



# The Beacon

Volume 12 Issue 12

December 2010

## Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove St., Suite 314

Worcester, MA 01605

(508) 752-9000

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[www.aaworcester.org](http://www.aaworcester.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 10am-8pm

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thursday 10am-8pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 9am-2pm

Sunday CLOSED

*The Beacon Staff:* January 2010 to December 2010

Editor: Michelle G.

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## H.A.L.T.LINE NEWS

**Thank you to all the new H.A.L.T. line Volunteers!** We still have hours available that need to be covered on the H.A.L.T. line.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

What is the HALT line? One alcoholic talking to another alcoholic. Isn't that what AA is all about?

*"Talk to a drunk", you may be the link in the chain that could save their life.*

### What volunteers do:

- Give out current meeting list information.
- Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic in danger of picking up a drink.
- Talk to those seeking help with their drinking problem.

### What do you need to volunteer?

A phone

One year of sobriety is recommended.

Meeting list

A phone (touch tone or cell phone)

An hour of your time.

**Great way to do service without leaving your home.**

If you would like information please email [haltline@aaworcester.org](mailto:haltline@aaworcester.org) or contact Ferne. Will train the right candidate - great pay - HUGE REWARDS! From time to time the HALT Line will be rewarding volunteers for their time and dedication by awarding someone with a subscription to the GRAPEVINE.

## Local Service Meetings

**Intergroup Steering Committee\*** - Veterans, Inc., 59 South St.  
Shrewsbury, MA —6:00pm

**Intergroup Delegates\*** - Veterans, Inc., 59 South St. Shrewsbury, MA  
—7:00pm

*\*The Intergroup meetings occur the second Thursday of month.*



**On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Checklists**

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

#### **Traditions Checklist**

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through October 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

**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 foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

#### **TRADITIONS CHECKLIST:**

Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?

When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?

In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?

Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?

Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?

Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition – or belie it?

Do I do all I can to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?

Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior – especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?

Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?

Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?

Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?

What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

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#### **Are you willing to CARRY THE MESSAGE to an alcoholic in need?**

Are you willing to help an alcoholic in need? The intergroup delegates are working to devise an updated list of people willing to volunteer for "12 Step calls". This information will be kept CONFIDENTIAL and only be used by the HALT line chair and other appropriate individuals. Please complete the "12 Step Volunteer Application" on page 6 and return to your groups Intergroup representative or drop off at the Intergroup office. You may also mail the completed application to: Worcester Area Intergroup 100 Grove St, Suite 314 Worcester, MA 01605

### MEETING NEWS

**MEETING CHANGES/MOVES:** The SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE meeting will no longer be meeting (Saturday nights at 7pm on Freeland St. in Worcester). *As Bill Sees It* has returned to Thursday nights at St. Stephen's Church from 7-8PM (At Grafton & Hamilton St.) **The Stay Active group is back in business!** (OSp) They are now meeting Thursday nights from 6:45-8PM at Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant St. in Worcester. **NEW MEETINGS:** **She Means Business (CDW)** meets from 5-6PM on Tuesday nights at Bethel Lutheran, 90 Bryn Mawr in Auburn. Tuesday night in Northboro: **Desire to Stop Drinking—(OB12).** Meets 6-7 PM at 45 Howard Street. Saturday morning in Harvard: **Happy, Joyous and Free—(OD)** meets from 9-10 a.m. at St. Teresa's 15 Still River Rd. **MEETING SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE** for AA meetings at Veterans Inc., 59 South St., Shrewsbury more information please contact: Susan Boucher at 508-791-1213, x132.

