

The Messenger



MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Florida - USA

January 2017

4315 NW 7th St. Suite 36 - Miami, FL 33126 / 305.461.2425 (24 hrs) / 305.461.2426 (Fax) / www.aamiamidade.org

MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP 62ND ANNUAL BANQUET

**“WE WANT THE
HAND OF AA
ALWAYS TO
BE THERE”**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

MARCH 18, 2017

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL BY HILTON

**Tickets \$ 40.00 per person
\$400.00 per table**



WHO AM I?

I was deeply touched by what I heard a young man at a meeting sharing about planning a party for his mother. He started to search through some old pictures and came up with photos of himself when he was 3 years old. Looking at them, he saw the innocence in his face at that young age and he said something like: "that little boy was not a jerk". I believe that everyone in the room could identify with him. What happened between then and now? Most of us were perfect when we were born but something influences us in those formative years that set the tone for the direction that our thinking would take. The childlike innocence gave way to the neediness and insecurity that alcoholics seem to have in common. The unworthiness tapes run rampant in our heads telling us that we couldn't make it without cutting corners and doing things that brought on guilt and shame, then we were plagued by our conscience. That little child was damaged and scared on the inside in a way that nothing could bring him peace, until he discovered the elixir in a bottle. When that failed him, he showed up in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous trying to make sense of it all.

When I look around the room at an A.A. meeting, it seems like we all look about the same on the surface, with a few minor differences due to age and generational things. We're all made up of hair, eyeballs, elbows, and feet, and things like that. Most of us follow dress codes and courtesy standards. We're not that much different on the surface. Our real problems consume us on the inside and we spend years trying to convince the world around us that we are as good as they are while, inside, loathing what we had become. It's hard to convince a drunk that the child that he was at 3 years old is still inside of him and can resurface if he desperately wants it.

Suppose, for a moment, that we all woke up this morning with amnesia. We would all be the same. The only thing that makes us different is what is going on between our ears and we drag that with us everywhere we go. I discovered years ago that my brain, with the aid of my ego, was lying to me, and that I wasn't that hopeless loser that I thought I was. I also discovered that most of that damage could be reversed, and that I could, over a period of time; develop an approach to a life far superior to anything I could have imagined. The hardest thing that stands in the way of this is my inability to surrender, and to trust the process. With the help of the group, slowly letting go of some of the old ideas, you can start seeing the results in a short period of time, and it will be exhilarating, however, we didn't get this way overnight, and it will be a slow journey, but a very exciting and happy experience. An old, departed friend used to say, "Your hair will be a different color before you know who you are." To that means, with the help of the A.A. program, patiently changing some of those old habits that cause you grief, and replacing them with unselfish deeds that start to heal the conscience. I've heard it said, "Try it for 90 days and if you don't like what we have to offer, we will gladly refund your misery". What have you got to lose? Now, let's go find that kid and give him a second chance.

Rick R.

**HOMESTEAD GROUP****67th Anniversary****FEBRUARY 11th, 2017****Coffee Social: 5:00pm****Dinner: 6:00pm****Speaker Meeting @ 7:30pm*****FUN, FELLOWSHIP, 50/50 RAFFLE!*****INTERGROUP BENEFIT!**

*ASL Available



Redland Community Church
14601 SW 248th St.
Homestead, FL – 305.245.1796



The Big Book Words: Obsession and Craving

The clear-cut Twelve Step directions are discussed in the first 103 pages of the Big Book. Here the words "obsession" and "craving" are used in a special and technical sense:

- Physical Allergy = The phenomenon of craving – after the first drink: No recovery possible.
- Mental Obsession = Cannot see/act on the truth in drink—before the first drink: Recovery is possible.

It is implied in the first 103 pages that the word 'craving' happens only after we take a drink of alcohol, and the word "Obsession" applies to before we take it. This knowledge makes Step One of the Big Book much easier to understand.

But this not so in the Personal Stories part of the Big Book e.g.: On page 181 of Dr. Bob's Nightmare he mentions a "craving" for liquor years after he sobered up. The two terms obsession and craving are intermingled in the stories in the story section of the Big Book.

But this is not so in the first 103 pages, where the 12 Steps are explained in a more technical sense. Sometimes the word "recovered" causes a bit of confusion. To avoid this problem, the word "release" is often much better communicated. Please note that AA number three, Bill D., uses this term on page 191. Interestingly, the Big Book uses the word "recovered" eleven times in the first 164 pages and seven times afterwards.

