

MAIA

TIPPLER

JANUARY 24

Step 1 We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition 1 Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Concept 1 The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

CONTENTS

Page 2. Just Another Day

Page 3. Calendar

Page 4. Birthdays

Page 5. Tradition One

Page 6. Gotta Shop Around

Page 7. Group Contributions

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven Steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect—unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 24

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

901 454-1414 office
memphisarea@bellsouth.net
memphis-aa.org



by: M. C.
PLEASANTVILLE,
NEW YORK

Reprinted from
AA Grapevine
January 1964

OH, the drunken New Year's Eves! Oh, the dreary New Year's Days! Oh, the years that I both anticipated and dreaded this most abused of all holidays! I can't say that I really regret them now. I can only say with infinite relief that I am free of them. AA has brought me this freedom, but it has taken more than one year in the program to sail through that once-deadly double-barreled holiday with no emotional overtones or psychic twinges.

Just once in the twenty-seven years between the first time I had a drink on New Year's Eve and my first New Year's Eve in AA did anyone ever suggest to me there was another way to greet the new year. I was twenty and working for an artist in New York. My parents had been quite concerned about my going off alone to the big city and taking such an unorthodox job. Artists, I was warned, were apt to be unconventional at the very least. And my artist was indeed unconventional. He told me he planned to go to bed early on New Year's Eve so that he could celebrate New Year's Day by painting especially well and he expected me to be at work early on January first to help him and to share in the goodness of the day.

I was at the studio, all right, when the first light streamed in through the big north windows. But there was nothing good about it. By mid-morning I was asleep at my desk. By noon my artist, having waked me, plied me with black coffee and walked me at a brisk clip through Central Park in the hope of reviving me, gave up in discouragement and sent me home. I was ashamed and annoyed, and the point of it all seemed to have escaped me. But perhaps it hadn't really. I can't remember now where I had been that New Year's Eve or with whom I got drunk; but there is no New Year's Day I recall so vividly.

I expect now that I never really was a social drinker. There was a long period when I passed for one, in my own eyes and the eyes of others, for the simple reason that I only drank at parties. I actually felt a kind of pride then in my capacity for booze and the fact that I was emancipated enough (emancipated from what I have no idea) to get drunk quite deliberately.

New Year's Eve was a great night because everybody got drunk--at least I assumed that everybody did--it was the thing to do. On New Year's Day one could make all sorts of resolutions with no real intention of keeping them. I would have felt deprived without a party on New Year's Eve. Deprived also, I expect, if there had been no rather dramatic sins to make resolutions about on January first.

Sometimes, I'm sure, it was fun. But even then there was a kind of franticness about it. The franticness over the years became mixed with uneasiness. I was a little frightened of the "big night," but more frightened of being left out, of losing friends or face by staying home.

It is significant to me that I didn't stop drinking finally on the strength of a New Year's resolution--or, for that matter, on my birthday, or on Ash Wednesday, or any other special day on the calendar. I had my last drink on an otherwise perfectly ordinary Sunday in October because, after two months of sloshing around in AA, I was suddenly less afraid of sobriety and the loss of my drinking friends than I was that my new AA friends might get fed up with me and drum me out of their midst. So began a new year and a new life for me, a kind of Lent and a kind of Easter, a time for Thanksgiving and a new understanding of the Christmas message. And it had nothing at all to do with the calendar.

Take it twenty-four hours at a time, I was told--ten minutes at a time if need be at the beginning. But what about New Year's? Won't it present almost impossible temptations? Don't look beyond the present, I was told. A day has no more than twenty-four hours in it even if it is a holiday. Time to cope with it when it comes and the strength to cope will be built up by staying sober now. If, when it comes, it is difficult, remember that holidays too can be broken down into ten-minute periods. Like all other days, they very soon become yesterdays.

But New Year's Eve was the night that was meant for drinking. I felt I couldn't go out without drinking. And if I didn't go out maybe I'd not be invited again. I was terribly tempted to test myself on the one hand, and felt almost physical revulsion at the prospect on the other. In the end, I asked my husband to take me to a movie that evening, and I got through it, not joyously, but at least without incident. New Year's Day was the unexpected icing on what had seemed a pretty indigestible cake. I felt good. I cooked a family dinner and ate it with enjoyment. I took a walk with my husband in the snow. I felt no need to show at any of the eggnog parties around town, where the hangovers of others were being soothed. And I made no resolutions. True, I asked God's help that morning to stay sober that day. But to ask for help is far different from making a resolution--and far more effective. Altogether it was a pleasant day, relaxed, since no one had to go to school or to work, but otherwise hardly a holiday at all.