### **THE GRAPEVINE: AA's meeting in print IS IN TROUBLE! PLEASE HELP BY PURCHASING A SUBSCRIPTION!**

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. The AA Grapevine communicates the experience strength and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity and service. ©GRAPEVINE

**7 Issues = \$17**

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2. Online at: <http://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog/shop/gvsuborder.php>
3. Mail completed subscription form (see below) with payment to: GRAPEVINE; PO Box 422488; Palm Coast, FL 32142-6997

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<p>Order by phone 1-800-631-6025 (US) 1-386-246-0148 (International)</p> <p>AA Grapevine does not accept group contributions. It is self-supporting through the sale of magazine subscriptions and Grapevine items. Grapevine and all Grapevine items are mailed in packaging that protects anonymity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">600HHH</p>	<p>Make checks or money orders payable to Grapevine and mail to PO Box 422487, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2487, Canadian orders: 7 issues US \$21, 1 year (12 issues) US \$31. GST included. Outside the US or Canada 7 issues US \$29, 1 year US \$39.</p>

## **DAILY REFLECTIONS EXCERPTS**

### **"SUGGESTED STEPS"**

*Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all of the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening . . . A.A.'s manner of making ready to receive this gift lies in the practice of the Twelve Steps in our program."*

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 106-107

I remember my sponsor's answer when I told him that the Steps were "suggested". He replied that they are "suggested" in the same way that, if you were to jump out an airplane with a parachute, it is "suggested" that you pull the ripcord to save your life. He pointed out that it was "suggested" I practice the Twelve Steps, if I wanted to save my life. So I try to remember daily that I have a whole program of recovery based on all Twelve of the "suggested" steps.

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### **INTO ACTION**

*A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.*

AS BILL SEES IT, p. 13

I desperately wanted to live, but if I was to succeed, I had to become active in our God-given program. I joined what became my group, where I opened the hall, made coffee, and cleaned up. I had been sober about three months when an oldtimer told me I was doing Twelfth-Step work. What a satisfying realization that was! I felt I was really accomplishing something. God had given me a second chance, A.A. had shown me the way, and these gifts were not only free—they were also priceless! Now the job of seeing newcomers grow reminds me of where I have come from, where I am now, and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead. I need to attend meetings because they recharge my batteries so that I have light when it's needed. I'm still a beginner in service work, but already I am receiving more than I am giving. I can't keep it unless I give it away. I am responsible when another reaches out for help. I want to be there—sober.

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### **PROBLEM SOLVING**

*"Quite as important was the discovery that spiritual principles would solve all my problems".*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 42

Through the recovery process described in the Big Book, I have come to realize that the same instructions that work on my alcoholism, work on much more. Whenever I am angry or frustrated, I consider the matter of manifestation of the main problem with me, alcoholism.

As I "walk" through the Steps, my difficulty is usually dealt with long before I reach the Twelfth "suggestion", and those difficulties that persist are remedied when I made an effort to carry the message to someone else. These principles do solve my problems! I have not encountered an exception, and I have been brought to a way of living which is satisfying and useful. Copyright © [Daily Reflections](#), p. 370

It's that time of year again. The holidays are upon us. This is a difficult time for many that are struggling with sobriety. It is for this reason that District 25 and the Worcester Area Intergroup holds an Alcathon for each Winter holiday. The Alcathons begin the day before and end on midnight of the holiday.

The dates, times and location are listed on the next page.

The Alcathons would not exist if it were not for the AA groups and other volunteers each chipping in and volunteering their time, experience, strength and hope.

The groups scheduled to speak for each holiday can be found on the next few pages.

As I said, the Alcathon would not happen if it were not for you and your help. Please sign up to help with set up, to make coffee, clean up, etc. Please see Sylvia T. for available sign up times.

In order to keep our sobriety we need to give it away. What better way to do this than to donate some of your time over the Holiday Season?

We all remember how lonely the Holiday Season can be if we have no one to talk to or no one that understands us. Help us keep this tradition alive of maintaining a safe place for the sick and suffering to gather when they need it the most.



