

# The Messenger



MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

[aamiamidade@bellsouth.net](mailto:aamiamidade@bellsouth.net)

Florida - USA

January 2023

1850 SW 8th St. # 303 - Miami, FL 33135 / 305.461.2425 (24 hrs) / 305.461.2426 (Fax) / [aamiamidade.org](http://aamiamidade.org)

"...LIVING JUST FOR TODAY IS A PLEASANT ADVENTURE."

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 18TH, 2023**

## **68TH ANNUAL BANQUET MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP**

**Tickets: \$55.00**

**Tables (8 people): \$440.00**

**Save The Date!**

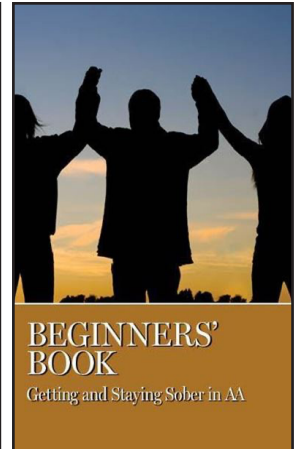
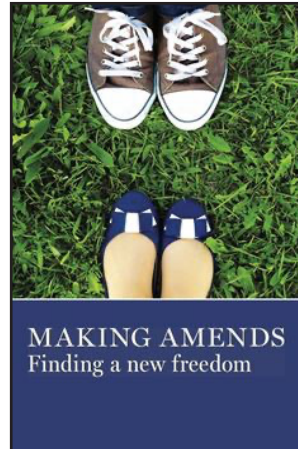
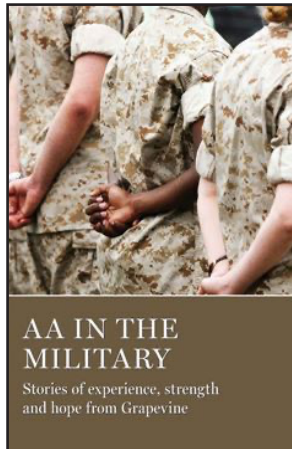
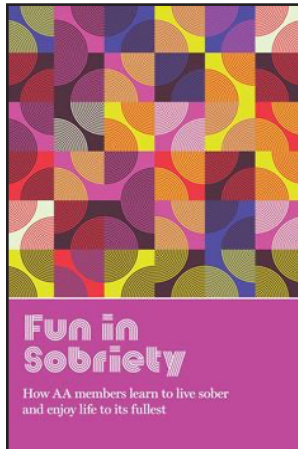
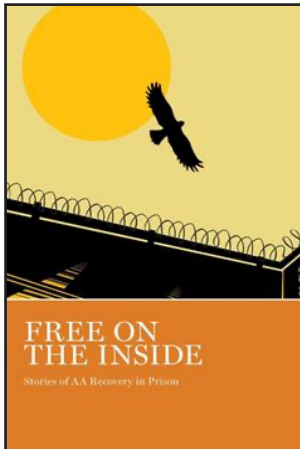
**Doublee Tree Hotel By Hilton  
711 NW 72nd Ave. - Miami, FL 33126  
(Near Int'l Airport) - Self Parking \$7.00**



We can accept contributions through **PayPal Giving Fund** or **Zelle** under our e-mail: [aamiamidade@bellsouth.net](mailto:aamiamidade@bellsouth.net)



## GRAPEVINE BOOKS! ON SALE NOW!



## AA Grapevine Announces A Price Increase On Books

As of January 1, 2023, book and other content related items prices will increase.

To learn more visit [www.aagrapevine.org/news-release](http://www.aagrapevine.org/news-release)

## Where is the Hamburger?

## The Real Problem Lies Between Our Ears

The disease of alcoholism is difficult to understand in a world that looks at everything in a logical way. Many of the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, (A.A.) spend years struggling to find the answers to this complicated malady. Our behavior while drinking often becomes the focus of our attempt to deal with this problem. It is logical to think that a person can just quit drinking when it starts to become a problem, and we know that this kind of logic does not work on alcoholism, but why not? If you remove the alcohol from the equation, his problems should diminish and things should return to normal, right? That seems logical but the real problem lies between our ears.

