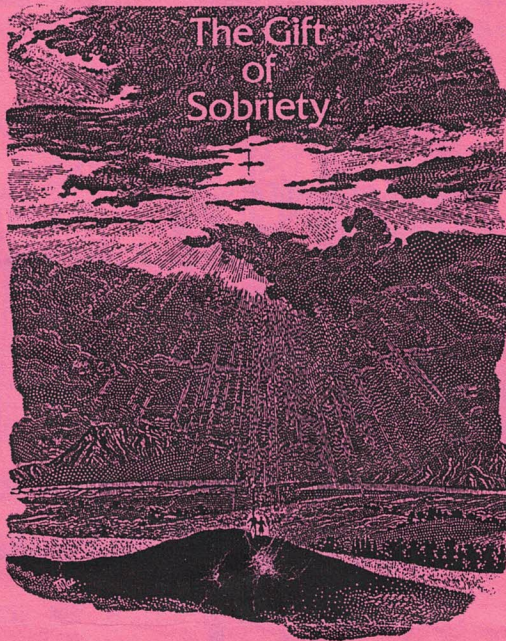


ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA" December, 1993



The Gift of Sobriety

"We are going to know a new freedom"

"Faith without works is dead"

"We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it"

"Above all - take it one day at a time"

"Having had a spiritual awakening.."

"It works - it really does"

"Hold your face up to the Light, even though for the moment you do not see."

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU AND YOURS

BARRY B.

WITH THANKS

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

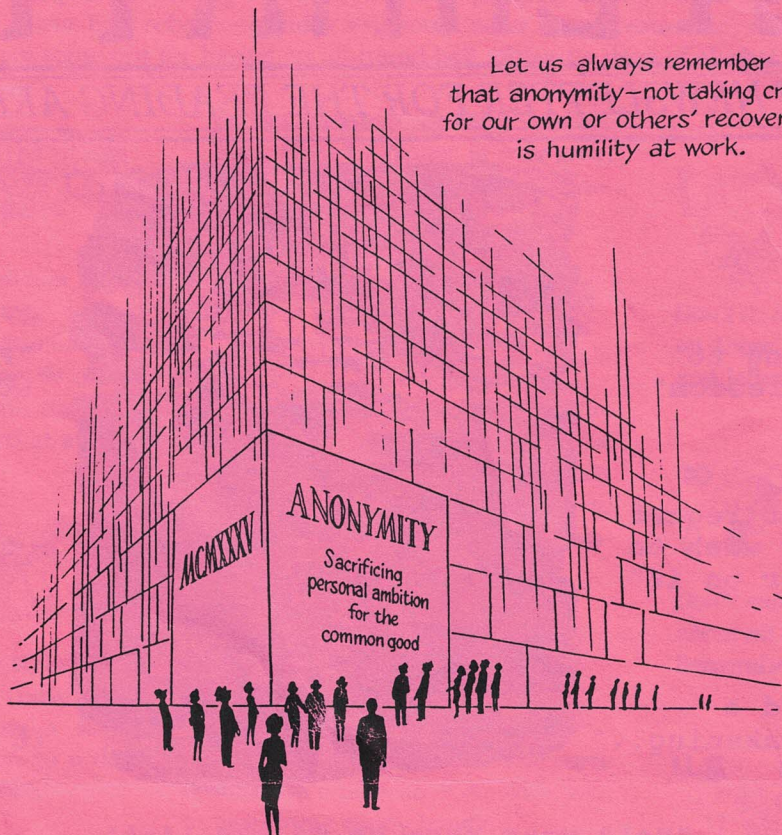
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Tom & Christi
Neil W.
John H.
Will E.
Mary K.
Reynor T.
Della J.
Bob B.
Cus M.
Connie M G
Kathy M.
Bill H.
Howard S.
Dan F.
Vince R.
Harry
Stan L.
Denny H.
Luis M.

The Twelfth Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Let us always remember that anonymity—not taking credit for our own or others' recovery—is humility at work.



'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse.

We reached for the bottles
We'd hid on the shelves,
For those were the presents
We'd bought for ourselves.

We never had money to spend for a gift.
We needed it all for a holiday lift.

The tree lights were always
So fuzzy and dimmed
'Cause we always got stinko
Before it was trimmed.

And all Christmas Eve
The joint would be rocking
Though we knew full well
What we'd find in our stocking.

That regular hangover, our Christmas present,
With thoughts of remorse
And a day quite unpleasant.

We followed a pattern that seemed to be right.
Isn't it the time when people get tight?

That Christmas is past
And new one draws near,
But with its approach
We hold nary a fear.

For through A.A.'s pattern
We've found a new way
To know a real Christmas,
Truly happy and gay.

The tree will be brilliant,
The lights bright and clear,
And not from a bottle
Will come Christmas cheer.

But straight from our hearts
A true warmth will glow
Reflected by love
From the friends that we know.

So to you, Merry Christmas
Full of genuine cheer!
May the green light be yours
In the coming new year!

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1 Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes — postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 Find out about the special holiday

parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



7 Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 Go to church. Any church.



