



SEPTEMBER 2018

TWO FREE HANDS

BY: JENNI C. | PORTLAND, MAINE

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Once she put down the bottle, she got super busy with a wonderful new world of young people. It's a cold, dark December in Portland, Maine. I'm in an AA meeting with three months under my belt, just holding on to my seat. And here it comes, just like every other meeting this week, another AA-related announcement that starts with, "So ... NECYPAA!!!" And then like a planned call and response at a concert, a handful of members scattered throughout the room yell, "NECY what!?"

The person who stands up to make the announcement gets a huge grin on his face. "NECYPAA," he continues, "the New England Conference of Young People in AA, is going to Boston on New Year's Eve weekend to bid for the conference to come to Portland!" He goes on to explain what happens at a conference, how to get involved and how to be of service. He also says it is a way to have a lot of fun in sobriety.

Now, standing up to speak in a room of 100 strangers does not sound like fun to me, but the expression on the other members' faces, the twinkle in their eyes and the fellowship they seem

to be a part of is appealing. They seem connected, with a sense of purpose. And joy. That's what I desperately need. So with just a few months sober (which was mind-blowing and nearly inconceivable), I decided to join these "way too happy" people. Turned out they won the bid, and next year's NECYPAA conference would be here in Portland! At this point, I still didn't understand the significance of this. But I joined the host committee and stood for a position despite being obviously the newest member in the room. I was closer to a drink than others and I think that motivated me to get as far away from liquor as I could.

These YPAAs gave me a warm welcome, which was foreign to me, and I continued to show up to help plan the conference for the entire year. A whole year! I don't think I ever committed to anything for a whole year straight, besides my devoted relationship with booze. I sure as hell wasn't fond of the idea of living in Maine a year from now, let alone confident that I'd still be sober or alive. But I didn't let that discourage me; I took it one day at a time. (Funny how we start to use those slogans on the walls.) All the while, I continued to work the Steps with my sponsor.

At a shocking but still fresh six months sober, I attended my first YPAA conference in New Hampshire. By the end of that weekend, I can say I successfully socialized, laughed, danced, drank an obscene amount of coffee and made 20-plus new friends from every New England state. And I was able to do all this without any alcohol to make me feel more relaxed, talkative, fun or pretty. I now can say with all certainty that I *can* have fun sober.

While I was there, I had this wonderful "God moment." I ran into a newcomer I thought I recognized. I did a double take and flipped out. It was a girl I went to high school with! We immediately gave each other a big hug. I had no idea. She always seemed to have it together. Go figure.

I definitely caught the bug at this conference. I was infected with the sunlight of the spirit. In the following months, I continued to work the Steps and learned a lot about myself. I learned about my self-sabotaging character defects, how to communicate with people better and how to make amends. And through it all, this lovely, crazy, elated bunch of YPAAs have

been by my side. They saw me through thick and thin and continued to love me until I could love myself. When we weren't busy every Sunday with host meetings, we were of service, went to events and showed other young AAs that you can have fun in sobriety.





I never thought I'd be dancing without a drink in my hand, but my YPAA community showed me how. And that's not the only thing they showed me I can do, now that I have two free hands. Together, we've played volleyball, spent the day at the beach, played kickball, shot pool and attended concerts. I also learned to rollerblade and chair meetings. I found out I can love myself and I can love others without needing a drink to lower my inhibitions or boost my social skills. The fun I've had this past summer has far surpassed any of my previous inebriated summers. For one thing, I can remember everything. And I no longer wake up with that terrible guilt, shame and remorse. December came so quickly it seemed unreal. NECYPAA was just around the corner. It's absolutely astonishing that I remained sober all year. And more importantly, I was happy. Now I was that starry-eyed, loud, way-too-happy person standing up to make the NECYPAA announcements.

Our conference in Portland went off without a hitch. It was a joy seeing so many familiar faces from the local sober houses come and check out what all the fuss was about. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The weekend had phenomenal speakers, great panels and marathon meetings, fun games and music, and most importantly, it provided a safe place for 1,000 sober members of AA to come together for fellowship.

After the conference, we were still full of fire in Portland. And we wanted more. So in February, we did something I've never done before, drinking or not. **We went on an epic road trip to Memphis, Tennessee to attend TCYPAA**

(Tennessee Conference of Young People in AA). Not only did I get to travel with my new friends across the country, but I got to experience Young People's AA with southern flair and hospitality!

While there, I proudly celebrated 17 months of continuous sobriety. Today I barely resemble the person I was just a few months ago. Each day I learn something new about myself, my fellows, the Steps and the world around me. I now believe there's no such thing as a coincidence. I call them God moments. I now live with a good friend whom I met at rehab and my sober date is the same as her birthday.