I was listening to a local sportscaster on the radio one day talking about his sparse college days when he was cramming for exams and working long into the night. He got hungry and ran out to the market to pick up something he could heat up for a quick meal. He purchased a box of Hamburger Helper, ran back to the dorm, opened the package, and the first thing out of his mouth was, "Where's the hamburger?" He was not aware that there is no hamburger in Hamburger Helper. All the ingredients were there and all he needed to do was to add the hamburger; then he would have a meal. That scenario is like the way I have come to understand the disease of alcoholism. Many of us may have been alcoholics long before we ever took our first drink. All the ingredients of alcoholism were there, and all we needed to do was to add the alcohol; then, we had a meal. The ingredients for alcoholism are not all that obvious. They are often intangible; however, The Big Book and the 12&12 have addressed most of them. They are referred to as spiritual maladies, fears, immaturity, grandiosity, selfishness, dishonesty, guilt, shame etc.

(Cont. on pg 5)

# THANK YOU

We would like to thank Ian S. for his valuable service to Alcoholics Anonymous as Chairman of Intergroup for the past 2 years. And we would like to give our warmest welcome to our new Chairman Richard A. & our new Steering Committee Member Paul R.

**"If the day comes that I do drink again, it will not be because I had no alternative. It will be because I had an alternative, provided by a loving God, but was unwilling to use it."**

Syracuse, NY, October 1994 - A.A. Grapevine

## HISTORY

### When was the first AA Meeting?

Typically June 10, 1935, the day of Dr. Bob's last drink is considered the day that A.A. was founded. When the first "meeting" was is less clear. At first it was Bill and Bob hanging out and looking for someone else they could help. Perhaps when they met with "A.A. Number Three", Bill D. in his hospital bed on June 26, 1935 counts as the first meeting. According to the story "Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three" in the second edition of the Big Book, A.A. Group Number 1 of Akron Ohio, started that day with that meeting in Akron's City Hospital.

Some might say the first meeting was when Dr. Bob first met with Bill W. According to Dr. Bob's Story, they first met with Bill trying to help sober up Dr. Bob on Mother's Day of 1935 which would have been May 12 at 5pm at the home of Henrietta Seiberling, a friend of Bob's wife. This house has come to be known as "The Gatehouse" and is in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Bob drank after this meeting, but it was still the first meeting of two men talking about the program that was becoming Alcoholics Anonymous. Here is an excerpt from Dr. Bob's Story: About this time a lady called up my wife one Saturday afternoon, saying she wanted me to come over that evening to meet a friend of hers who might help me. It was the day before Mother's Day and I had come home plastered, carrying a big potted plant which I set down on the table and forthwith went upstairs and passed out. The next day she called again. Wishing to be polite, though I felt very badly, I said, "Let's make the call," and extracted from my wife a promise that we would not stay over fifteen minutes. (We entered her house at exactly five o'clock and it was eleven fifteen when we left. I had a couple of shorter talks with this man afterward, and stopped drinking abruptly. This dry spell lasted for about three weeks; then I went to Atlantic City to attend several days' meeting of a national society of which I was a member. I drank all the scotch they had on the train and bought several quarts on my way to the hotel.

## A Desire to Stop Drinking We Pick the Fruit Before it's Ripe

How disturbing it is to hear a member of A.A. with four- or five-years sobriety share at a meeting that Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) has an abysmal rate of success, and I wonder if he is in the same A.A. program that I am. I got sober in the late 60's and my copy of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) is the second edition and in the foreword to that issue it states that, "Of alcoholic who came to A.A. and really tried, 50% got sober at once and remained that way: 25% sobered up after some relapses", and it goes on to explain about the others. I'm not sure how scientific those numbers are but their estimates number over 75%. That sounds successful to me. The second edition was printed in 1955 and up to that time there was very little help for the alcoholic outside of A.A. In 1956 the American Medical Association (AMA) declared Alcoholism a disease and sometime after that happened rehabilitation clinics were being funded and many alcoholics were being sent there whether they wanted to quit drinking or not. Before 1970, very few alcoholics under the age of 40 came to A.A. and I was the youngest member in my home group for quite a while. Major drug addiction didn't rear its ugly head at A.A. meetings until the middle 1970s and many of those that called themselves alcoholic/addicts were much younger than the typical alcoholic, and I recognized that drug addiction progresses much faster than most cases of alcoholism. Another dynamic that must be included in the equation is the court system. It seems that before an alcoholic is sent to jail these days, they are given the option to attend so many A.A. meeting in place of jail time. That overshadows the main requirement to become an A.A. member." The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." I believe that A.A. is flooded with addict/alcoholics who have been sent to us long before they suffer the desperation and desire to stop drinking or using, and that we embrace them with this compassion and understanding.