This is the way it has been for me ever since. This is the way I expect it to be at the dawn of '64. There is just one difference, an important one too. That is that New Year's Eve has also lost its terrors. I have lost no friends by not going out and getting drunk that one frenzied night of the year. The rather humbling and also amusing truth is that I doubt if the party-goers have noticed my absence. How comfortable to be anonymous in this respect! As I write this, it is still early October. Having written it, I shall forget about the coming holidays until they are almost here. If we are asked to a non-brawly kind of party on New Year's Eve, I shall probably accept with pleasure. If we are asked to a brawly one, I shall surely refuse without regret. If we are asked nowhere, I may invite some friends in on the spur of the moment. Or I may not. The lovely thing is that it doesn't matter.

As for New Year's Day, I feel quietly confident that with the help of God and my AA friends I shall spend it soberly and contentedly. Maybe, in memory of the kindly artist who tried to share an important truth with me before I was ready for it, I can use the day to do something creative. In any event, I shall be making no resolutions. And if I live each day between now and then in the spirit of the program, it will be that much easier. A calendar, after all, is only a calendar.



January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	6:45 - 7:45 pm Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	3	4	5	6 9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22
7	8	6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	10	11	12
14 11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23	15 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm CPC/PI Committee	16	17	18	19 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Accessibility Committee	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 3:45 - 5:00 pm Memphis Area Archives Committee	29	30	31	1	2	3

Holidays and Observances: 1: New Year's Day, 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 1 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

January 1 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

January 2 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

January 6 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am & Hybrid (ID 9186700041) p/w welcome - District 24
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016
January 6 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Area 51
3563 Thomas St
Memphis, TN 38127

January 9 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

January 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

January 14 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

January 15 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
The Way House
1203 Peabody Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

January 19 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

January 28 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Two Doors Down
1578 Yorkshire



MAIA

3540 Summer Avenue
Suite 104
Memphis, TN 38122
901-454-1414

memphisarea@bellsouth.net



Downtown Thursday

John S. 5yrs
Mike D. 6yrs
Sheryl M. 8yrs
Brendan H. 8yrs
Katie B. 10yrs

Germantown Noon

Ginger L. 9yrs
Don K. 9yrs
Chappell P. 9yrs
Dennis B. 17yrs
Pam R. 23yrs
Dave S. 5yrs
Adrian M. 7yrs
Bill R. 17yrs
Elizabeth 30yrs

S.O.S.

Stephanie 29yrs

Winchester

Ray D. 55yrs
John P. 37yrs
Colleen F. 35yrs
Becky Y. 20yrs

Unity

Sherrie S. 34yrs
Anna B.. 16yrs
Ann P. 16yrs
Pam B. 16yrs
Susan B. 11yrs
Sarah P. 11yrs
Kristin N. 7yrs

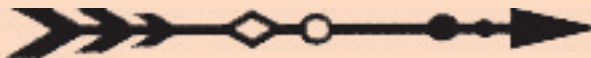
Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 8 am - 4 pm
Tuesday/Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Closed for lunch daily from 1 pm - 2 pm

The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on January 14th at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. Please call or email the office for the meeting ID & passcode.

BECOME A HIGH FIVER

Memphis Area Intergroup has been the link between the A.A. recovery community and the newcomer and, even as importantly, with one another since 1960. Many of us are grateful to the office for its helping hand, but have either not known that Intergroup needs our support, or our contributions have been put off due to our new busy and happy lives. "High Fivers" is a way we have found to allow members to show their gratitude by making sure the services provided by the office continues. High Fivers is a program of commitment; we commit to a \$5.00 contribution per month, either monthly, quarterly, or annually. Contact our office with details on the ways with which you can submit your monetary contributions. Intergroup, in return, will send an acknowledgement for your contributions at the end of each calendar year. These contributions are tax deductible. As an expression of gratitude, you will receive a hard copy of this newsletter in the mail each month.

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.



TRADITION *One*

Our Common Welfare Should Come First, Personal Recovery Depends Upon AA Unity.

Our whole AA program is securely founded on the principle of humility--that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are--"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why AA Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in AA the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few AA groups impose penalties on anyone for nonconformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "judge not," we observe most literally.

