

# THE TIPPLER

AA Grapevine, DECEMBER 1949

## In This Issue

Christmas	1
Christmas, cont'd	2
Office Activities	3
Group Contributions	4
Contributions, cont'd	5
Birthdays	6
Calendar	7
Twelve Questions	8
12 More Questions w/Shirley F.	9
12 More, cont'd	10
12 More, cont'd	11
Daily Reflections	12

## Christmas . . .

### In the Place for Drunks

ON CHRISTMAS morning the man woke up in the Place for Drunks and his wrists were tied down by the bed. His soul turned over with a retch and shrank away from any certain knowledge of time and place that waited beyond his closed eyes.

Overhead he knew without looking (for the man had been here before) was a spreading stain in the plaster. Lath would be showing through like broken bones--and a single bit of mortar dangling by a hair. He had filled his eyes for two days with that sight only, last visit. That was in springtime. It was winter, now. Sleety rain had turned to snow last night. The window glass would be frozen in saloon mirror designs behind the iron bars.

In a few minutes doors would begin banging in the hall, announcing the new day. Water taps would squeal and sing; toilets flush one after another. Then the trays would come--cereal bowls clinking rims with coffee mugs in witless joviality. Ah God! He was back in his old room in the Place for Drunks and it was Christmas Day. His clothes were gone, he knew; his wrist watch, his ring, his pocket book, papers, keys, glasses. The man locked these little images in his mind to shut out the picture of bigger things.

Memory began to work behind closed eyes.

"FOR God's sake don't come home drunk

on Christmas. Don't do it!" Year after year the same bitter refrain from the mother of his children. As always, the man would mutter an angry promise and push out of the house.

BUT this year everything was going to be different. His faith had been pinned on two little initials; two words. Alcoholics Anonymous. Yeah--AA. Bitterness welled up and choked the man. He wanted to pound his head against the gray iron bedpost in a futile rage.

Three months ago neighbors from the nearby AA group came to call. Sick, scared and shaken, the man was an easy convert. Sure he was alcoholic; ready to admit it, why not? The man went to meetings, read the pamphlets, made new friends. Slowly, he began the buildback to an alcoholic's "normal." No miracles happened except the daily one that lasted 24 hours. He didn't drink. Sobriety stretched for weeks; then months. Thanksgiving came (holidays were always big drunk days for him)--the man sailed through it! Confidence grew as Christmas approached. Even the family felt it. "Pa, this year c'n I have the skates, like you promised?"

"You bet you can have the skates, boy!"

OH, it was going to be a *good* Christmas, this time! New ornaments to replace the broken ones; tree lights that all lit; safe again to ask the relatives over! Come back, you lost years; gather 'round the green branches!

*cont'd next page*

You are cordially invited to the  
**Memphis Area Intergroup  
 Association's**  
**Holiday Open House**  
**Sunday, December 18, 2022**  
**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
 3540 Summer Avenue  
 Suite 104  
 Memphis, TN 38122  
 (901) 454-1414

The Steering Committee and Intergroup  
 Volunteers welcome you with refreshments and  
 good cheer!



Made with PosterMyWall.com

Christmas Eve day, the man awoke with a strange tension. It was a hangover from a senseless argument. Always with anger, a confusion stepped in between the man's hearing and mind. Speech and action were in subtle conflict. The man "hung-on," doggedly. He sat through a boozy lunch that started the office party without taking a drop. Everyone (it seemed) was passing a bottle. When the party grew so noisy he wouldn't be missed, the man sneaked his coat and parcels and hurried out the back way.

A LIGHT snow was falling. Cold air hit the man with a heady exhilaration. Thoughts spun faster than swirling snow. Unreasonably, now that he was safe, the slush of self-pity welled up. Everybody was privileged to celebrate a glorious holiday except him! "Mix Yourself a Bowl of Merry Christmas," begged gorgeous lithography from every saloon window. The man's mind began stirring a bowl of resentments, spiced with the fruit of imaginary good times. A compulsion gripped him, tight as fingers around a glass. He felt he had to drink or die. A saloon beckoned from across the street. He hurried to it.

