



# THE BROOKLYN JUNCTION

October / November / December 2010

*Good communication is of vital importance. In personal Twelfth Step work, there is no end to communication. The sponsor talks with the drunk; speakers share their experience; we share with each other. But when it comes to general service work, communication has a general tendency to break down. It can take hard work to get the attention of alcoholics, but with a creative approach, they can be encouraged to take time out from the nuts and bolts of recovery to think about another phase of their new lives. Once A.A. members are well informed about service, they often want to become involved and to take on their own service responsibilities.*

—The A.A. Service Manual, p. S23

## From Brooklyn's DCMC

Hello Brooklyn!

I am blessed to be sober. Through the grace of my HP I have been given access to the means by which I am able to achieve that sobriety. With this sobriety comes a certain simple responsibility: to carry this message of hope and recovery to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

That means I gotta talk. Communicate. Get out of my bubble, closet, mind, and share. Make myself available as a responsible, participating "part of". As this applies to the member so too must the group. Luckily we don't have to do this alone.

We are blessed to live in one of the best counties out there. We know this because we watched Brooklyn show up for our Share-A-Day chaired by Sue B. We watched Brooklyn show up for our SENY election assembly in which our members made themselves available to serve. We watched Brooklyn meet to begin planning for our upcoming Spiritual Breakfast chaired by Bill F.

We watched as DCM positions (thank you for being willing to take on this service) were filled by willing members bringing light to districts that were dark: District 402 - Blake B., District 404 - Vincent M., District 408 - Karen K., and District 410 - Nellie P.

We celebrated group anniversaries where I heard our message of hope and recovery shared with enthusiasm, joy and reverence. We see that responsibility being met in our home groups where members show up, share their experience, strength and hope - attend business meetings and do service.

Because of you and your commitment to your sobriety I am inspired to show up for mine. Our first concept for world service states: "The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship."

In my view that "Collective Conscience" is realized through our participation and communication - member to member, group to group, district to district and area to area. Brooklyn carries that responsibility every time we meet within our groups, districts, county. For that we should all feel a sense of gratitude and pat each other on the back for service well done.

But we are not out of the woods. We are still tasked with overcoming the challenges we face in getting more of our groups to recognize the importance of their participation in our collective efforts to carry our message at the district, county and area level of service.

Advances in technology, while offering us an unprecedented ability to communicate with each other also come with an even greater ability to isolate. Why look you in the eye when I can just text? The shame of addiction may not be overcome just because I see members outing themselves in social net-

working sites. It might cause someone to dig even deeper into their isolation for fear of public discovery.

There are still groups with no GSR and GSRs who don't fulfill the requirements of their position.

There are still people out there caught in the grips of this disease of alcoholism who do not know there is a solution. Someone's son, daughter, husband, wife, cousin, best friend, grandma, grandpa, neighbor is out there suffering and they don't know there is a solution or are having a hard time getting to a meeting on their own. They need us.

John Barleycorn does not tire, and therefore needs no rest, is multi-lingual, multi-racial, multi-sexual, is exceptionally creative and is not stopped by transportation issues that make it difficult to get from one part of Brooklyn to the other. Essentially assuring us that we will always have something to do in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I look forward to even greater participation from groups around Brooklyn at our next county meeting Tuesday Nov. 2nd at St. Francis College on Remsen St.

We are the Brooklyn Collective!

Michael S., Brooklyn DCMC - [dcmc@brooklynaa.org](mailto:dcmc@brooklynaa.org)

## From the Alternate Delegate-Elect

I thoroughly enjoyed the Election Assembly held on September 25 in Westchester County. It is nothing less than an honor to have been selected as the next Area Alternate Delegate for 2011-2012. I look forward to serving you in this capacity. All the positions filled call for a lot of work and a lot of humility and we elected some wonderful trusted servants. It was

also good to see so many GSRs and DCMs from Brooklyn participating in service. Service has been an important part of my recovery every since I came out of Rehab in January, 1991. It is what I believe has kept me sober and coming back to AA all these years.

Currently, I am privileged to serve the Area as your Public Information Committee Chair. This commitment has been very rewarding and a learning experience. I truly have enjoyed doing this work and feel that someone somewhere will be able to find us when the need arises. I loved doing the work and will miss it immensely. Please do not refuse a commitment in AA because you think you cannot do the job. This is a We program and all you have to do is ask for help. I am always available to answer any questions you may have regarding service.

