ANONYMOUS SOUTH JERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

April/May 2022



THE ONE THING THAT YOU HAVE THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS IS YOU. YOUR VOICE, YOUR MIND, YOUR STORY, YOUR VISION, SO WRITE AND DRAW AND BUILD AND PLAY AND DANCE AND LIVE AS ONLY YOU CAN.

OBRIETY isn't just about being sober because someone said you need help... It's about making a decision to have a deeper more profound life. It's about not running away from fear, but looking it straight in the eye...knowing you will get through it. It's about knowing you don't have to walk this road alone and trusting a power and love greater than you. It's about service and helping people instead of hurting them...including yourself. You are a warrior because you chose to feel every fiber of your being and that takes courage. That is where FRFFDOM is!

~ unknown

I WOULD RATHER GO THROUGH LIFE SOBER. BELIEVING I AM AN ALCOHOLIC. THAN GO THROUGH LIFE D trying to convince myself THAT I AM NOT

PSYCHIC CHANGE and how do we get it?

Many doctors including the great psychiatrist of the 20th century, Dr. Carl Jung have tried to cure us alcoholics; to help us from taking the first drink; but they all failed. No matter how much selfunderstanding, psycho-therapy, medicines, even changing our lifestyle, nothing could stop us from drinking again.

Dr. Silkworth summed it up for the medical profession when he stated that;

"Unless the alcoholic can experience an entire psychic change there is little hope of his recovery."

What is a psychic change?

Big Book,pg 27, Dr. Jung told Roland H.; "Here and there, once in a while, alcoholics have had what are called vital spiritual experiences. To me these occurrences are phenomena. They appear to be in the nature of huge emotional displacements and rearrangements. Ideas, emotions, and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of the lives of these men are suddenly cast to one side, and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate them."

How do we get this psychic change?

The 12 Steps! "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps."

According to The Big Book, a psychic change is a transformation in one's reaction to life, change in personality, or acquisition of a belief in a Higher Power. Chances are you have already experienced a psychic change at some point. For example, think of how finishing one alcoholic drink alters the way you interact with the world. You get an immediate sense of ease and comfort. Perhaps you stop being overly shy, or maybe you suddenly feel invincible. Regardless of the effect, experiencing this modified outlook is a psychic change. To live, we need to find it without alcohol.

Here are 8 indicators that you've had a psychic change or are well on your way.

Now that you are on the road to recovery, you can experience a <u>different kind of awakening</u>. For some, it's a sudden flash of clarity that shakes your mind and spirit. For most, it comes over time, which is what the Big Book labels as experiential or educational.

1. Sobriety

One day, you're stuck in the muck and mire of abusive drinking, and then, almost miraculously, you're not. While it's normal behavior for an alcoholic to drink, opting not to drinking is something unexpected. The mere fact that you're on a different path now can be attributed to having an altered thought process or a psychic change. Even those who end up forced into the rooms due to a "nudge from the judge" may find themselves open and willing to change. Whatever it is, something has made you question your life, and now you want a different experience.

2. An Open and Willing Heart

Do you find yourself actually looking forward to **attending meetings**? Are you suddenly willing to share your deepest darkest secrets with someone and be open to the recovery process? Perhaps you're actually having fun and even feeling all rosy inside. If these things are true, you're in the midst of a **spiritual awakening**.

3. Accepting Wise Counsel

Think of the times when you've told people who care about you to "mind their own business," you hated when anyone told you what to do because you felt you could make your own decisions. The shift comes when you are willing to **ask for help**. Now, you seek wise counsel from those in sober living and are open to taking direction.

4. New Playgrounds and Playmates

Sometimes, **letting go of old friendships** is one of the hardest things about getting sober. After all, we've spent years nurturing these relationships, having our entire persona revolve around them. Then, the day comes when your old playground and playmates no longer fit your new life, and you're able to let them go with little struggle or regret.

5. Motivation to Get Active

While staying sober is now your main priority, there's so much room for growth in other areas, such as **fitness**. Exercising is not only good for the body, but it also helps to clear the mind. If you're suddenly inspired to invest in a new gym membership or go out and be more active in general, then you have adopted a new way of thinking.