Blocking the way stood a woman with kettle and bell. The man swung out to avoid the charity and bumped into a sidewalk sign, waist high. It was a Navy recruiting poster. His bare hand touched the icy metal frame. Then the man gripped tight, for sickness of soul swept from head to foot and held him there.

WITH a clarity never known before, the man saw the beginning and the end of what he was about to do. A hopeless panic shook him. He grinned fatuously at the woman and fumbled for a quarter, hoping that no one would speak to him.

Warm air came from the saloon door, opened. Juke records spun 'round and around. The bar was packed four deep; singing gushed fitfully from the rear. Tiny glasses quivering with amber light slid down the bright mahogany.

Crystal sharp now came his vision of the wrecked Christmas! The fragile ornaments spinning, smashed on the tree, and every one had mirrored a bright promise. A dustpan full of pine needles. "Skates for the kid--don't make me laugh!" Tears came into the man's eyes because he knew the compulsion to drink was stronger than he. When his hand stopped trembling and his legs were safe, he would push his way to the bar and set the terrible cycle in motion.

Suddenly, he remembered a way out! That first meeting his sponsor had said: "If you're ever hanging on the ragged edge and you haven't strength to fight off getting drunk, stand right where you are and pray."

The man held tight to the sign and breathed into his woolen muffler, "Our Father, who art in Heaven." It was the prayer at the end of every AA meeting, but it didn't seem quite right for now. "Christ," he whispered, "take me home on your birthday. Help me home for Christmas. Amen."

The words swirled away on an updraft of snow that was rising instead of falling. It was dark in the sky. . . the man couldn't remember what happened, then. His deep, vivid impression of Christmas Eve ended there.

NOW consciousness was returning. It was another day.

Wonderously, the man who had awakened so many mornings in the Place for Drunks lifted his arms from the side of the bed. He folded his hands together, eyes still closed.

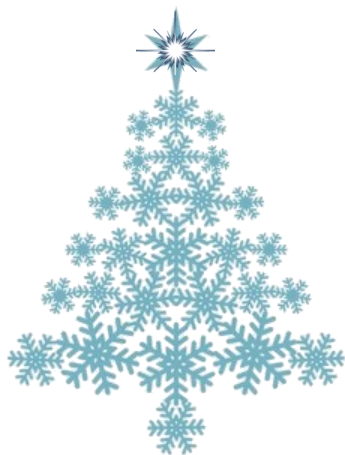
Was his prayer and the answer a dream?

"Thy Will Be Done," whispered the AA man, accepting the thing he could not change.

The dream faded. He opened sober eyes on the wallpaper and windows of home.

It was Christmas Day and Christ was born again.

*\*reprinted with permission aagrapevine.org*



## OFFICE ACTIVITIES:

Total Phone Calls for November.....	292
Night Watch Phones.....	82
Night Watch 12-Step Calls.....	7
Meeting Requests.....	49
General Information.....	82
Walk-ins.....	97





## 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 celebra-

tions 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



Worship in your own way.

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.

Reprinted from *Box 459* with permission.