In Love of Service,  
Linda McG  
Alternate Delegate - Elect



**Advances in technology, while offering us an unprecedented ability to communicate with each other also come with an even greater ability to isolate. Why look you in the eye when I can just text?**

**—Michael S., Brooklyn DCMC**

I love the way AA works. The structure insures that AA groups really do run AA as a whole. This is done by each group electing a General Service Representative (GSR) who represents the group's conscience at the district, county and area meetings. This may not appear very exciting at first, but the GSR is the group's voice in decisions that affect AA as a whole. If your group does not currently have a GSR, consider creating this position to insure that your group's voice is represented in the district, county, area and in AA as a whole.

—Heidi C., Sponsorship/GSR Orientation

## Sharing my Thoughts on Share-A-Day

Like home groups have yearly anniversaries, so are other traditions born in AA. Brooklyn Share-A-Day (BSAD) is one of those remarkable events that give alcoholics and friends of AA the gifts of Recovery, Unity and Service. Last June 19, at Bishop Kearney High school in Bensonhurst – the location since its incarnation in 1980, Brooklyn County hosted the 31st Annual Brooklyn Share-A-Day.

Even though, on that same day, there were two AA retreats, another Share-A-Day and it was the first weekend in Summer 2010, over 300 people made a pilgrimage to Bensonhurst, Brooklyn and opened themselves up to the possibility of healing, compassion, joy, fellowship, introspection, acceptance, hope ... There was no where else in the universe I wanted to be except right there experiencing the energy and humanity of the commitment to our selves, to each other and to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

My first BSAD was in 2008. I went because I saw a flyer and was curious and what I got blew my mind and pried my consciousness open just a little bit more. I vividly recall the two meetings I attended – Step VII and Relationships in Sobriety and of course, the Keynote meeting – and today, whenever I run into those particular speakers, I think I might startle them a little with my still very strong gratitude and enthusiasm about what they gave me that day, my AA rock stars. They offered the hand of AA, I took it and the chain continued.

BSAD is filled with many many meetings running simultaneously (meetings were also available in Polish, Russian and Spanish as well as two American Sign Language interpreters on site), a Keynote speaker(s) meeting got everyone together in the auditorium and Informational Tables were available throughout the day for a person to learn more about the many service entities of AA. These included Brooklyn Archives, Young People in AA, Special Needs, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, Brooklyn and NY Intergroup, Al Anon and Spanish Al Anon, the Brooklyn Website Chair, Treatment and the Online Intergroup of AA(OIAA). OIAA introduced folks to and taught them how to go online and stay connected to AA, this service entity is especially useful for the home bound and those in isolated locations. Share-A-Days also provide opportunities to see AA films; the then newly finished Hope Video ran in loop throughout the day.

For this event, we are very fortunate to have the support of SENY translation services. Provided to us are the equipment and expertise for interpretation of up to a combination of three languages and hard of hearing. In addition to the usual translation needs, this year, two Delegates from Russia on route to the International Convention in San Antonio were brought to BSAD by the members of the Russian Group of Brooklyn. Without prior notice, we were able to accommodate and they were able to understand our two amazing keynote speakers, Jessamy and Paul McQ.

Since it's an all day event – doors opened at 8am and the last meeting ended at 5pm. – breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages were provided throughout the day, free of charge. When we enter into a program of recovery we come to realize how imperative it is to take care of the body; it is in fact, one third of the body / mind / spirit triangle. People cannot concentrate well when they're hungry or thirsty. It was the planning committee's commitment this past year to recognize the importance of nutrition and hydration when inviting people to an all day event and according to the feedback and the generosity of groups, it became clear this idea was important to the majority of Brooklyn AA members as well.

Planning for the 32nd Annual Brooklyn Share-A-Day will begin sometime at the beginning of 2011. A Chair is determined by the current DCMC and the vote of the attendees of the Brooklyn County General Services meeting aka County Meeting. Since County meetings are held every other month and the next ones are November 2nd and then January 2011, a chair/ co-chair situation may be decided at the November meeting. I encourage anyone who may be interested in chairing this event in 2011 to come to the next County meeting on November 2nd at St. Frances College. The 2011 planning committee will have the support of the 2010's committee and be a continuation of the chain that keeps this event alive.