6. Acts of Selflessness

Most alcoholics and addicts are so consumed by their own needs that they only help people when it benefits them. However, once they begin recovery, they learn that to stay sober, one has to "give it away." As you take on meeting commitments, **go on 12-step calls**, or drive a newcomer to a meeting, you perform selfless acts. While you do them partly to stay sober, you wouldn't be able to do even half the amount of work without being inspired.

7. Change in Old Behavior

According to an adage, "You can sober up a drunken horse thief, and you still have a horse thief." This stems from the fact that some people get sober and continue to lie, cheat, and manipulate to get their way. Changing your behavior is a major part of the recovery process. In the 12-steps, steps 6 and 7 serve to magnify both known and hidden defects in our character. Becoming increasingly uncomfortable with your vices means you are on the verge of a psychic change.

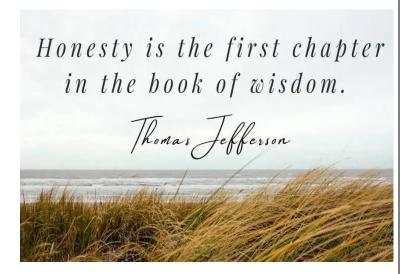
8. A New Sense of Spirituality

If you're talking about God a lot when you didn't before, you're in the midst of an awakening. After all, you tried for years to sober up on your own, and it never worked. Now, you're surrounded by "God-consciousness" and people who are staying sober one day at a time. You see a Higher Power at work within your recovery group and others who are embracing a spiritual path. Change is at work, and you now radiate beauty from the inside and out as something unexplainable has happened. Your Higher Power is now doing for you what you could not do for yourself.

Trivia Question for April:

Why are we anonymous? (Answer is in this issue)





Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are printed with permission from AA World Services, Inc., and/or the AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from readers are encouraged—you can write about your experience, strength and hope in general, or you can focus on one of the steps or traditions. You can also write about something that touched you at a meeting, something that bothered you at a meeting, or some service commitment you especially enjoy. Submissions are edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish flyers for events in this newsletter. However, we are happy to include your gathering in the general list of fellowship announcements.

Please send your submissions to newsletter@aasj.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SJ INTERGROUP:

South Jersey Intergroup Association, Inc. PO Box 2514 Cherry Hill, NJ 08035

Office/Literature Sales: 1-856-486-4446

Email: Info@aasj.org
Website: www.aasj.org
24-Hour Hotline 1-856-486-4444

SJIG holds its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 pm at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 1989 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ

and via Zoom see Website above for info





April/May Service Opportunities

All emails can be found at aasj.org TAB: 'About SJIG', Committees

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The **Answering Service Committee** is seeking volunteers for the following openings: Tu 6-8am, Th 6-8am, Fr 8-10am, Wed 6-8pm, Fr 6-8pm.

We are asking that potential volunteers have at least one year of continuous sobriety, or at least 10 months of continuous sobriety with a recommendation, and consent of the individuals sponsor, and one, or two home group members recommendation.

Additionally, the Answering service committee was blessed to add a second Spanish speaking volunteer to our 12-step call list, and the Chair wishes to extend a Thank You to Milda for locating a second Spanish Speaking individual we can call upon if needed. However, both of our Spanish speaking volunteers are Female. It would be nice if we could balance with at least one male Spanish speaking Male.

Additionally, the Chair, and Co-Chair of the answering service committee are always looking for volunteers who speak any foreign language who would be willing to volunteer to be available to be called upon and added to the list of 12 step volunteers. Having said that we are especially concerned regarding the potential of Ukraine immigrants choosing to settle in our area. To borrow from the Boy Scouts motto to "Be Prepared", which, is what the answering service committee is STRIVING to do.

If anyone speaks Ukraine, Russian, or any of the Slavic languages, and would like to share your talent with the answering service committee Please send an e mail to answering service @aasj. org, and Either Theresa B Committee Co-Chair, or Pete R Committee Chairman will promptly respond. Additionally, you may call the AA Hotline between 6am and 10 pm seven days a week and provide your information to the volunteer who answers the phone, and they will pass your information on to the committee Chairs, and we will promptly respond.