9 Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember — "one day at a time."



11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.



12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



Happy Holidays
to all!



It Happened In December....

- Dec 1934 - Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.
- Dec 1934 to May 1935 - Bill works with alcoholics, but fails to sober any of them. Lois reminds him HE is sober.
- Dec 1938 - Twelve Steps written.
- Nov/Dec 1939 - Akron group withdraws from association with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from T Henry & Clarence Williams to Dr Bob and other members homes.
- Dec 1939 - First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.
- Dec 1939 - 1st home meeting in Los Angeles at Kaye M.'s house.
- Dec 1939 - Matt Talbot Club has 88 members, uses wagons to collect old furniture to recondition & sell, not AA, used AA program, material, marked 1st effort reach alcoholics outside married middle-class category
- Dec 1940 - 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Dec 1940 - group started Ashtabula, Ohio due to Plain Dealer articles. A.A. Cleveland has about 30 groups.
- Dec 1948 - Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.
- Dec 1950 - Grapevine article signed by both Bill and Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.
- Dec 1955 - 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. first appeared in Grapevine. Painting originally called 'Come to Believe'
- Dec 1962 - Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service.
- Dec 1, 1940 - Chicago Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nell Hamilton.
- Dec 5, 1985 - Dave B, founder of Montreal Group dies weeks before 50th anniversary. His story added to the 4th Edition Big Book
- Dec 6, 1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000.
- Dec 6, 1979 - Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling.
- Dec 7, 1949 - Sister Ignatia received Poverello Medal on behalf of A.A.
- Dec 10, 1975 - Birds of a Feather AA group for pilots is formed.
- Dec 11, 1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).
- Dec 11, 1941 - Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas.
- Dec 12, 1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.
- Dec 12, 1937 - Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money.
- Dec 13, 1937 - Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey.
- Dec 13 or 14, 1934 - Ebby visited Bill at hospital, brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".
- Dec 19, 1939 - Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting there.
- Dec 20, 1945 - Rowland H dies (he carried the Oxford Gp message to Ebby).
- Dec 27, 1893 - Rev Samuel Shoemaker is born.

Intergroup Tid-Bits:

Congratulations are in order to the following folks who were elected to the following Intergroup service positions:

General Chair - Rick R.

Alternate Chair- Terry M. (Nominated)

Treasurer- Greg G.

Secretary- Patti R.

Schedules- Beth S.

Literature- Jan S.

Institutions- Shannon

Archives- John

Alternative- Wayne F.

Bridging the Gap- Terry McF.

The monthly meeting of Intergroup will be held on December 19th.

We'll be having fun and refreshments so don't forget to bring some goodies.

Intergroup is always open to visitors. Come and see the goings on of your local AA Service Committee.

Around Town:

Christmas Eve Day: Hourly Meetings at the Easy Does It Clubhouse on Walnut Street.

Christmas Eve: No meetings will be held at Spring View and Come as You Are groups.

New Years Eve: Annual Alcathon at The Atonement Center.

Anniversaries:

The New Millennium Group celebrates its Seventh Year Anniversary at St. Marks in Birdsboro.

January 28, 2007, Food & Fellowship @ 6pm. Speaker Meeting @ 7pm.

Covered Dishes and snacks are welcome to this open meeting.

Unity breakfast:

Reading Berks Intergroup is sponsoring an awesome Fellowship Breakfast/Speaker Meeting.

Saturday Feb. 10 2007 at St. Paul's UCC W. Penn Ave. and Pearl Streets Robesonia Pa.

Food and fellowship starting at 9:30am. Speaker at 11:00

Adult tickets are \$5.00 in advance \$6.00 at the door.

Children 5-12 are half price.

Kids under 5 are FREE!!!!

See your Intergroup Rep. for advanced tickets.

Reading-Berks Intergroup

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Prison- men's 7:00 pm ALT.COM MEETING 8 PM	5 Prison- women's 7:00pm	6 DIST 67 7:30 pm	7	8	9
10	11 Prison- men's 7:00pm	12 Prison- women's 7:00 pm Archives Com. Mtg. 7:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 Prison- men's 7:00pm	19 Prison- women's 7:00pm	20	21 DIST 66 7pm DIST 23 7pm	22	23
24	25 Prison- men's 7:00pm Christmas	26 Prison- women's 7:00pm Reading- Berks Intergrou p Mtg. 7:30PM	27	28	29	30
31 Alcathon 3 PM – 1 AM	Jan 1 Prison- men's 7:00pm	Jan 2 Prison- women's 7:00pm	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6

Dist 33 meets at the Muhlenburg Rec Center, 3025 River Rd. Reading 7:00 p.m.
Dist 66 meets at St. Peter's U.C.C. Church, Dwight & Curtis Aves. W. Lawn 7:00 p.m.
Dist 67 meets at St. Marks Luth. Church, 5 Brook Manor, Birdsboro. 7:30 p.m.

The Reading-Berks Intergroup Reps meeting is held at the UGI Flame Rm. On Rte 10. Also known as Morgantown Road (Approximately ½ mile South from Queen City Diner)