You can still go on the website, [shareaday.brooklynnaa.org](http://shareaday.brooklynnaa.org) and view a new tradition – the very cool, reusable banner created by the 2010 signage committee.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the 2010 Brooklyn Share-A-Day and see you next year.

In service,

Sue B. – [shareaday@brooklynnaa.org](mailto:shareaday@brooklynnaa.org)

## Spanish District

My Name is Eddie D. and I am a member of a new group of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our group, *El Lenguaje Del Corazon*, or Language of the Heart, is a Spanish speaking meeting that meets every Wednesday night at 7pm, on 186 Saint Johns Place and 7th Avenue. In September we celebrated our one year anniversary and we are grateful to have the opportunity to carry the message of recovery in the Park Slope area.

The last twelve months have been a great learning experience for our small group of members. Among the most important work that we have done has been the effort of trying to visit other Spanish groups in Brooklyn, other boroughs, as well as groups in Westchester and Long Island and inviting them to come and support us. Just as important has been the work of establishing relationships with the different organized service offices in the area. Currently we have a group member representing us at the Spanish Brooklyn Intergroup and our GSR represents us at the Spanish District 414.

The service at the Spanish district 414 has been s most rewarding as well as a most challenging one. One of our first surprises, when we started to attend the meeting, was to learn that they meet on a weekly basis for a period of two hours. Every Saturday afternoon, GSRs, as well as some Alternate GSRs, make their way to a church basement located in the Bushwick area of Brooklyn. The meetings are divided into planning, business, and study of the 12 Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of World Service.

Most of the fifteen Spanish groups located in Brooklyn are represented and those without a GSR are visited by a committee or invited to attend the four annual workshops that are organized by the district. As part of one of these committees, our group had the opportunity to visit all the groups in Brooklyn and be part of a workshop dedicated to provide information about the importance of having a GSR. All groups were represented at the workshop that took place on August 28, at the location of the group *Una Solucion* or One Solution. Three excellent speakers shared their experience in doing service at the group level, outside the group and the critical role that a GSR has in linking the group with the rest of AA. The event was well attended and a great success.

It has been truly amazing to witness the commitment and gratitude of all members of the District 414. In addition to Brooklyn events, members are invited to speak at meetings in all other boroughs and Long Island. All this hard work would soon be rewarded as they have been selected to host the 2011 New York State Spanish Convention. As Spanish groups continue to grow in Brooklyn with the support of their district, we hope to become involved in AA events of all different languages.

In service,  
Eddie D.

**SENY Special Needs Workshop**

**Saturday, October 16, 2010 • 12:30 - 4PM**

**St. Francis College • 180 Remsen Street 11201**



## Here's Looking at You, Brooklyn!



**Google Map of Brooklyn meetings color-coded by zone based on Intergroup's website, overlaid by the District boundaries that have been in effect since 1989**

Brooklyn General Services has decided that it would be a good time to review the Brooklyn District boundaries and to update our map. The one we've been using dates from 1989. Since then, some meetings have come into existence, and others have gone out of existence; still other meetings many decades old with venerable histories have moved to new locations. We'll keep you posted on the progress we make in this endeavor.

Not every meeting that is tracked by Intergroup elects a GSR and/or not all GSRs attend the District or County General Service Meetings. If your meeting falls into this category, consider yourself encouraged to become involved with Brooklyn General Service, either as an elected GSR, or as an AA member interested in serving on one of our many service committees.

Meanwhile, the *Junction* would like to write a feature on individual Districts, called *Here's Looking At You, District 4XX*. So this is a call to all DCMs, GSRs, and other interested parties to contribute to the creation of your Districts' portraits. This invitation extends also to the Spanish, Polish and Russian language districts as well.

There is a wide range of topics that can be taken under consideration. What workshops has the District sponsored recently and in the past? What is or has been your District's involvement on Brooklyn or SENY committees? How has your District distinguished itself? What were some of your most notable contentious issues? Are individual meetings thriving or could they use support? How had they been doing in the past, by comparison? Has your district spawned any Delegates or SENY officers? And the list goes on.