# Happy Holidays



# GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	<b>Nov 22</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Jan - Nov 22</b>
<b>AMAA</b>	0.00	34.26	46.60
<b>Any Length Group</b>	50.00	36.00	306.32
<b>Bluff City Fellowship</b>	0.00	0.00	1.00
<b>Bluff City Group</b>	0.00	0.00	51.00
<b>Came to Believe Group</b>	0.00	50.00	547.02
<b>Central Gardens Group</b>	150.00	0.00	550.00
<b>Central Group</b>	200.00	23.00	220.00
<b>Collierville Group</b>	0.00	0.00	1,970.11
<b>Collierville Hopefuls</b>	0.00	0.00	82.43
<b>Committee - Archives</b>	0.00	0.00	325.00
<b>Common Solution</b>	0.00	100.00	395.53
<b>Covington</b>	0.00	0.00	50.00
<b>Design For Living</b>	0.00	0.00	273.14
<b>Downtown Nooners N/S</b>	200.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Downtown Thursday Night Group</b>	500.00	876.80	577.37
<b>Earlybird</b>	1,126.37	0.00	4,518.55
<b>Frayser Group</b>	0.00	0.00	20.00
<b>Freedon Road Recovery</b>	0.00	0.00	6.87
<b>Fresh Start AA Group</b>	0.00	0.00	3.54
<b>Friends of Bill W</b>	0.00	0.41	550.00
<b>Germantown Happy</b>	0.00	0.00	3,523.17
<b>Germantown Noon</b>	289.85	167.60	1,615.22
<b>Grace in the Grove</b>	0.00	0.00	213.65
<b>Happy Destiny</b>	0.00	50.00	447.02
<b>Heavy Hitters</b>	0.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Holly Springs Group</b>	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Hollywood</b>	0.00	0.00	56.16
<b>Hopeful High Nooners</b>	0.00	0.00	43.00
<b>Horn Lake</b>	0.00	10.00	70.00
<b>IG Monthly Reps Meeting</b>	6.00	0.00	175.69
<b>Lakeland</b>	0.00	0.00	1,194.10



Midtown Group	0.00	0.00	60.00
Mustard Seed	0.00	130.00	18.00
Neshoba Awakening	10.00	10.00	110.00
New Start	0.00	0.00	116.94
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	45.00	0.00	45.00
Overton Park	0.00	0.00	540.00
Personal Adventure	0.00	0.00	447.90
Pleasant Hill	0.00	92.27	400.58
Pride and Principles	20.00	0.00	70.00
Primary Purpose	25.00	0.00	125.97
Real Deal	0.00	0.00	170.25
Rule-62	380.00	0.00	680.00
Serenity	17.80	0.00	17.80
Serenity Group	0.00	0.00	534.00
Seriously Sober	78.83	70.00	741.92
Shady Ladies	0.00	100.00	950.00
Shipwreck	0.00	100.00	48.51
Sober Journey	200.00	0.00	700.00
Soberpalooza	0.00	397.43	0.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	0.00	10.00	161.39
Stateline	0.00	0.00	125.00
Steering Committee	0.00	0.00	17.00
Straight Outta Bondage	0.00	0.00	260.00
Taking the Twelve Steps	0.00	0.00	13.53

**A GROUP IN MEMPHIS HAD A COMMERCIAL VENDING MACHINE AT THEIR MEETING HALL.**

**ONE DAY, AFTER THE NOON MEETING, JIMMY WAS TALKING WITH HIS SPONSOR ABOUT HIS AGNOSTICISM. HE SAID HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE “HIGHER POWER” THING, BECAUSE OF THE GOD OF HIS CHILDHOOD. HIS SPONSOR STOPPED HIM MIDSENTENCE AND ASKED HIM TO GO OVER AND PICK UP THE COKE MACHINE. JIMMY SAID, "NO WAY CAN I PICK THAT UP, BIG DAN. I BET IT WEIGHS 500 LBS." BIG DAN THEN GESTURED TOWARD THE DOZENS OF PEOPLE IN THE ROOM, ASKING, "DO YOU THINK ALL THESE PEOPLE COULD PICK IT UP TOGETHER? THAT’S A POWER GREATER THAN YOU.”**

