

# ANONYMOUS

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

SEPTEMBER 2022

***Greetings! We hope you have been having a great summer. It's not over yet! This issue includes some upcoming social events, and a few articles some local AA's sent in. We hope you enjoy!***



**Parvins State Park**

Thundergust Pavilions  
Sunday August 28, 2022  
11 am – 6 pm

**Rain or Shine Event!**

**Suggested Ticket Donation**

**\$8.00 in advance or At the door**

**Children Under 12 Free With Adult**

**50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Horseshoes, Badminton,  
Sports, Arts & Crafts...**

**Food served 12 PM – 3 PM**

**AA & Al-Anon speakers @ 4 PM**

**SIGN UP SHEETS for Foods &**

**Service from Committee!**

**(BYOC) Bring Your Own**

**Chairs and Sports Equipment**

***"We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely  
meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny ..."***

**Family friendly - load the car!**

Contacts –  
Marci R.-(856-776-3149)  
Jessica H.-(856-896-5583)

**SOBER  
STOCK 2022**

**LIVE  
BANDS**

**WHEN**  
**Saturday**  
**September 3rd**  
**10am - ???**

**WHERE**  
**Trinity Church**  
**284 Cedar Road, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062**

**BENEFITING - Long and Short term  
Sobriety**

**FEATURING • Live Bands • Solo Performers • Custom Car Show  
• Food • Fellowship**

**ADVANCED TICKETS**

**\$10 per person**

**4 Yrs. & under FREE**

**Live music • Tents, tables, chairs  
• Food & Beverage included in  
price of admission**

***Bring your Custom car!***

**Tented Area**

**Food**

**Fellowship**

**Car Show**

**Live Music**

**CONTACT:**

**Russ 856-831-6444**

**Steve 856-371-9270**

**Dennis 609-923-6056**

**Peter pp1rozz@pp1rozbrothers.com**

**Bring your lawn chairs & a  
tent or umbrella & hang out  
in front of the stage**

**This is a 501c3 Charitable  
Organization • EIN – 04-2493307  
Checks should be made payable  
to "Sober Stock"**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**GRATITUDE DINNER DANCE**

**NOVEMBER**

**18TH**

**7:00 PM**

**INDIAN SPRINGS COUNTRY CLUB**  
***CATERED BY MARCO'S RESTAURANT***

**Intergroup Meeting:**

September 21, 2022

St. Bartholomew Church

1989 Rt 70 E.

Cherry Hill, NJ

All are welcome! Come find out what  
Intergroup is all about!

Also available on Zoom:

Meeting No. 424-122-113

Password: 276748

**ACT FAST!!! THIS COMING**

**SUNDAY!**

**AREA 45, Summer Assembly**

Sunday AUGUST 21, 2022 !!!

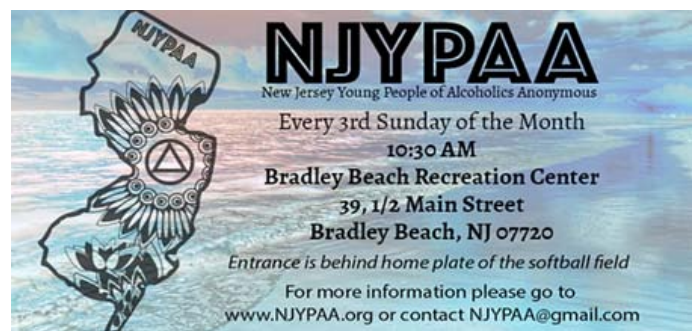
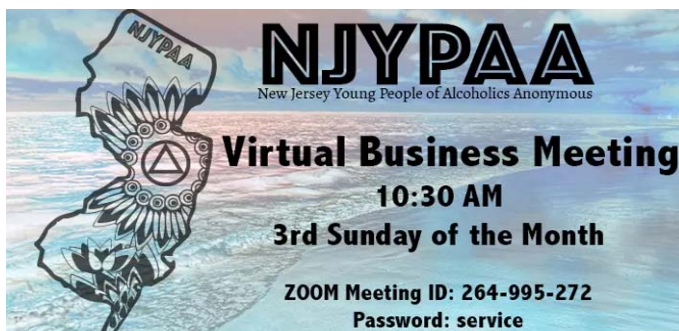
8:30 Registration

8:45 New GSR / DCM Orientation

10:00 Assembly

(This event is usually over around  
1:30 – 2 pm)

All are welcome! Come find out  
what a GSR and/or a DCM does!



## Stories Needed

**Archives** is looking to continue collecting information and stories about our South Jersey groups and individuals. [archives@asj.org](mailto:archives@asj.org). **Personal Histories, Homegroup Histories, COVID Adaptation Stories!**

## Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey Intergroup. 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.