Don't hesitate to forward pictures of meeting rooms or entrances (minus AA members, of course). Founding dates of meetings. Years spent at current location. All forms of data and anecdotes are welcome. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [junction@brooklynaa.org](mailto:junction@brooklynaa.org)

In Service,

Cathy M., *Junction* editor  
[brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org](mailto:brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org)

## Spiritual Breakfast Needs Volunteers

As an active member of AA, early in my sobriety I was involved in Service at the County level. It was very rewarding and spiritually fulfilling. Service work actually allowed me to learn the tools in a safe environment to do committee work in the public sector. As things tend to happen my personal life became full and I rotated out of Brooklyn County service. That was more than seven years ago.

Recently I got the opportunity to participate in the rewards of doing service again in Brooklyn County and jumped in with both feet. I am fortunate enough to be the Chairman of the Brooklyn County Spiritual Breakfast, a service I co-chaired many years before. Things have changed but are still the same.

I am happy to say that things are falling into place and AA members are currently volunteering to help make this event a spiritual success. The first planning meeting had good attendance and tickets are now being distributed through out the County. The Theme has been picked and the committee is currently planning the program. Flyers have been distributed and I hope announcements are being made at every meeting in Brooklyn. If not, please help spread the word!

I personally am looking forward to the Breakfast. The fellowship of my fellow committee members, the friendly faces of the DCMs and GSRs at the meetings with their welcomed and friendly advice are helping me to make this a joyous and nearly stress free service.

My biggest fear is I will put on 10 lbs at the event based on the menu and good food! I look forward to seeing Brooklyn Fellowship at its best, Practicing AA's Spiritual Principles: The Pathway to Unity! See you all December 5, 2010 at 9:30 at Bay Ridge Manor 476 76th Street Brooklyn.

Volunteers are needed now to help with ticket distribution, announcements and flyer distribution, so please call me at \*.

This is How It Works...

Bill F.,  
Spiritual Breakfast Chairperson

## The Grapevine /La Viña

Hello Brooklyn AA!

My name is Cindi S. and I'm excited to be your Grapevine and La Viña rep for the county. Our "meeting in print" is in its 66th and 14th year respectively, and I am concerned to learn that there is a decline in subscriptions. I am eager to change that with your support. I'm hoping to see a GVR in every group.

The Grapevine and La Viña are portable, life saving tools, that help pass the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. The magazines are historic, colorful, inspiring and now staple free, with up to date stories from AAs around the world. Wouldn't it be awesome to summit a story, photo, art work or even a joke to be published?

The Grapevine and La Viña also carry CDs, slogans and signs, calendars and planners.

We all have many gifts in sobriety and it is my hope that Brooklyn County can help support the Grapevine and La Viña. I'm hoping to plan a workshop for GVRs to get active. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the next county meeting!

What I cannot do alone, we can do together!

Thank you, in loving service,

Cindi S.

Articles and announcements for the January 2011 *Junction* should be submitted no later than December 25, 2010; for the March 2011 *Junction* they should be submitted no later than February 22, 2011. These *Junctions* will be made available at the Brooklyn County General Service Meetings in January and March, respectively. Send articles or announcements to [junction@brooklynaa.org](mailto:junction@brooklynaa.org), or contact Cathy M. at 718-633-5405

## *Are there any other AA-related announcements?*

Sober Living 29th Group Anniversary  
Saturday, October 16, 2010 7PM  
St. Saviour School  
701 8th Ave (bet 7th & 8th St.)

65th Annual Bay Ridge Group Anniversary  
Sunday, October 17th, 2010  
Meeting at 2:30 PM at the new location  
(Salvation Army Building, 252 86th Street, 11209)  
Pitch meeting followed by a pot-luck dinner in the gym

62nd Annual Crown Heights Group Anniversary  
Wednesday, October 20th, 2010  
7PM—8 PM Pot Luck Dinner  
8PM—9PM Open Speaker Meeting  
St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President Street 11215  
(Between 6th and 7th Avenues in Park Slope)

Starting Point Group Anniversary  
All are welcome, including Kids!  
Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM  
50/50 Raffle • Food • Fellowship • Dancing  
612 Greenwood Ave basement  
(Between Prospect Ave and E. 7th Street)

Shore Road Discussion Group 50th Anniversary!  
Sat Oct 30th. 7:00 PM Open pitch meeting  
followed by celebration and music in our regular meeting place  
(Our Lady of Angels School cafeteria  
- enter on 73 St btwn 3rd and 4th Aves).