With that in mind, I believe that A.A. does more today than we did in the days when only those who had a serious desire to quit drinking showed up at our doors. I am sometimes misunderstood when I try to explain these things, as I see them, and I don't want to see Alcoholics Anonymous being misrepresented. I believe that, of those who come to us with a desire to stop drinking, the success ratio remains the same as it always has been but, for those who have been sent here through the courts or the rehab programs, how many of them truly have a desire to stop drinking (or using)? When I greet a new-comer to a meeting I usually ask him/her, "What brings you to A.A.?" About 9 out of ten will say the courts, or other influences. The one that says, "I just can't live this way anymore." I believe, has a 75% chance of staying sober for the rest of their life. We, in A.A; do not discriminate against those that are sent here through those outside programs.

We welcome them with open arms and give the best we can. I believe that 4 out of five at any given meeting were initially introduced to A.A. just that way. The Meetings were much smaller before the influx from those outside programs, but the rate of relapse is much higher now. Consider the fact that many of those members may never have made it here on their own, and that would be truly tragic. An old country boy name Phil when asked, "Why do we have so many relapses in A.A.?" replied, "Well, sometimes we pick the fruit before it's ripe". That's exactly the point I wanted to make. We do, often pick the fruit before it's ripe but we never discard it.

By Rick R.







**GRUPO  
NUEVO DESPERTAR**  
2335 N.W. 27 Ave. Miami FL 33142

FUNDADO EL 23 DE ENERO, DE 1990



**Celebrando 33 Años**

**SEMANA DE COMPARTIMIENTO**  
Domingo 22 - Domingo 29 de Enero 2023

Sábado sesión Maratónica  
En el local del grupo:  
desde las 10:00 p.m. en adelante.

**SESION PUBLICA**  
Domingo 29

REUNIONES VIRTUALES  
EN  
ESPANOL

**WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG**

GRUPOS:  
**VIVIENDO SOBRIO  
CORAL GABLES  
LA GRAN MANZANA**

Si necesitan postear sus  
reuniones virtuales en  
el website de

Miami-Dade Intergroup  
por favor  
enviar e-mail a  
**aamiamidade@bellsouth.net**  
o llamar al

**305.461.2425**  
con su informacion.

**BIENVENIDOS**



**47**



**ANIVERSARIO  
GRUPO ENCUENTRO**



CUMPLIENDO NUESTRO OBJETIVO  
PRIMORDIAL BRINDANDO LA MANO  
AL ALCOHOLICO QUE AUN SUFRE  
24 HORAS

**MARATÓNICA**

FECHA:  
SABADO 21 DE ENERO  
HORA: 11 P.M.

**PÚBLICA**

FECHA:  
DOMINGO 22 DE ENERO  
HORA: 11 A.M.

**CONTACTO**

COORDINADOR

SECRETARIO

TESORERO

MIAMI FIRE FIGHTERS BENEVOLENTE  
2980 NW SOUTH RIVER DRIVE MIAMI, FL 33125

*No falten, Los esperamos*

¿Sabías qué..?

La Oficina de Servicios Generales (OSG) tiene actualmente una extensa lista de hombres encarcelados que están a la espera de intercambiar correspondencia con un miembro de A.A. de afuera. La gran mayoría de estos hombres son alcohólicos hispanos que desean trabajar el programa de A.A.

Tu puedes enviar el mensaje de A.A. manteniendo esta correspondencia y usando La Viña como herramienta de Paso Doce.