Thank You for your consideration! By Peter R Chair & Theresa B Co Chair , Answering SVS Committee

Stories Needed

Archives is looking to continue collecting information and stories about our South Jersey groups and individuals. archives@aasj.org.

Personal Histories, Homegroup Histories, (Check aasj.org to make sure your group is listed), **COVID Adaptation Stories**

Booker's Meeting will be Thursday May 5th at 8 PM. Most likely it will be LIVE in person at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 1989 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ

Newsletter: Please continue to send in articles, poems, thoughts, anything you like.

The **GSO** is seeking Stories for the **5**th **Edition of the Big Book**!

Announcement 5th Edition BB EN (aa.org)

Recovery story solicitation for the Fourth Edition of the Big Book Alcohólicos Anónimos (aa.org)
Announcement AA Blacl African American EN

Get Out and Get Involved

April 24, 2022 * 2-5pm The Millmen Center 209 Bayshore Rd., Villas NJ The Importance of Service Work in AA * FIVE GUEST SPEAKERS * Session 1: Unity, Service and Recovery. Session 2: Service Work In AA. email: workshopchair@capeatlanticaa.org

Tuesday April 26, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Ashland Tuesday Night Big Book Anniversary Meeting.

Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 4th United Presbyterian Church308 Kates Blvd., Millville, NJ What is a Home Group?

Why are we anonymous? 1) If somebody relapsed, they didn't want people to think it was because AA didn't work, 2) To keep ego's in check, nobody can be "Mr./Mrs. AA", 3) being an alcoholic was a disgraceful thing when AA started & still carries shame for many newcomers to-day-confidentiality helps people feel at ease.

April 30 @ 8:45- 10:00AM Women's Workshop "Beyond Your Wildest Dreams" Kick off at 30th St. Beach, Avalon (weather permitting) **Then 10:15AM – 5:00PM** 50th & Ocean., Avalon, "Recovery Tool Box Building" wearenotaglumlotrule62@gmail.com



Since there are 12 months in a year, we try to include the corresponding Steps & Traditions in this Monthly Newsletter. In the 12 & 12, Bill quotes Fr. Ed Dowling as saying; "Step 6 separates the Men from the Boys", in that; a person sure has come a long way by the time they are willing to have God remove their defects. It's not a contradiction of Bill to say a person has a much better chance with Step 6 if they've succeeded with Steps 4 & 5.

Since those Pioneering & Adolescent times of AAs formation, the fellowship has become much more welcoming to all types. People like me can hang around for years without much effort with the steps and still find tolerance and some level of acceptance. I'm sure that was not an intention of the Early AAs. A newcomer was expected to take the actions that brought about recovery and that expectation acted like a requirement without having to be one.

It seems to me many people at meetings nowadays haven't done Steps 4 & 5. Another guess would be that Step 4 & 5 represents a fear for many new people. I would suggest an alternate fear, the consequences of not doing these important Steps.

I call Step 4 "The Bullshit Test" because Step 1 through 3 requires no proof of me —so I can sound like I've done them and even maybe fool myself. Not so with Step 4. If I haven't started writing-I can't pass the test. In fact, each next step is a good test of the previous step- if I can't go on- Why?

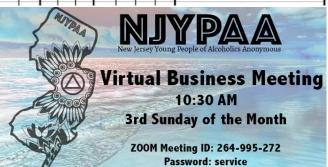
With that in mind, we've included 3 samples below. Unless you only have problems that require two lines, you'll need to get full-size copies. Free copies can be easily found with a simple "4th Step Guides" search on the Interwebs. This article may sound like a blunt hammer of "Do these steps Now" but that's only out of personal bitter experience of avoidance. What is hoped is to be useful to the reader and anyone you may sponsor by encouraging your continued efforts onward and upward.