*\*HEARD AT A MEETING AT THE TOWER, HEAVILY PARAPHRASED MANY YEARS LATER*

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



## CAME TO BELIEVE

Colin R.....58 years

## DOWNTOWN THURSDAY NIGHT GROUP

Ralph M.....36 years

## WAAGL

Doug K.....34 years

## CENTRAL GARDENS

Kim K.....11 years

Marion M.....14 years

Jan W.....26 years

## REAL DEAL

Jimmy J.....14 years

Howard D.....27 years

## REAL DEAL (November)

Roy D.....32 years

## THREE LEGGED STOOL

Gina F.....23 years

Sid R.....23 years

Cheryl S.....5 years

Esther N.....4 years

Cecilia B.....12 years

## OUT OF TOWNERS

Susan H..... 28 years

## CENTRAL GARDENS

Kim K.....11 years

Marion M.....14 years

Jan W.....26 years

## GREAT REALITY

Eric D.....3 years

## EARLYBIRD GROUP

Ted M.....33 years

Rachel R.....9 years

Douglas D.....2 years

Brian E.....1 year

Melinda M.....7 years

## EARLYBIRD (November)

Will L.....2 years

Jem Mc.....17 years

Micheal H.....2 years

Robin B.....4 years

Molly R.....1 year

Chip H.....36 years

Anna Grace W.....27 years

Thomas S.....4 years

Lily W.....1 year

Terry G.....1 year

## HOW IT WORKS

Alan H.....27 years

## *\*Step Twelve\**

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

## *\*Tradition Twelve\**

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

## *\*Concept Twelve\**

Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.



**MAIA OPEN HOUSE**

3540 Summer Ave, Suite 104

Memphis, TN 38122

December 18 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**DISTRICT 21 HOLIDAY PARTY**

St. John's UMC

1207 Peabody Ave

Memphis, TN 38104

December 10 @ 5:30 - 9:00 pm

**SOBERPALOOZA New Year's Eve**

The Way House

1203 Peabody Ave., Memphis, TN

December 31 @ 7:00 pm

**CENTRAL GROUP'S "High Tea"**

3544 Forrest Ave., Memphis, TN 38122

December 11 @ 1:00 - 6:00 pm

**Grapevine "Eat and Pass Out"**

3544 Forrest Ave., Memphis, TN 38122

December 11 @ 1:00 - 6:00 pm

December 3 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

The Cupboard

1400 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN

**District 24**

December 3 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Highland Heights Presbyterian Church

2855 Morning Sun Road, Lakeland

**District 22**

December 3 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Area 51 Group 3563

Thomas St, Memphis, TN

**Memphis Treatment Committee**

December 5 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

Came to Believe

2865 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN

**Memphis Area Correctional Committee**

December 6 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

Came to Believe

2865 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN

**District 23 Committee Meeting**

December 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Zoom ID #851 8878 9376 PW 847990

**District 21 Committee Meeting**

December 12 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Crosstown Concourse

1350 Concourse

**Memphis Area Grapevine Committee**

December 13 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

White Station Church of Christ

1106 Colonial Road, Memphis

**District 25 Monthly Business Meeting**

Germantown United Methodist

2324 Germantown Rd., Germantown, TN

December 14 @ 6:00 pm

**CPC/PI Committee**

December 19 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

The Way House

1203 Peabody Ave, Memphis, TN

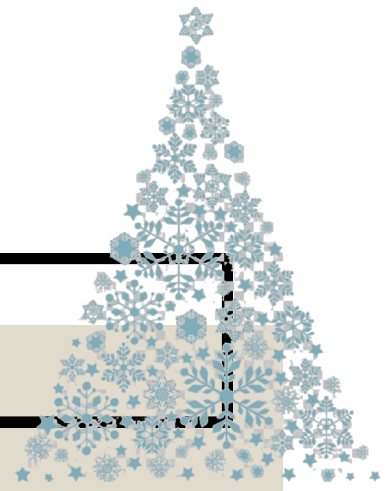
**Memphis Area Archives Committee**

December 25 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Two Doors Down

1578 Yorkshire

# December 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	31

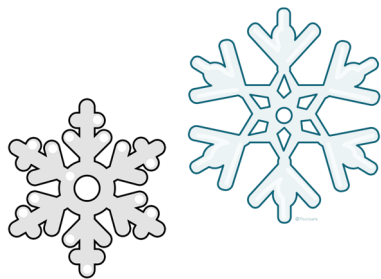
## Scan to contribute to MAIA



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.