Para obtener más información,  
envía un correo  
electrónico a: [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).  
O puedes escribir a:  
Correccionales,  
Oficina de Servicios Generales  
Box 459, Grand Central Station  
Nueva York, N.Y. 10163.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 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

**For Credit Card recurring contribution information please call the office at: 305.461.2425**

"Each day that your Group participates in the work of our local A.A. services, whether through those who "Contribute their Time" or Group Contributions, or Sobriety Contributions, something wonderful happens in A.A. When a newcomer calls us and finds your meeting, it is indeed a miracle. Your contributions show that you care about the services we as a fellowship provide and continued hope for the newcomer that reaches out for help. Words cannot fully express the deep gratitude about the energy that your A.A. Group devotes into carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic."

**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.  
**5 Anonymous.**

### ***Where is the Hamburger?.... (Cont. from pg 2)***

These things, and many other subtler issues, are the root cause of our inability to function without the use of alcohol (or other mind-altering drugs). The term "mind altering" is a clue to where the trouble starts.

I believe that alcohol worked temporarily by the relief it gave me as it masked all those irrational fears that we alcoholics experience and the peace of mind we experienced midway through our second drink. (So, to speak) Alcoholism is a progressive disease and it requires us to increase our intake to keep up with that progression until we are out of control, and try as we might, we can never regain that control.

That is the delusion that all alcoholics are faced with, and I am not sure that any of us can pick the day that we can abandon that delusion but when that day comes, if we remove the alcohol from the menu, but fail to address the other difficult ingredients, in a systematic way, we have little chance of experiencing a happy and successful recovery. Just knowing about them is not enough. We will need to practice the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous on every one of these destructive character traits if we are to experience the freedom of the spirit that we all seek.

Our problems did not just appear, they have evolved over a long period of time, and it will take time to heal them. Patience, perseverance, unselfishness, understanding, faith, honesty; these are a few of the new ingredients that we will need to add to our plate if we plan to be around when the desert is being served.

"The promises are being fulfilled among us--- sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them" (BB pg. 84)

HAMBURGER! WHO NEEDS IT?

By Rick R.

## HOMESTEAD GROUP

**Is moving to a new  
Location**



**First United Methodist  
Church of Homestead  
622 N. Krome Ave.  
Homestead, Florida 33030**

Entrance on 7<sup>th</sup> Street along with parking

**FIRST MEETING WILL BE ON  
JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 12:00PM**

**INTERGROUP  
CONTACT LIST**

aamiamidade.org

**Chairman**

Richard A.

**Vice-Chair**

Gloria P.

**Treasurer**

Dylan S.

**Secretary**

Rebeca C.

**Steering Committee**

Jennifer R.

Manuel M.

Oliver M.

Jonathan M.

Paul R.

**Trustees**

Ian S.

**Founder's Day**

Richard A.

**Intergroup Banquet**

Rebeca C.

**Intergroup Office**

Jennifer R.

**The Messenger**

Office

**Outreach**

Brannon P.

**Public Information**

Christy G.

**Twelve Step Relay**

Gloria P.

Maria S.

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

Andrea L.

*Spanish Intergroup Liaison*

Jennifer R.

**Webmaster**

Office

**GENERAL SERVICE  
CONTACT LIST**  
www.district10miami.org**Chairman**

Regina F.

**Alternate Chairperson**

Sara G.

**Treasurer**

Jorge L.

**Registrar**

Analisa D.

**Recording Secretary**

Pablo B.

**Archives**

Carl L.

**Corrections**

Jim L.

**Current Practice**

Ric B.

**Grapevine****OPEN POSITION****Gratitud Dinner**

Johanna M.

**Intergroup Liaison**

Andrea L.

**Literature**

Kenneth T.

**PI/CPC**

David A.

**Accessibilities**

Adi M.

**Treatment**

Paul H.

**Big Service Breakfast**

David A.

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

Brenda C.