Also: An unrecovered alcoholic is powerless both after and before the first drink. Consequently:

- Obsession – When the lie overcomes the truth.
- Recovered – When the truth overcomes the lie.

Bob S., Richmond, IN



TRADITION ONE..... The Tremendous Fact.....

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.--Long form of Tradition One, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

This Tradition plays a significant role in my life as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. My personal recovery is dependent upon the group itself. Notice how the word "depends" here implies a healthy reliance.

I relied on drinking, alcoholic thinking, and my own bad behavior throughout my drinking career and it brought a great deal of pain and misery to my life. Loneliness sucked me into the deepest sea. I felt my alcoholism was a unique case, because at the age of eighteen I was introduced to this wonderful Fellowship and couldn't get it. But why couldn't I grasp what the people in AA had? Because I didn't have a desire to stop, nor did I ever want the people in AA to get to know me. I suffered from that terminal uniqueness that separates me from others and from the God of my understanding. I saw the gleam in your eyes. I heard the deep-rooted laughter which came from your gut and your hearts. I became resentful. "This can never work for me," I thought, committing the sin of pride in reverse. I wanted what you had but did not want to do the work to get it. For instance, I didn't want to be "a part of," get a sponsor, find a home group, and work the Steps to the best of my ability. It was only through desperation that I became willing to try a few things. Alcohol had whipped me. It was time to do something different in my life. I couldn't imagine growing old, if I survived, and practicing my alcoholism.

This Tradition reminds me that I am a small part of a great whole. Therefore, I believe the living principle is humility. However, this Tradition does not imply that the individual does not count. Here at my particular home group, I have learned how important individuals are to me. I have seen sponsors approach newcomers and immediately get them started in service. This is absolutely vital in my recovery because if I do not have you people I cannot stay sober. I say this out of personal experience. How often I have tried to do this thing on my own. How often I have relied on my own twisted thinking. This is where the group and people like you remind me that if I want to recover, I should start following directions--however grudgingly.

I've used the principles behind this Tradition when I go to other meetings. Out of experience I know that each group is run a little differently. At a meeting the other day I sat for a couple of minutes, waiting for someone to lead the table. I finally asked, "Who is going to lead?" An elderly lady said she was waiting for the two women at the end of the table to finish their conversation. I replied, "Why don't you tell them to finish?" She told me to be nice. This taught me that I am to be considerate of each group, even for what I think is not important. As my sponsor once reminded me, I am a guest at other meetings.

(Cont. on pg. 5)

Un Conducto Hacia Dios

"Creo firmemente tanto en la orientación como en la oración. Yo sé, no obstante - y espero ser lo suficientemente humilde para entender - que mi orientación puede que no tenga nada de infalible.

"El mismo momento en que me imagino que dispongo de un conducto libre (y directo) hacia Dios, me he convertido en lo suficientemente egoísta como para meterme en graves dificultades. No hay nadie que pueda causar más pesar innecesario que aquel que, impulsado por el ansia de poder, cree recibir su consejo directamente de Dios".

CARTA, 1950

Salir de una "Borrachera Seca"

"A veces nos deprimimos. Si lo sabré yo; he sido campeón de las borracheras secas. Aunque las causas superficiales formaban parte del cuadro - eventos disparadores, que precipitan la depresión - las fundamentales, estoy convencido, se encontraban a un nivel mucho más profundo.

"Intelectualmente, pude aceptar mi situación. Emocionalmente no pude.

"No hay soluciones fijas a estos problemas. Pero una parte de la solución está sin duda en el esfuerzo constante para practicar todos los Pasos de A.A."

CARTA, 1954

Vivir Serenamente

Cuando un borracho tiene una terrible resaca porque ayer bebió en exceso, no puede vivir bien el día de hoy. Pero existe otra clase de resaca que todos hemos experimentado, estemos bebiendo o no. Es la resaca emocional, el resultado directo del exceso de emociones negativas de ayer y a veces de hoy: la ira, el miedo, los celos y sentimientos similares.

Si deseamos vivir serenamente hoy y mañana, necesitamos desde luego eliminar esas resacas. Esto no significa que necesitemos vagar mórbidamente en el pasado. Se requiere la admisión y la corrección de los defectos ahora.