# PAMPHLET OF THE MONTH



## Is A.A. for You?

- 1 Have you ever decided to stop drinking for a week or so, but only lasted for a couple of days?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

Most of us in A.A. made all kinds of promises to ourselves and to our families. We could not keep them. Then we came to A.A. and A.A. said: "Just try not to drink today." (If you do not drink today, you cannot get drunk today.)

- 2 Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking — stop telling you what to do?**

☐ ☐

In A.A. we do not tell anyone to do anything. We just talk about our own drinking, the trouble we got into, and how we stopped. We will be glad to help you, if you want us to.

- 3 Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another in the hope that this would keep you from getting drunk?**

☐ ☐

We tried all kinds of ways. We made our drinks weak. Or just drank beer. Or we did not drink cocktails. Or only drank on weekends. You name it, we tried it. But if we drank anything with alcohol in it, we usually got drunk eventually.

- 4 Have you had to have a drink upon awakening during the past year?**

☐ ☐

Do you need a drink to get started, or to stop shaking? This is a pretty sure sign that you are not drinking "socially."

- 5 Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble?**

☐ ☐

At one time or another, most of us have wondered why we were not like most people, who really can take it or leave it.

- 6 Have you had problems connected with drinking during the past year?**

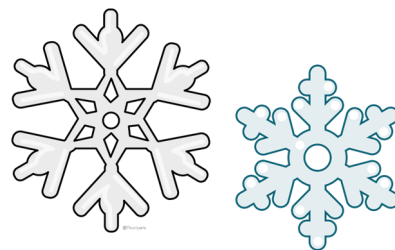
☐ ☐

Be honest! Doctors say that if you have a problem with alcohol and keep on drinking, it will get worse — never better. Eventually, you will die, or end up in an institution for the rest of your life. The only hope is to stop drinking.



REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

AA.ORG



## TWELVE QUESTIONS ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER

- 7 Has your drinking caused trouble at home?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

Before we came into A. A., most of us said that it was the people or problems at home that made us drink. We could not see that our drinking just made everything worse. It never solved problems anywhere or anytime.

- 8 Do you ever try to get "extra" drinks at a party because you do not get enough?**

☐ ☐

Most of us used to have a "few" before we started out if we thought it was going to be that kind of party. And if drinks were not served fast enough, we would go someplace else to get more.

- 9 Do you tell yourself you can stop drinking any time you want to, even though you keep getting drunk when you don't mean to?**

☐ ☐

Many of us kidded ourselves into thinking that we drank because we wanted to. After we came into A.A., we found out that once we started to drink, we couldn't stop.

- 10 Have you missed days of work or school because of drinking?**

☐ ☐

Many of us admit now that we "called in sick" lots of times when the truth was that we were hungover or on a drunk.

- 11 Do you have "blackouts"?**

☐ ☐

A "blackout" occurs when we cannot remember what happened for hours or days while we were drinking. When we came to A.A., we found out that this is a pretty sure sign of alcoholic drinking.

- 12 Have you ever felt that your life would be better if you did not drink?**

☐ ☐

Many of us started to drink because drinking made life seem better, at least for a while. By the time we got into A.A., we felt trapped. We were drinking to live and living to drink. We were sick and tired of being sick and tired.



# Twelve More Questions



AN INTERVIEW SERIES  
*featuring Memphis AA Longtimers*

## **Shirley F., 51 Years Sober**

1) What is your sobriety date and your home group?  
November 11, 1971, and the Central Gardens Group

2) Where were you born?  
Baptist Hospital, Memphis Tennessee

3) What kind of childhood did you have?  
I think it was a real nice one.

It was the end of the Depression, and my Daddy had been searching for work. He knew a lot about batteries, so he was able to get an interview with United Motors, a division of General Motors. He was hired, and rose through the ranks at GM in Detroit. During World War II, he was put in charge of finding new factories to build equipment to put on tanks, etc. They stopped building cars, and instead concentrated on the war effort. That was something to be very proud of, as a child whose father was helping America. We were extremely patriotic. (I hate so much that's been lost.) Every morning at school, we would go stand by the flagpole in our snowsuits and say the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing the National Anthem.

