

The Messenger

A publication written by and for
members of Alcoholics Anonymous

Fall 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, Nov. 10
@ 11:30am,
(following May/Lee)

- State of the Club
presentation from Board
of Directors
- Announcement of \$5000
raffle winner
- Lunch
- Door prizes
- Nominations for Board of
Directors

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, 11/22 @ 11:00am
(following 10:00 meeting)

Not That Kind of Club

I found Club 24 in July 2017. I was brand new, alone, in a fog and very nervous about the journey I about to begin. I was feeling uncertain as the people around me laughed and joked with a familiarity I had only seen within families. I instantly wanted what they had even though I hadn't heard those words spoken yet. I was curious, so I kept going to meetings and collected the phone numbers of alcoholics who didn't look like me, or sound like me, but truly felt like me. In week two I began arriving early and staying late. By October, I was attached to a core group and spent my Saturdays with these people within the rooms of Club 24. People wanted my opinion about the Club and I was put to work to keep reinforce their beliefs that I belonged here.

It was the best of times and the worst of times. When I began to stumble, I didn't want the people I had come to love to know I was faltering. In November, I had to reintroduce myself at each meeting I went to for a week, per my sponsor's directions. At that time, I was going to over twenty meetings a week, most of them at the Club. My first reintroduction was not at Club 24, nor was my second, third or fourth. When I could no longer avoid the inevitable, I was greeted with a warm "Welcome Home" to which I responded with true sincerity--"thank you family."

A few days later, while leaving my house, I yelled "I'm going to the Club." I later learned that a concerned relative said to my sister, "I thought she stopped drinking." My sister replied, "not that kind of club." I told my sister, that in the future, it would be completely accurate to say "she's going home."

--Darla C.

SUNDAY

8am Early Bird Sunday (O)
10am Sunday 12 Step Disc. (75 min) (C,D)
11:45am We Agnostics (O, D)
2:59pm Women's 12 Step Disc.(C, W, D)
5:30pm Serenity Sunday Big Book (O, BB)
7:30pm Serenity Sunday (O, LD)
9:30pm Last Call (O, LD)

MONDAY

7:30am Get Started 12&12 (L)
10am Lucky Monday Big Book Disc. (C, BB)
4:30pm Here We Go Again (O)
6:30pm Monday Night Men's Disc. (C, M)
8:30pm Heights Young People (C, D)

TUESDAY

6:45am Experience Strength Hope & Love (O)
10am As Bill Sees It (O)
5:30pm Courage to Change (AMED)*
7:30pm Tuesday Big Book Study (BB)

WEDNESDAY

7:45am Wednesday Wake Up Big Book Disc. (O)
10am 24 Hour Book Disc. (O)
6pm Perfectly Clear 12 Step Disc. (C)

THURSDAY

7:30am Big Book (O)
10am I Opener (mini-lead) (O)
6pm Daily Reflections Disc (O)
7:30pm Thursday Big Book Study (O)

FRIDAY

10am Freedom Friday (mini-lead) (O)
6:30pm On Your Way Home (O, LD)
9:30pm Young In Sobriety (C, D)

SATURDAY

8am 11th Step Meditation (O)
10am May-Lee (75 minutes) (O, LD)
12:30pm Side Room Beginners' Disc. (O)
2pm Primary Purpose (O)
4:30pm The HOW Group (O, LD)
5:30pm Big Twelve (O, W, D)
7:30pm Saturday Nite Live (O, LD)

(O) Open--all are welcome!
(C) Closed--alcoholics only
(L) Limited--alcoholics & their support team members
(D) Discussion
(BB) Big Book Discussion
(LD) Lead
(W) Women only
(M) Men only
(AMED) Alcoholics w/Mental/Emotional Disorders

Fall Reflections

Halloween is, without a doubt, my favorite time of year. Fall isn't my favorite season, the easy days of summer take that title. But to me, one of the crowning glories of contemporary American culture is the between-times season of witchcraft and coziness, where everyone gets to enjoy the cold and the dark, pretending that winter isn't coming.

I was filling out a background questionnaire today, for a very good job I've just accepted. It asked about trips abroad, and whether I had any contact with the police. And I shuddered, remembering vividly Halloween of 2014, a weekend spent at a conference in the shadow of Francisco Franco's tomb outside Madrid, Spain. I packed a bottle of absinthe for the train ride, and woke up in the wee hours on a park bench. I didn't have an interaction with the police, but I almost did. And that wasn't even the last Halloween that I drank.

So as I approach three years sober, Halloween has become a time of reflection for me. I count my blessings. Three Halloweens in, I still have my family in my life. I've been offered a lucrative new job. I'm able to enjoy new hobbies that I didn't have the mental bandwidth for between the lies and the wine. Halloween is the time when we gaze, just for a moment, into the abyss. For this alcoholic, that's good -- a moment gazing into the abyss, remembering how hard it was to get out. And how good it is to be able to turn away.

--Oliver R