"But," some will argue, "if AA has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we AAs cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to

get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must: we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no AA, and that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

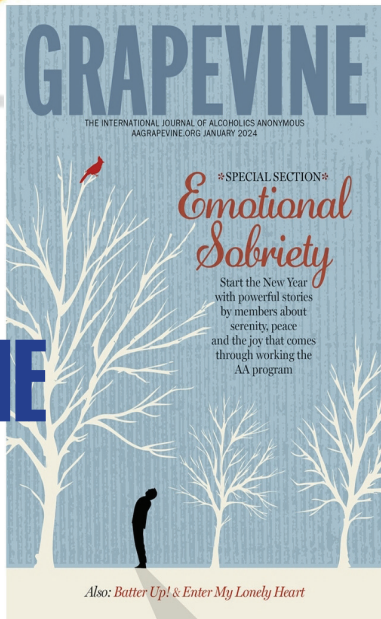
-Bill W.
AA Grapevine, December 1947



MAIA DECEMBER 2023 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	Dec 23	Dec 22	Jan - Dec 23
ABC Group -	0.00	500.00	0.00
AMAA	0.00	0.00	11.36
Any Length Group	55.00	25.00	357.00
Back to Basic	0.00	0.00	5.01
Bluff City Group	0.00	0.00	270.80
Bozos on the Bus	0.00	0.00	250.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	1,360.00
Central Gardens Group	0.00	50.00	500.00
Central Group	0.00	0.00	50.00
Collierville Group	0.00	0.00	2,324.31
Committee - Archives	0.00	0.00	50.00
Common Solution	0.00	0.00	200.00
Covington	0.00	0.00	125.00
Creagh David	0.00	0.00	10.00
Design For Living	0.00	0.00	94.09
Downtown Nooners N/S	350.00	0.00	550.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	0.00	1,589.31
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	2,274.87
Frayser Group	0.00	0.00	345.00
Freedon Road Recovery	0.00	0.00	40.00
Fresh Start AA Group	0.00	0.00	2.50
Friends of Bill W	0.00	0.00	600.00
Germantown Noon	271.06	263.05	2,444.23
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	233.87
Great Reality	0.00	0.00	38.91
Hickory Hill	0.00	0.00	50.00
Holly Springs Group	100.00	0.00	100.00
Hollywood	0.00	0.00	100.00
Horn Lake	10.00	5.00	65.00
How It Works	0.00	0.00	72.00
IG Monthly Reps Meeting	0.00	15.00	34.00
Lakeland	0.00	0.00	1,007.75
Love and Tolerance	0.00	0.00	54.49
MAIA	0.00	0.00	15.00
Midtown Group	0.00	0.00	11.22
Morning Glories	0.00	0.00	61.00
Mustard Seed	0.00	125.00	0.00
Neshoba Awakening	10.00	10.00	110.00
New Start	0.00	0.00	100.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	45.00
Overton Park	0.00	0.00	715.00

	Dec 23	Dec 22	Jan - Dec 23
Personal Adventure	0.00	0.00	239.63
Pleasant Hill	0.00	0.00	928.02
Pride and Principles	0.00	20.00	480.81
Primary Purpose	50.00	0.00	425.00
Real Deal	0.00	0.00	41.00
Rule-62	0.00	0.00	157.00
Ruthven Alice	0.00	0.00	40.00
Serenity	0.00	0.00	701.22
Seriously Sober	0.00	55.00	859.70
Shady Ladies	200.00	0.00	1,850.00
Sober Journey	0.00	0.00	862.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	10.00	0.00	60.00
Straight Outta Bondage	303.00	0.00	1,026.00
Straight Pepper Diet	0.00	293.00	0.00
The Nooner	0.00	190.50	1,724.69
Three Legged Stool	0.00	0.00	97.52
Traditions	50.00	0.00	650.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	300.00	11,005.85
Unity Group	29.35	0.00	817.13
WAAGL	100.00	100.00	1,200.00
West Memphis Group-Brian	0.00	0.00	95.72
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	25.00
William Castle	0.00	0.00	5.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	765.50
wordly indeed	0.00	0.00	1.36
Worldly Indeed	0.00	0.00	741.26
TOTAL	<u>1,838.41</u>	<u>1,951.55</u>	<u>41,906.13</u>



JANUARY GRAPEVINE

Memphis Area Intergroup Association
3540 Summer Ave., Suite 104
Memphis, TN 38122
901 454-1414 office
memphisarea@bellsouth.net
memphis-aa.org

“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 _____