Everybody was working together. Every Monday after school, I took my wagon door-to-door in my neighborhood asking for items for the war effort, such as metal. We took these things to a fenced-in area at the end of the street, and a man came and picked them up and took them away. I was overly-patriotic, according to my mother, I went into our kitchen and took two of our ice trays and a couple of cooking pots and gave them away. I got into a little trouble over that.

We moved to Memphis after that. I was nine, and looked forward to being a junior bridesmaid at my sister's wedding. My mother entered me in a beauty pageant, and I remember the five of us girls walking by the wading pool in our bathing suits. I won, but the Southern mothers got mad because I was a Yankee and didn't deserve to be in the contest. It took a long time for my Northern accent to go away, and I felt on the outside of things because I was raised in Detroit.

I was a Brownie, then a Girl Scout, and gave a speech at a church on "What Girl Scouting Means to Me". I went to East High the first year it was built. It was just absolutely wonderful. We had a great time there.

4) When did you start drinking?  
As soon as I could. (laughter)

My parents loved to play cards: bridge and poker. When they would rotate to our house to play, I would be the bartender. They would put a little stool up at the counter. I was good at measuring and knowing who drank scotch and who drank bourbon. I was very well aware of how very fun it was, and they got more fun as they went along. I don't think I ever cheated and tried to drink some. I think I was scared to try that.

I think I was in about the 8 or 9th grade when it started. I was at a party, and some boys sneaked in a bottle of booze to pour in the punch. We drank and had so much fun that night. I didn't seek it after that, but if it was available, I would drink it.

5) When and how did your drinking get out of control?

We didn't have it much in high school, except if a boy would sneak a bottle or that sort of thing. I never refused it, but I never asked for it. And I didn't ever cheat any of Mother and Daddy's booze.

I got married in my sophomore year of college. He just came out of the Navy and we didn't have any money, and I was working. We drank white lightning, because that's all we could afford. It is really rough, so I didn't drink much, because it would make me sick. But him being a sailor, he was a drinker.

We divorced, and I moved to Manhattan, working as a stewardess for Eastern Airlines. Every date I went on was to a club or hotel to see a headliner. I adored living in New York, but after four years, came back to Memphis.

6) Where was your first AA meeting?

Cleveland, Ohio. I called AA in the middle of the night. My husband was out of town, and I had come out of a blackout. I called the number.

7) What were your first impressions of AA?

It was wonderful. It was a clubhouse, within a big old house, with a great big room with a large bar with sandwiches and cokes and that sort of thing, and tables, where everyone would go before and after the meeting. There was a pay phone booth there, where they would take calls. Over the top of the bar there was a sign that read, "P.L.O.M." I asked what that was, and was told it meant, "Poor Little Ole Me." Everybody was just so wonderful. They had a beginner's every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for two weeks. We met upstairs, where older members would talk about the Steps, and Traditions, so when we did go to our first actual meeting, we understood how things worked and we were ready to roll.

8) How did you come to find a sponsor?

Jerry M. was the name of the woman who came when I first called AA, and she became my sponsor.

I had to go meetings during the week, because my husband came on weekends. One of those weekend nights I made his favorite, chicken and dumplings. He had a way of looking at me when he was drunk, like he wanted to kill me, and I was scared. He went to bed, and when I could tell he was sleeping, I went out the front door without a jacket or anything, pulling the door closed very slowly so as not to wake him up. I drove to the bowling alley, trying to find someplace open and safe to make a phone call. I called Jerry, and she came and took me to the home of a woman I had never met, who was in AA. She let me stay for eight days. I was so impressed with how kind and caring that was.

I called Charlie and told him I wanted to leave him. We divorced, and I moved to Manhattan, working as a stewardess for Eastern Airlines. I adored living in New York, but after four years, came back to Memphis.