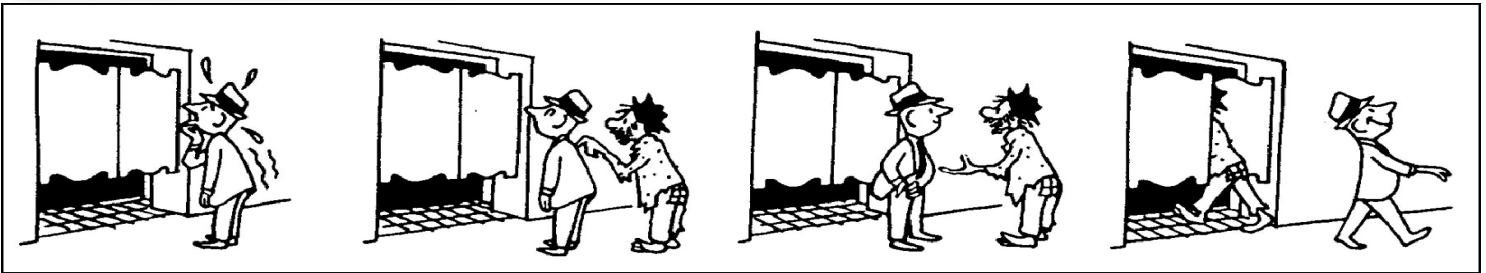
DOCE Y DOCE, pág. 95

En Busca de Motivos

Algunos de nosotros nos aferrábamos a la pretensión de que cuando bebíamos no le hacíamos daño a nadie sino a nosotros mismos. Nuestras familias no sufrían, porque siempre pagábamos las cuentas y rara vez bebíamos en casa. Nuestros socios en los negocios no sufrían, porque normalmente estábamos en el trabajo. Nuestra reputación no había sufrido, porque estábamos seguros que pocos sabían de nuestra bebida. Quienes lo sabían nos aseguraban a veces que, después de todo, una animada juerga era sólo un desliz de un hombre bueno. Por consiguiente ¿qué daño real habíamos hecho? Seguramente, nada que no pudiéramos enmendar fácilmente con unas pocas disculpas casuales.

Esta actitud, por supuesto, es el resultado final de un deliberado intento de olvidar. es una actitud que sólo podrá cambiarse con un sincero y profundo análisis de nuestros actos y motivaciones.

DOCE Y DOCE, pág. 85



FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS



Yes, I want to participate in the Faithful Fiver Club!

Contribution information: Date: _____

Amount: _____ Monthly: _____ Quarterly: _____ Annually: _____

(Note: No A.A. member can contribute more than \$3,000 per year)

I am a new Member: _____ Current Member: _____ Returning Member: _____

PAYMENT PLAN

Check Enclosed: _____ Credit Card: _____ Visa _____ MC _____ Amex _____ CVS: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration date: _____ / _____

Name on Card: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Tel: (_____) _____

_____ Yes, I would like my name to be added in "The Messenger." ! _____ No, I would like to remain anonymous!

FAITHFUL FIVER FRIENDS are fellow A.A. members who contribute \$5.00 a month to the Intergroup Office as an act of gratitude. Their generosity help us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholics throughout the year! THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL FIVER'S....Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Gary C. & Friends; Stanley J., Doni B; Maria Z., Anonymous Key Biscayne, Lee A. South Dade, Penny South Dade, Michael S., Anonymous South Miami Men's, Gayle South Dade, Laura South Dade; Anonymous West Miami, Biker's in Recovery Anonymous, Manuel N., Brickell Circle, John G. South Dade

COMMITTEES MEETINGS: *TRADITION ONE....(Cont. from page 3)*

GS DISTRICT 10
Monthly Business Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month
at 7:30pm at the
CG Congregational Ch.
3010 De Soto Blvd., CG

GS DISTRICT 10
GRAPEVINE Committe
Meetings at the
Coral Room
1st Sunday of the month
@ 2:00pm

GS DISTRICT 10
TREATMENT Committe
For more information go to
www.district10miami.org

GS District 10 PI/CPC
Last Saturday of the month
and Even Months
Coral Room @ 3:00pm
1100 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Odd Months
Upper Room @ 3:00pm
822 NE 125th St. # 111, NM

As Bill Sees It states: "The AA Traditions are neither rules, regulations, or law." However, I know if I don't follow these spiritual principles, I will turn to the bottle again. That is why AA needs no rules. People like me know they will ultimately destroy themselves if they don't follow the Steps or the Traditions. The "Twelve and Twelve" states: "The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or AA dies. Without unity, the heart of AA would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; his gift would be spent aimlessly."