That sober fire is still burning here in Portland and our YPAA community continues to fuel it. We have now created a committee to do service work in the hope of eventually creating a Maine State Conference of Young People in AA. More new faces, as I once was, are showing up and getting involved. Most importantly, they're staying sober.

Having a good time in sobriety was not fathomable to me just a year ago, but now I can say with all certainty that what I thought was fun before, does not even compare to now. Young People's AA provided me the platform for a completely new life. What a beautiful miracle it has been.

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Magic MAGNIFYING TCYPAA 2022 Mind

Tennessee Conference of
Young People in Alcoholics
Anonymous

APRIL 8-10, 2022
CLARION HOTEL & SUITES CONFERENCE CENTER
MEMPHIS AIRPORT
2240 DEMOCRAT RD, MEMPHIS, TN 38132

Name _____

Sobriety Date _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

City _____

Willing to be of service: y / n

Special Accommodations: y / n

If yes, what? _____

Additional Scholarship: 5 / 10 / 15 /
other

Payment: Cash Venmo PayPal Cashapp

Total paid: _____

TCYPAA2022.ORG



Katelyn McGrath
Scan to pay Skatleemcg

Katie McGrath
@KatieMcGrath



venmo



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	Mar 22	Mar 21	Jan - Mar 22
AMAA	0.00	0.00	8.03
Any Length Group	30.00	0.28	30.00
Came to Believe Group	100.00	50.00	200.00
Central Gardens Group	50.00	50.00	100.00
Collierville Group	0.00	0.00	518.99
Collierville Hopefuls	0.00	0.00	82.43
Common Solution	0.00	0.00	100.00
Cordova Hope Group	0.00	93.87	0.00
Design For Living	0.00	0.00	70.08
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	200.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	0.00	77.37
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	496.39
Frayser Group	20.00	0.00	20.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	250.00	0.00
Germantown Happy	0.00	0.00	3,523.17
Germantown Noon	74.00	0.00	408.49
Grace in the Grove	0.00	150.00	0.00
Happy Destiny	50.00	0.00	100.00
Heavy Hitters	0.00	42.78	0.00
Hollywood	0.00	0.00	0.81
Horn Lake	0.00	10.00	20.00
IG Monthly rep meeting	19.11	0.00	39.11
Jaywalkers	0.00	0.48	0.00
Lakeland	0.00	0.00	272.62
Midtown Group	0.00	100.41	60.00
Neshoba Awakening	10.00	10.00	30.00
New Start	0.00	0.00	14.62
Overton Park	0.00	0.00	180.00
Personal Adventure	0.00	0.00	230.81
Pleasant Hill	0.00	0.00	88.76
Primary Purpose	0.00	0.00	0.97
Real Deal/Oats Manor AA	0.00	0.00	20.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	300.00
Serenity Group	0.00	0.00	200.00
Seriously Sober	50.00	0.00	107.00
Shady Ladies	200.00	0.00	200.00
Shipwreck	0.00	0.00	48.51
Sober Journey	0.00	100.00	100.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	10.00	48.43	30.00
Taking the Twelve Steps	13.53	0.00	13.53

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS, cont'd

The Nooner	134.31	50.00	415.31
Three Legged Stool	100.00	1.83	100.00
Traditions	150.00	0.00	150.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	200.05	900.00
Unity Group	0.00	88.47	309.22
WAAGL	75.00	170.00	175.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	178.00
Worldly Indeed	0.00	0.00	672.46
TOTAL	1,385.95	1,416.60	11,631.68

April Birthdays



TRADITIONS:

Milton McL.....49 years
Victoria G.....6 years

REAL DEAL:

Arsania H.....13 years

DOWNTOWN THURSDAY NIGHT GROUP:

Rachel H.....3 years
Katie M.....7 years
Kristin C.....13 years
Esh G.....4 years

MUSTARD SEED:

Bill M.....39 years
Patrick C.....7 years

UNITY:

Jeff D.....1 year
Hannah.....15 years
Ben D.....13 years
Brianna M.....2 years

GERMANTOWN NOON:

Kristy C.....23 years
Betty G.....41 years
Julie M.....4 years

THREE LEGGED STOOL:

Lee R.....4 years
Don A.....33 years

WINCHESTER:

Ed S.....28 years
Gary K.....31 years
Donna S.....9 years
Jason S.....13 years

SERIOUSLY SOBER:

Craig H.....37 years
Chad B.....14 years

OVERTON PARK GROUP

Barb H.....16 years
Jim K.....26 years
Carol A.....15 years
Tim S.....4 years
Marl F.....4 years
Dale L.....4 years

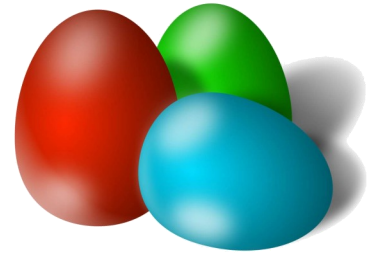
COLLIERVILLE GROUP:

Gary S.....15 years



Things We Cannot Change

Tommie Merriweather
Dick Diggons.....45 years



Grapevine "Eat and Pass Out"
 April 2 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
 The Cupboard
 1400 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN
District 24
 April 2 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
 Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
 2855 Morning Sun Road, Lakeland
District 22
 April 2 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
 Area 51 Group 3563
 Thomas St, Memphis, TN
Memphis Treatment Committee
 April 4 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
 Came to Believe
 2865 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
 April 5 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
 Came to Believe
 2865 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN
TCYPAA
 April 8-10, 2022
 Clarion Hotel
 2240 Democrat Rd., Memphis, TN
District 23 Committee Meeting
 April 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Zoom ID #851 8878 9376 PW 847990
District 21 Committee Meeting
 April 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Crosstown Concourse
 1350 Concourse
Memphis Area Grapevine Committee
 April 12 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 White Station Church of Christ
 1106 Colonial Road, Memphis
District 25 Monthly Business Meeting
 Germantown Municipal Park
 1900 S Germantown Rd, Germantown,
 TN
Area 64 Q4 Assembly Planning Committee
 April 17 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 Central Group
 3544 Forrest Ave, Memphis, TN
CPC/PI Committee
 April 18 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
 The Way House
 1203 Peabody Ave, Memphis, TN
Spring Cleaning Yard Sale
 April 23 @ 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Bluff City Supportive Event
 The Commons
 258 N. Merton St, Memphis, TN
Memphis Area Archives Committee
 April 24 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
 Two Doors Down

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



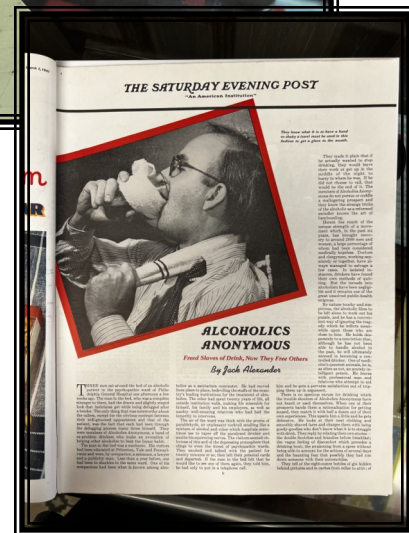
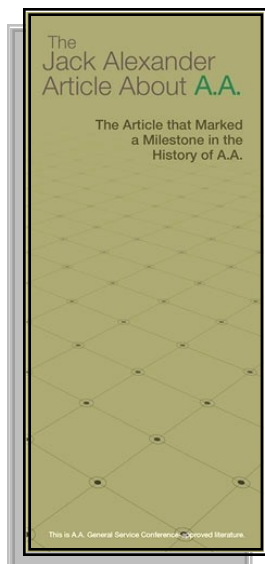
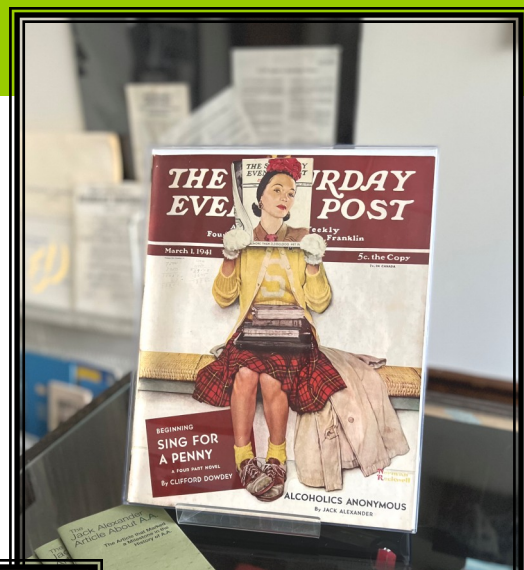
Scan to contribute to MAIA



The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members.

"ON DISPLAY"

We are very excited by the new item on loan from Gina F., MAIA Office Manager. This is the **original** March 1, 1941 Saturday Evening Post magazine, which includes the article that “marked a highlight in A.A. history. It sparked the first great surge of interest in A.A.”