## ALCATHON DATES AND TIMES

### Christmas

**Starting:** Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 NOON

**Ending:** Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 MIDNIGHT

### New Years

**Starting:** Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 NOON

**Ending:** Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 MIDNIGHT

**St. John's Church**  
**44 Temple Street, Worcester, MA 01604**

Parking on 44 Temple Street across from the church. Parking for **HANDICAPPED ONLY** in church lot. Handicap accessible at rear of church (see signs). Watch for SIGNS on site for entrance to Alcathon.

***Food Donations Appreciated by Groups and Individuals***

***Please be respectful of others that are both speaking the message and hearing the message. If you need to talk please go outside.***

***Please do not stand in the stairway to talk, the noise carries into the room.***

### DAILY REFLECTIONS EXCERPT

DECEMBER 25TH

#### AT PEACE WITH LIFE

*Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities.*

*"How can I best serve Thee—Thy will (not mine) be done."*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 85

I read this passage each morning, to start off my day, because it is a continual reminder to "practice these principles in all my affairs". When I keep God's will at the forefront of my mind, I am able to do what I *should* be doing, and that puts me at peace with life, with myself and with God.

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## 2010 CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

SLOT#	DATE	TIME	GROUP
1	Fri. 12/24	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	The Key to Freedom
2	Fri. 12/24	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Worcester Young People
3	Fri. 12/24	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Crozier
4	Fri. 12/24	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Worcester Gratitude
5	Fri. 12/24	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	The Way Out (Auburn)
6	Fri. 12/24	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Greendale Friday Night
7	Fri. 12/24	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday Worcester Fellowship
8	Fri. 12/24	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Rebound
9	Fri. 12/24	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Hi-Noon
10	Fri. 12/24	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sturbridge Lighthouse
11	Fri. 12/24	10:00 pm - 11:00 pm	We Mean Business
12	Fri. 12/24	11:00 pm - 12:00 am	Mid-Day
13	Sat. 12/25	12:00 am - 1:00 am	Acceptance & Attitude
14	Sat. 12/25	1:00 am - 2:00 am	There is Hope
15	Sat. 12/25	2:00 am - 3:00 am	Sisters of Sobriety
16	Sat. 12/25	3:00 am - 4:00 am	Way of Sobriety
17	Sat. 12/25	4:00 am - 5:00 am	Northboro How It Works
18	Sat. 12/25	5:00 am - 6:00 am	Charlton Daybreaker
19	Sat. 12/25	6:00 am - 7:00 am	Spencer Fellowship
20	Sat. 12/25	7:00 am - 8:00 am	Crossroads
21	Sat. 12/25	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Webster Triton
22	Sat. 12/25	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Grafton Daily Reflections
23	Sat. 12/25	10:00 am - 11:00 am	The Way Out (Worcester)
24	Sat. 12/25	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Quinsig Group
25	Sat. 12/25	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Shrewsbury Gratitude
26	Sat. 12/25	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Serenity
27	Sat. 12/25	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Charlton Courage To Change
28	Sat. 12/25	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	As Bill Sees It (Worcester)
29	Sat. 12/25	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Worcester Wednesday Big Book Step Study
30	Sat. 12/25	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	People Helping People
31	Sat. 12/25	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	St. Paul's Nooner
32	Sat. 12/25	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Auburn Big Book
33	Sat. 12/25	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Seven Hills Group
34	Sat. 12/25	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday Worcester Big Book Step Study
35	Sat. 12/25	10:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Shrewsbury Sunday Morning
36	Sat. 12/25	11:00 pm - 12:00 pm	7am Group

## 2010 NEWYEARS ALCATHON

SLOT#	DATE	TIME	GROUP
1	Fri. 12/31	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	The Way Out (Auburn)
2	Fri. 12/31	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Grafton Daily Reflections
3	Fri. 12/31	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	There is Hope
4	Fri. 12/31	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Worcester Young People
5	Fri. 12/31	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	The Key to Freedom
6	Fri. 12/31	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	People Helping People
7	Fri. 12/31	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Spencer Fellowship
8	Fri. 12/31	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Crossroads
9	Fri. 12/31	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Webster Triton
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18	Sat. 1/1/10	5:00 am - 6:00 am	7am Group
19	Sat. 1/1/10	6:00 am - 7:00 am	Worcester Gratitude
20	Sat. 1/1/10	7:00 am - 8:00 am	Quinsig Group
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22	Sat. 1/1/10	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Sunday Worcester Fellowship
23	Sat. 1/1/10	10:00 am - 11:00 am	Charlton Daybreaker
24	Sat. 1/1/10	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	As Bill Sees It (Worcester)
25	Sat. 1/1/10	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	The Way Out (Worcester)
26	Sat. 1/1/10	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Way of Sobriety
27	Sat. 1/1/10	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Shrewsbury Sunday Morning
28	Sat. 1/1/10	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Acceptance & Attitude
29	Sat. 1/1/10	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	We Mean Business
30	Sat. 1/1/10	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Saturday Worcester Big Book Step Study
31	Sat. 1/1/10	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Greendale Friday Night
32	Sat. 1/1/10	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Rebound
33	Sat. 1/1/10	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	St. Paul's Nooner
34	Sat. 1/1/10	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Worcester Wednesday Big Book Step Study
35	Sat. 1/1/10	10:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Auburn Big Book
36	Sat. 1/1/10	11:00 pm - 12:00 am	Seven Hills Group



## Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Billy B.	chair@aaworcester.org
Alt. Chair	Maura R.	
Secretary	Marc B.	secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Dot B.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alt. Treasurer	Ginny S.	
Trustees	Bob L., Joe N., Michelle N., John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Office Manager		treatment@aaworcester.org
Joint Treatment Facilities		corrections@aaworcester.org
Joint Correctional Facilities	Joe N.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Halt Line	Ferne S.	social@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Maura J.	pichair@aaworcester.org
Joint Public Information		webmaster@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	John H.	
Joint Alcathon Committee	Michelle N.	
Beacon Editor	Michelle G.	beacon@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Jane P.	
Liaison to District 26	Richard M.	
Liaison to Area 30	Richard M.	

### DAILY REFLECTIONS EXCERPT

NEW YEARS DAY

JANUARY 1st

"I AM A MIRACLE"

*The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish these things for us which we could never do by ourselves.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 25

This truly is a fact in my life today, and a real miracle. I always believe in God, but could never put that belief meaningfully into my life. Today, because of Alcoholics Anonymous, I now trust and rely on God, as I understand Him; I am sober today because of that! Learning to trust and rely on God was something I could never have done alone. I now believe in miracles because I am one!

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## Subscription

Form

Please fill out form, enclose your payment, and mail to  
**The Beacon**  
 100 Grove Street Suite 314  
 Worcester Mass. 01605

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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COUNTRY (If other than USA) \_\_\_\_\_ E

-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions to The Beacon are \$5.00 per year to defray the cost of production and postage. Additional donations from members are gratefully accepted. Worcester Area Intergroup is a non-profit organization, dependent on members' contributions. Please make checks payable to Worcester Area Intergroup.

### 12 Step Volunteer Application

Name (First name and last initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Towns you will accept calls from: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours that you are available: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to help: Males Only Females Only BothAges I am willing to work with: Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Worcester Area Intergroup**  
**100 Grove St., Suite 314**  
**Worcester, MA 01605**

I am willing to: (please circle all that apply)

Talk to a person on the phone Go to a persons home to talk \*Give rides to AA Meetings Give rides to Detox \*Meet someone at a meeting Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*It is suggested that a person NOT go on a twelfth step call alone to help an alcoholic who is still suffering. Also you should NOT drive a wet drunk to a treatment facility (detox) without having another A.A. member with you. If you circled either of these items, please be sure that you have another member of A.A. that is willing to go along with you.