Let us also consider exactly how to protect our common welfare. What exactly does welfare mean? My opinion is that our common welfare represents our primary purpose--to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The best way to preserve our common welfare is by our group conscience. Our collective group conscience votes on specific issues and the majority rules. It is essential that our common welfare not be threatened by our misdirected instincts--instincts that are often demonstrated at our business meetings. We must be careful not to let our desire for prestige and our ambitions interfere with the welfare of AA as a whole.

I am going to close with a passage from the Big Book that beautifully describes the sources of unity: "We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness, and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table. Unlike the feelings of the ship's passengers, however, our joy in escape from disaster does not subside as we go our individual ways. The feeling of having shared a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined. The tremendous fact is that we have found a common solution." Sarah C. Southgate,

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**INTERGROUP
CONTACT LIST**

www.aamiamidade.org

Chairman

Gary C.

Vice-Chair

Robert L.

Treasurer

John L.

Secretary

Manuel N.

Steering Committee

Remilda G.

Raz S.

Lee A.

Jennifer R.

Aly P.

Trustees

Doni B.

Askia K.

*Founder's Day***OPEN POSITION****Intergroup Banquet**

Raz S.

Intergroup Office

Jennifer R.

Shari T.

The Messenger

Office

*Outreach***OPEN POSITION***Public Information***OPEN POSITION****Twelve Step Relay**

Laura N.

Big Service Breakfast**OPEN POSITION****General Service Liaison**

Robert L.

*Spanish Intergroup***OPEN POSITION****Webmaster**

Jennifer R.

**GENERAL SERVICE
CONTACT LIST**

www.district10miami.org

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Alternate Chairperson

Ray S.

*Treasurer***OPEN POSITION****Registrar**

Alex V.

Recording Secretary

Jack C.

Archives

Lisa H.

Corrections

Al P.

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Grapevine

Matthew J.

Gratitud Dinner

Regina F. (305) 613- 3540

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Askia K.

PI/CPC

Valerie M.

Special Needs

Roy P.

Treatment

Geoff G.

Big Service Breakfast

Mark B.

*District 17 Liaison***OPEN POSITION****Remote Communities**

Malachi H.

*Webmaster***OPEN POSITION**

Mario P. (Alt)

"THE MESSENGER"

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NOTICES

Notices published in "The Messenger" are taken from information submitted to the Miami-Dade Intergroup Office. Information is based on what is current at the time of printing.

If your group discontinues a meeting or changes its schedule time, please notify Intergroup as soon as possible at (305) 461-2425

Articles and opinions expressed herein not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Further endorsements, opposing views and rebuttals to articles published are also welcomed. Also, please tell us how we can improve.

Contributions to "THE MESSENGER" will be gratefully accepted. A sign up form is on the back cover.

E-mail the Editor at:
aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Please make checks payable to:
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP would like to thank Maria Z. for her dedicated service as Chairperson for the past 2 years. We would also like to thank Frank H. for his service as Steering Committee member for the past 2 years and Chair of the 12 Step Relay.

We welcome our new Chairman Gary C. from the Happy Hour Group, Robert L. from the West Miami Group who will be serving as Vice-Chair. We also welcome Raz S. and Aly P. who will be serving as new Steering Committee members and Laura N. who will be the new chair for the 12 Step Relay.

Everyone thank you and Welcome to a New Year 2017!

HOMESTEAD

Pedro P 1
Darlene W. 1
Liz S 1
Barbara 2
Darcy 2
Martha 7
Danielle 13
Patrick 23
Dawn 29

DECEMBER

SOUTH DADE

Missy M. 1	Doug M. 16
Chuck A. 1	Dale 17
Jose A. 1	David C. 17
Sandi 2	Meredith 18
Davin G. 2	Jaime G. 22
Louis P. 4	Sandy 23
Micki 5	Brian Mc 23
Sarah I. 7	Gayle 24
Sam I. 10	James W. 27
Kathleen L. 10	Wes 28
Ray S. 10	Josh A. 32
Aldrick 10	Tom G. 35
	Helen M. 41

SUNSET

Edward E. 1
Chris D. 1
Stephney A. 4
George G. 3
George P. 29
Armando S. 9
Carolina F. 34
Maria S. 10
Matt Q. 5
Albert M. 1
Stephanie G. 24
Gary M. 15
Steve G. 4
Dan B. 27

SOBER WAY OUT

Jordan G. 2
Sadena 3
Scotty S. 4
Robert B. 10

CORAL GABLES

Ruben 1	Larry G. 14
Darrin M. 1	Armando B. 14
Arianni 2	Jackie G. 16
Lourdes 4	Juan M. 24
Ricky M. 5	Bob D. 25
Meryl 6	Joel M. 26
Freddy D. 7	Dan B. 27
Tony S. 8	Luis H. 27
Ma. Isabel 10	Ros M. 29
Robert A. 12	Jerry M. 34
	Judy C. 38

JANUARY

GOOD MORNING

Jose F. 3
Sabrina T. 4
Gil G. 5
Kenneth T. 13



SWEETWATER GROUP

CANCELED MEETING!

WEDNESDAYS @ 8:00pm



St. John Vianney Seminary
2900 SW 87th Ave. - Miami - 33165

Group Conscience/Business/Service Meetings

Brickell Group/3rd Thursday @ 1:05pm
Coral Gables Group/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
Good Morning Group/3rd Friday @ 11:00am
Happy 1060 Group/3rd Sunday @ 11:45am
Homestead Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
Lincoln Road YP/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm
Little River Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm
Miami Young People/3rd Saturday @ 7:00pm
New Beginner's # 2/2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm
Night Owl Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm
North Miami Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:15pm
Palmetto Bay/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm
Primary Purpose/Last Wednesday @ 6:45pm
Quinto Paso/1st Monday @ 7:00pm
Sabal Palm/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
Sober Way Out/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm
Something Happens/1st Saturday @ 10:00am
South Dade Group/3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm
South Dixie Group/2nd Sunday @ 12:15pm
Sunset Group/2nd Friday @ 7:00pm
West Miami Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
We Stopped in Time/1st Monday @ 9:35pm
Young, Sober & Free/Last Sunday @ 8:05pm

Group Anniversaries

Almeria Group/Last Tuesday @ 7:30pm
Coral Gables Group/Last Monday @ 8:00pm
Grupo Central/Last Sunday @ 1:00pm
Good Morning Group/Last Friday @ 10:00am
Happy 1060 Group/Last Sunday @ 10:45am
Homestead Group/Last Thursday @ 8:30pm
Key Biscayne Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm
Killian Pines Group/Last Friday @ 8:00pm
Lincoln Road YP/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm
Little River Group/Last Wednesday @ 8:30pm
Miami Springs Group/Last Monday @ 7:30pm
Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm
North Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm
Palmetto Bay Group/Last Saturday @ 5:30pm
Plymouth Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:00pm
Primary Purpose/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm
Sabal Palm Group/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm
Shamrock Group/Last Tuesday @ 8:30pm
Sober Way Out/Last Friday @ 8:30pm
Something Happens/Last Saturday @ 9:00am
South Dade Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm
South Dixie Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm
Sunset Group/Last Friday @ 7:30pm
West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm
We Stopped in Time/Last Monday
Young, Sober and Free/Last Sunday

LIQUOR WARNINGS....

Liquor manufacturers have accepted the Government's suggestion that the following warning labels be placed immediately on all varieties of alcohol containers:

~~~~~  
**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**\*\*\*WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe you are invisible.  
~~~~~

**Miami Bid for FCYPAA meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30pm at the South Miami Treatment Center located at:
6900 SW 80th St
Miami, FL 33143**

Do you want to know.... How can you help? How can you do service? Come to our next monthly meeting of Miami-Dade Intergroup which will be held on Thursday- February 9th, 2017 @ 8:00pm (Iglesia Metodista Unida - 133 Ponce de Leon Blvd. - Miami)

This is a great opportunity to do service! For more info call: (305) 461-2425

For comments / suggestions e-mail us - Editor: jamc13@bellsouth.net or aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

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This Publication Belongs To You!

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for a yearly contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP
c/o The Messenger

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please note: When you mail in this form, feel free to add something you would like to share with the fellowship
(a thought, a story, a joke or something you heard at a meeting.)

HELP US CARRY THE MESSAGE!!!

The Messenger

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