33rd Group Anniversary of CAUCUS  
Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM  
Food • Fun • Fellowship  
First Presbyterian Church, 124 Henry Street 11201  
(Between Pierrepont and Clark Streets)

Changes Group 15th Anniversary  
November 12 at 7PM  
Food, fun, fellowship to follow Open Meeting.  
Location is 1920 Batchelder St .  
(Ave S—Batchelder St off Gerritsen Ave—enter through the parking lot.)

Beginners Workshop  
Saturday, November 13 9AM-12Noon  
Grace Episcopal Church  
50 Grace Ct @ Hicks St  
(call for further info)

First Step Workshop Group Anniversary  
Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 7PM  
Gratitude Meeting • Food • Fellowship • Dancing  
Park Slope Methodist Church, 6th Ave & 8th Street

In The Garden 11th Step Meditation  
will be hosting its Meditation Workshop  
Saturday November 27, 2010 at 10am-11:30 am.  
918 Kent Avenue between Myrtle & Willoughby, 11205  
contact Annette C. for further info.

Spring Creek Group Anniversary  
Friday, Jan 28, 2011 8PM  
Food • Fellowship • Music  
St Lawrence R.C. Church  
1020 VanSiclen (between Cozine & Flatlands Ave)

Meeting Has Moved • Meeting Has Moved  
New Lots-Linwood Group  
has moved to 2424 Linden Blvd.  
Meeting times remain the same—Sunday 2-3:30 pm

Brooklyn Institutions Committee  
28th Annual Dinner Dance!  
Saturday, November 20, 2010 - 8:30PM  
St. Peter Claver Church  
One Jefferson Avenue 11238  
Tickets: \$20 in Advance  
Contact: Joe I. - Carol C.

Brooklyn County General Service  
23rd Annual Spiritual Breakfast  
*Practicing AA's Spiritual Principles:  
The Pathway to Unity!*  
Sunday, December 5, 2010 - 10AM  
Bay Ridge Manor  
473 76th Street, 11209  
Tickets: \$25 in Advance  
Contact: Bill F.

Old Park Slope Caton's  
Newest Meeting Needs Support  
The Twelve Concepts for World Service  
meets on the 3rd Monday of Every Month at 7PM

### Brooklyn County Contacts

DCMC	Michael S.	dcmc@brooklynnaa.org
Alt. DCMC	Kathleen O.	sammyboy_4@msn.com
Treasurer	Sara Z.	treasurer@brooklynnaa.org
Secretary	Michael C.	secretary@brooklynnaa.org
Registrar	Sue B.	registrar@brooklynnaa.org
Spiritual B'kfast	Bill F.	

### Brooklyn County General Service Meeting

St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street  
First Tuesday of every other month at 7:30 PM. Next Meeting—Nov 2.  
New GSR orientation at 6:30 PM.

### Brooklyn Institutions Committee Meeting

Old Park Slope Caton Group, 74 East 17th Street, 11226  
First Saturday of the month at 3:30 PM

### District 401 403 411 Cluster Meeting

103 Quincey Street basement, between Franklin and Classon, 11238  
2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 PM

### District 404 Meeting

Greenpoint Reformed Church basement  
136 - 138 Milton Street between Franklin and Manhattan Avenues, 11222  
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

### District 405 Meeting

Our Lady of Refuge Church basement  
2020 Foster Avenue at East 21st Street, off Farragut Rd, 11210  
Last Saturday of each month at 5:00 PM

### District 406 408 413 Cluster Meeting

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 215 East 28th Street, 11210  
2nd Saturday of each month at 11:30 AM

### District 407 409 Cluster Meeting

Church of the Good Shepherd  
7420 Fourth Avenue between 74th St. and Bay Ridge Parkway  
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

### District 412 Meeting

St. John's Lutheran Church, 281 Prospect Ave off 6th Ave., 11215  
3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM