speaker, Krista M. from the Preston Group Please bring a side dish or a dessert to help with lunch. Meat provided by the group. For more information contact Duncanville Group.

METROPOLITAN WOMEN’S MEETING

**February 23 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** *Unity Church, 6525 Forest Lane Dallas, United States + Google Map*

Share your heart with other AA women! Thursday, Feb. 23rd, 2017, Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane, Dallas 75230. Speaker will be Ali S., Phoenix, AZ Group Hosted by The Legacy Group: 7pm: Snacks & Fellowship 7:30pm: Speaker For details or to receive email updates email: MetropolitanWomensMeeting@gmail.com

New meetings will be June 22nd and Oct 26th.

HAPPY 3RD ANNIVERSARY FOR CITYWIDE!!!

## March 11 @ 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

*Lover’s Lane United Methodist, 9200 Inwood Road Dallas, 75220 United States + Google Map*

Citywide celebrates their 3rd year on March 11th, 2017. Their Anniversary Speaker will be Wayne B., St. Petersburg, Florida. Saturday, March 11th, Potluck begins at 5pm (please bring a side dish) Speaker Meeting begins at 7pm and ends by 8:30pm. Help them celebrate three years of great speakers and fellowship! Free childcare from 5:30 to

8:30pm. Sign Language Interpreter by request. Email to be on the mailing list for more information or service opportunities. citywidedallas@gmail.com UNITY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP.

BRUTON TERRACE TO CELEBRATE 49TH ANNIVERSARY

**March 11 @ 8:00 pm - March 12 @ 5:00 pm**

*Bruton Terrace, 2414 E Hwy 80 Suite 160*

*Mesquite, TX United States+* *Google Map*

Help one of our older groups celebrate their 49th Anniversary! March 11 and 12, 2017. Kick-off begins Saturday, March 11th with an AA speaker at 8pm followed by cake. Sunday will include history of the group, Al-Anon and AA speakers, raffles and lots of food. More details will be included as the events get closer. Plan to attend and hold the dates!

PRINCIPLES GROUP CELEBRATES THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

## March 25 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

*Unity Church, 6525 Forest Lane Dallas, United States + Google Map*

Help the Principles Group celebrate 10 years of fellowship and unity on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane Dinner @ 5:30pm \* Speaker @ 7pm, John B. of Kansas City, MO \*the church will be open at 5pm for arrival of side dishes, potluck dishes. Contact the group for more information.

***Find Us Online***

*At www.aadallas.org you’ll find group*

*announcements, an events calendar, a*

*searchable group directory, online bookstore & more.*

*To Subscribe Support your Dallas Intergroup Association, and get your DIALog hot off the presses! For individuals and groups, a yearly subscription is $12; two years, $18. Please contact carrie@aadallas.org or call the Dallas Intergroup Association at (214) 887-6699.*

***Faithful Fivers: Would you like to be one?***

Faithful Fivers are AA members who in gratitude pledge to contribute at least five dollars each month toward the support of Dallas Intergroup Association, DIA.

This contribution gives AA members the opportunity to practice the Seventh Tradition regularly and painlessly by pledging $5 or more a month to the DIA.

We can set up an automatic credit card deduction, or you can send in a check once a month or whenever you choose. Call, 214-887-6699, to set up monthly contributions. DIA is totally supported by AA groups and individuals. Contributions are limited to $3,000 per member per year and are tax deductible.

***Yes! Please enroll me as a Faithful Fiver.***

Please complete the form below and mail in with your contribution to

DIA

6162 E. Mockingbird Ln., Suite 213

Dallas, TX 75214

Name:

Address:

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