Publication of “Alcoholics Anonymous” by Jack Alexander in the Saturday Evening Post issue of March 1, 1941, marked a milestone in the history of this Fellowship.

Although one national article had been published previously, the Post report on the handful of men and women who had achieved sobriety through A.A. was largely responsible for the surge of interest that established the Society on a national and international basis.

The Post story is a reminder of A.A.’s development in a relatively short span of years. In 1941, approximately 2,000 men and women were living the A.A. program successfully. Today, the number exceeds 2,000,000, and over 61,000 groups meet regularly throughout the United States and Canada and in more than 180 countries. In 1941 Jack Alexander reported upon the sense of humility and service that distinguished the A.A. program and those who then practiced it. Alcoholics Anonymous has had a tremendous growth since that time. But the same awareness of our need to continue to serve fellow alcoholics in a spirit of helpfulness and humility remains the cornerstone of our Society.

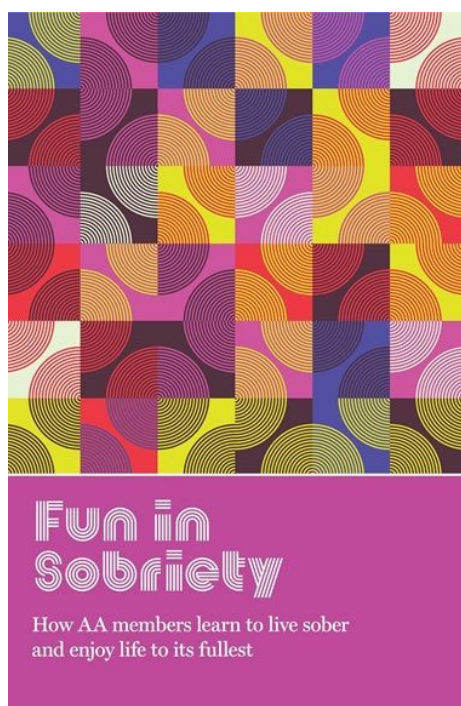
It is in that spirit that this historic article is reprinted for all those members, old and new, who share a common interest in the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous.



* *NOTICE* *

Due to supply chain issues, AAWS is experiencing difficulties in providing printed literature. Below is a current list of the literature that is out of stock at AAWS. The number to the right is how many copies are available in the Intergroup Office at this time:

<u>On Backorder from AAWS</u>	<u>QUANTITY ON HAND AT INTERGROUP</u>
B-14 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (large print)	-0-
B-12 Daily Reflections	16
B-19 Daily Reflections (large print)	6
B-18 As Bill Sees It (soft cover)	5
B-5 As Bill Sees It (hard cover)	-0-
B-27 As Bill Sees It (large print)	5
B-6 Came to Believe	3
B-7 Living Sober	2
B-25 Living Sober (large print)	10
B-3 AA Comes of Age	-0-
B-8 Dr. Bob & the Good Oldtimers	-0-
B-9 Pass It On	4
B-20 Experience, Strenth & Hope	4



Coming soon from aagravine.org :

Fun in Sobriety !!!

Fun in Sobriety features 50-plus inspiring stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they've learned to have a good time after putting down the drink.





Memphis Area Intergroup Association
3540 Summer Ave., Suite 104
Memphis, TN 38122

901 454-1414
memphisarea@bellsouth.net

memphis-aa.org

**The next MAIA IG Reps meeting will
be Sunday, April 10, 2022 @ 1pm
at Leawood Baptist Church; 3638
Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38122 &
Zoom ID 604 292 8975 PW 76237**

Daily Reflections

April 10

GROWING UP

The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.

—AS BILL SEES IT, p. 115

Sometimes when I've become willing to do what I should have been doing all along, I want praise and recognition. I don't realize that the more I'm willing to act differently, the more exciting my life is. The more I am willing to help others, the more rewards I receive. That's what practicing the principles means to me. Fun and benefits for me are in the willingness to do the actions, not to get immediate results. Being a little kinder, a little slower to anger, a little more loving makes my life better—day by day.

M.A.I.A.

3540 Summer Avenue, Suite 104

Memphis, TN 38122



"The Tippler" is a free monthly publication, and will be emailed to anyone interested. However, if you'd like to receive a copy via USPS, a contribution of \$5 monthly, or \$60 annually, helps defray the costs involved. Fill out the form below and, along with your contribution, mail to the above address. We thank you!

Name_____

Email_____

Address_____

City_____State_____

Zip Code_____