I went to a meeting on Highland the first night I got home. It was just an awful meeting. I thought, they don't know what the heck they are doing here. The next day, I went to the Paramount Group, where they were playing cards, etc. Central Group was formed from that one, and the people really loved the program, and worked hard to preserve it. I met Clara S. there, who had converted to Catholicism in her 3rd year sober, and she became my spiritual sponsor. Kittylu A. later became my permanent sponsor. This is also where I met Sid, who became my husband.

9) How did you begin sponsoring others?

They would ask me. I never thought of it as being my choice, it was always their choice. I didn't have the right to say no. I may have had some qualifications, like, "Stop drinking." I sponsored a girl named Carol, who was one of the most beautiful women I had ever met, with jet black hair. This was very early on, and when I asked Kittylu, she said, "Don't ever turn down somebody trying to help themselves." She and I became very good friends, but then she started drinking again. Her whole personality changed, and she began behaving scandalously, seeking attention, getting arrested walking naked down the railroad tracks. Sadly, Sid called me one morning to tell me that she had died the night before, having burned to death in her apartment. It embedded it more in my mind, what to do and what not to do, to stay sober. Going around acting sexy does not help.

10) In what other areas of service have you been involved, besides sponsorship?

*Greenbrook Group Anniversary  
Celebration and Christmas  
Party*

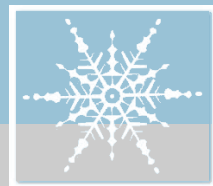
*December 21st, 2022*

**Graceland Christian Church  
2126 Stateline Rd E.,  
Southaven, MS 38672**

**Pizza and drinks provided  
but please bring a dish.  
We eat at 6:00 PM,  
speaker at 7:00 PM!**

**Speaker- Elizabeth P w/ 33 years from  
the Bullfrog Corner Group**





# SOBERPALOOZA

Wants You!

Come be a part of fun and service!

Business meetings 2nd & 4th

Thursdays of the month.

6:45 pm

at The Memphis Center

1323 Madison Ave

I was the first director of the first women's recovery house here in Memphis. I was sober about a year and a half, which was six months less than what they were looking for. They needed someone with managerial experience, and hadn't been able to find anyone. They got a house on Vinton, and cleaned it and had furniture donated from a member whose family owned a furniture company. The beds they brought in were twin beds, white with pink roses. The women would cry when they would see their beautiful new beds.

Sid and I got married, and moved to Fort Walton Beach. When we moved back to Memphis, we found out that the house on Vinton had burned to the ground.

In 1973, I was granted a one-year leave of absence from the IRS to serve as the director of a rehab house for women alcoholics.

I started several groups, some of which are still going.

11) What special occasions do you recall during your time in AA?

Celebrating 50 years was very special.

Going to the Saturday Night dances at the Action Club! That was one of the selling points for so many people, to have something fun to do together on Saturday nights. There was a trio, a mother, son, and friend who would play "Johnny Be Good" every other number. Everybody would go crazy. We jitterbugged in those days, always with partners. Women didn't get out and dance by themselves like they do today. It was just a different way of life in those days.

I started the meeting that is my home group, Central Gardens. I went to the minister at the Central Christian Church at McLean and Peabody, and told him that I was trying to start a new meeting in that area, because Sid and I had moved downtown. One thing I was able to do, I called people that I had known when I first came in, and everybody came. It went very well. Joe B. came in, and wanted a different day, and the group voted to change it to Thursdays. It was a wonderful meeting.

12) In what ways has AA changed over the years?

It has changed in the same ways that society has changed; how everything has changed for men and women.

## ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE SUPPORT EVENT



SPEAKER:

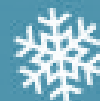
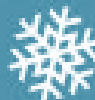


STACY M.



UNITY GROUP

JOIN US SATURDAY, DEC 17TH TO HEAR STACY M.'S STORY!  
THE GOAL OF THIS EVENT IS TO COLLECT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
THE ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE  
SERVICES TO MEMPHIS AA GROUPS, INCLUDING AN ASL  
INTERPRETER.



SPEAKER MEETING  
SATURDAY, DEC 17TH 1:30-3:30PM  
2865 WALNUT GROVE