**Communications****OPEN POSITION****"THE MESSENGER"**

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**MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP**

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Miami, FL 33135

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aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

**WEBSITE:**

www.aamiamidade.org

**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**

*I told my sponsor that six months ago I was sitting in a hot tub with beautiful women and all the beer I wanted. He looked at me and said, "Don't worry, son. You never have to live like that again!"*



## DECEMBER

### SOBER WAY OUT

Isabel 1  
Jackie L. 2  
Fernando C. 5  
Shana 5  
Tony V. 6  
Dreidel 7  
Jordan G. 8  
Guy M. 8  
Sadena 9

### SOUTH DIXIE

Ricky M. 11  
Sarah I. 13  
Cynthia 14  
Patricia D. 31

### PALMETTO BAY

Peter R. 6  
Ovi S. 7  
Heidi T. 9  
Christine H. 10  
Dublin Dave 23  
Josh A. 38  
Helen Marie 48

## JANUARY

### SUNSET

Lourdes S. 2  
Aimee A. 7  
Florie G. 9  
Gustavo R. 11  
Kevin C. 14  
Rosy G. 23  
Frank G. 26



## MEETINGS IN RUSSIAN

Do you know any Russian-speaking friend, who has drinking problems?

Please invite them to our new 7pm

Sunday Russian-speaking

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.



**12 STEP HOUSE**  
205 SW 23rd St.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315

www.russianaa.com  
russianaa.florida@gmail.com

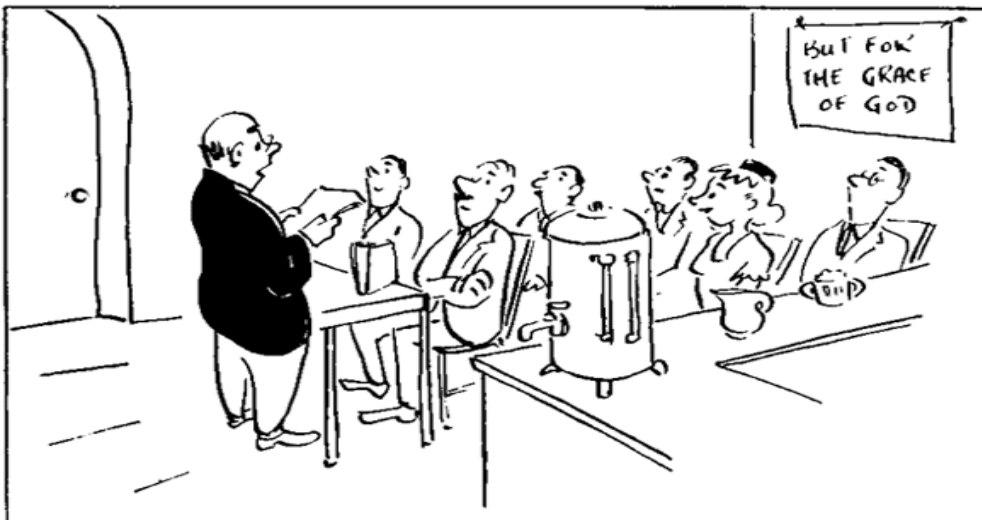


## PAYPAL NEWS

Fees charges have changed with PayPal while sending contributions through their site or app.

Please if you send your contributions through PayPal you need to send it through their

"PayPal Giving Fund"



"We've elected a chairman, secretary, and treasurer—now the important job—nominations are open for coffee maker!"

## 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  
Happy Hour Group/ 3rd Thursday @ 6:35pm  
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  
Mix Nuts Group/1st Monday @ 9:30pm  
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

## 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  
Happy Hour Group/Last Friday @ 5:30pm  
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/Last Monday @ 7:30pm  
Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm  
Mixed Nuts Group/Last Monday @ 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  
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 Saturday @ 7:30pm  
West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm

## LOOKING FOR A.A. MEETINGS?

Learn more at:  
[www.meetingguide.org](http://www.meetingguide.org)

Here is the icon to look for.....



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, 2023 @ 8:00pm Via Zoom. 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

Help Support "The Messenger"  
This Publication Belongs To You!

To make address changes you can notify the Intergroup Office or mail in the form below.  
To subscribe to "The Messenger" please fill out the form below and mail with your \$12.00  
for a yearly contribution.

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

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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**

Miami-Dade Intergroup  
1850 SW 8th St. # 303  
Miami, FL 33135  
Phone: 305.461.2425 (24 hrs.)  
Fax: 305.461.2426