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](mailto:newsletter@aasj.org).**

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SJ INTERGROUP:

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Email: [Info@aasj.org](mailto:Info@aasj.org) Website: [www.aasj.org](http://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.

**InterGroup Steering Committee: consists of the panel of elected InterGroup Officers, InterGroup Committee Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons, and a Representative from the Board of Trustees. Our monthly meeting is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the InterGroup Office in Pennsauken - 5090 Central Hwy. Suite 3 and is open to all members of the A.A. Fellowship.**

## Quotes:

“You can't have a good day with a bad attitude, and you can't have a bad day with a good attitude.”

“Its not the load that breaks you down....it's the way you carry it.”

“If you feel the need to get even, try getting even with those that have helped you.”

“You are right where you are supposed to be and all will unfold in its own good time.”

“When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.”

(The first four quotes were glommed from a letter I found in my Spam folder, from “Bruce B.”

The last was often quoted by my sister, Kate.)

***The following is from a local AA member:***

**The AA preamble used to read a fellowship of men and women but today it reads a fellowship of people. It goes on to read that AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.**

**Using people is a gender-neutral term making it more inclusive.**

**I think the change from men and women to a fellowship of people seems to be allied with an organization and/or engaging in controversy. I am sure there are more AA's that feel the same way. Some groups found out about the change at their group business meeting.**

**Some brought (up) the 4th tradition of autonomous but (then) were told that since it came down from New York it will be the new preamble of AA.**

**(So, the Author is thinking, ) If the 4th tradition allows**

**the groups to keep the original AA preamble, then why did it change?**

**That is a question each group should bring to their business meeting because New York might think AA's do not know what gender we are.**

***(As per the Authors request, it is signed: )***

**Thank you for your time,**

**A know nothing AA member.**

## “Falling” in Love with AA

I used to hate the fall. I tend to see the world in symbolic terms, and just as you learned in high school, the fall represents disease, the crawl towards death, the precursor to a frigid and isolating winter.

Then I became sober one January. I didn't know that the 1st was to become my sobriety date; I had been coming to Alcoholics Anonymous for almost an entire year prior to that, and accumulating a week, or twenty-odd days, and then drinking again. I wasn't ready to let go of my habit—my way of living that took from me the ability to feel truly alive. So I'd drink before I amassed too many days, because that was always easier to duplicate; if I accrued months, it would be more tragic to take back my will. So I rationalized (I have a PhD in rationalization by now after all those years of drinking) that I was not losing much if it stayed under thirty days or so, and in this way, I stayed drunk.

One of the old timers in a group I used to frequent always said something like, “AA won't stop you from drinking, but it'll sure mess it up for you.” This fellowship sure took away the fun of drinking when I felt as if I were living two lives: the one I wanted as I sat in meetings, and the one I chose when I inevitably drove to the liquor store, often immediately afterwards.

Anyway, it was when I had about eight or nine months sober that I started to really fall in love with AA, hitting my sober stride, sharing at meetings, etc., and with that shift came autumn. I looked forward to driving into Willingboro as the trees began to turn auburn and yellow. I remember walking slowly through the crunching leaves in the parking lots, enjoying the meeting after the meeting in the cooling air. (I remember us wearing Eagles jerseys, for better and for worse.) In the fellowship, I'd see people I hadn't seen in a few weeks, and it felt like a homecoming (as we celebrate in October at our alma maters) or a kind of Thanksgiving, wherein we talked about our gratitude for this life of sobriety. I gained and deepened friendships in AA in the fall. I mistakenly dabbled in some relationships prematurely in the fall. And now, as I notice a few leaves surrendering their little lives to the ground, I think of those days and am literally filled with the warmth of fall smells and fall hugs—people filling my life who genuinely seemed to care, who genuinely understood me—or if they didn't, they surely empathized (and man, you were patient with my babbling back then...or, still...). Now the fall is the welcoming embrace of a meaningful life in AA, a sense of belonging to something so much larger than myself—a world that was waiting for me all those days and nights I trapped myself in the isolation of drinking.

And when I attend my Sunday morning meeting, now mostly in person, it is that spirit of homecoming I carry with me as I walk from the parking lot to open the doors to the second meeting I ever attended here. And for all of this, and all of you, I am grateful.

**Oh, so you think that YOU have had a rough time on your Summer Vacation? Well, the following are ACTUAL COMPLAINTS received by "Thomas Cook Vacations" from dissatisfied Customer:**

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

The following space left blank.....so you have space to write an article for the next issue!!!