	EVIEW OF RESENTME	N.	TS	5				'SEL	.F"					
Instruction 1. In dealing with resentments we set them	100			COLUMN 3							COLUMN 4			
whom we were angry. Complete Column 1 until Column 1 is complete.)	from top to bottom. Do nothing on Columns 2, 3 or 4		- 1	(Whic	h par	rt of	TS M	IY s affe	ected)	natu	ire of		
Instruction 2. We asked ourselves why we were angry. Columns 3, or 4 until Column 2 is complet Instruction 3. On our grudge list we set opposite each r		cial tinct	Sec	urity		ex tinct	Ambitions		ns	wrongs, faults, mistakes, defect shortcomings				
within Column 3 going from top to bottom. the Sexual Ambition Column. Do nothing of Instruction 4. Referring to our list again, Putting out of looked for our own mistakes. Where had winconsiderate? (Asking ourselves the shove Instruction 5. Reading from left to right, we now see the	our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely a been selfish, dishoneet, self-seeking and frightened and questions we complete each column within Column 4.) a resentment (Column 1), the cause (Column 2), the part not the exact nature of the defect within us that allowed	Self-Esteem	Personal Relationships	Material	Emotional	Acceptable Sex Relations	Hidden Sex Relations	ocial	Security	Sexual	Selfish	Dishonest	Self-seeking & frightened	considerate
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		s	Social Instinct			Instinct Security Instinct In			Sex Instinct Ambitions				exa m faul sho	Vhat ict na iy wr ts, m defe ortco	ong ista cts,	e of s, kes, gs?	What was MY PART in all this? What did I do initially to get	
THE FEAR:	WHY I HAVE THIS FEAR:	Companionship	Prestige	Self-Esteem	Pride	Personal Relationships	Material	Emotional	Acceptable Sex Relations		Social	Security	Sexual	Self-Seeking & Selfish	ned derate est eking			the ball rolling? How could I have done things differently?

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		"SELF"																							
COL	UMN 1	COLUMN 2	C	COLUMN 3: Wh				OLUMN 3: Which Part of Self Was Affected? COLUMN 4										Questions							
		SEX: Where Did I Unjustly Arouse Jealousy, Suspicion or Bitterness?	\$	Soci	ocial Ir		nct	Security Instinct		Ins	Sex Instinct		Ambitions			What is the exact nature of my wrongs, faults, mistakes, defects, shortcomings?			exact nature of my wrongs, faults, mistakes defects,			exact nature of my wrongs, faults, mistakes defects,			What was MY PART in all this? What did I do initially to get
	DID I JRT?	WHAT DID I DO? (SEX / HARMS)	Companionship	Prestige	Self-Esteem	Pride	Personal Relationships	Material	Emotional	Relations	Relations	Social	Security	Sexual	Self-Seeking & Selfish	Dishonest	Frightened Inconsiderate		the ball rolling? How could I have done things differently?						





We ask for FEAR to be Removed- BB pg68

Perhaps there is a better way - we think so. For we are now on a different basis; the basis of trusting and relying upon God. We trust infinite God rather than our finite selves. We are in the world to play the role He assigns. Just to the extent that we do as we think He would have us, and humbly rely on Him, does He enable us to match calamity with serenity.

We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. We can laugh at those who think spirituality the way of weakness. Paradoxically, it is the way of strength. The verdict of the ages is that faith means courage. All men of faith have courage. They trust their God. We never apologize for God. Instead we let Him demonstrate, through us, what He can do.

We ask Him to remove our fear and direct our attention to what He would have us be. At once, we commence to outgrow fear.



Caravan to "Stepping Stones"
Historic Home of Bill & Lois Wilson
62 Oak Road Katonah, NY



Wednesday May 18, 2022 10:00 at 1st Presbyterian Church 320 North Main Street Hightstown, NJ

Suggested Donation: \$20.00

Space is limited! Reserve your seat now!

For more information contact: Sam A: 609-529-2212 samadlerman@aol.com

Lisa Miracle: 973-388-3753 30miracles@gmail.com





Area 45 Spring Assembly HYBRID



May 15, 2022

Elmer Grange 535 Daretown Rd, Elmer, NJ 08318

> ID: 844 7455 2253 PW: May45

8:30 am Registration begins 8:45 am DCM/GSR Orientation 10:00 am Assembly Committee Meeting to follow



SERENITY @ NOON

CELEBRATES 21 YEARS
TUESDAY MAY 3rd 2022
2 AA SPEAKERS
PARISH OF ALL SAINT'S CHURCH

621 DOCK ST, MILLVILLE NJ

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