



THE BROOKLYN JUNCTION

Tradition 6

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose"

June 2016

The Need for More

I heard some sad news while attending the last SENY assembly (June 2016). I was taken aback by the fact that 7th tradition donations to the General Service Office (GSO) are down some 45percent.

Maybe we of AA do not realize the importance of the services offered through the General Service Office to all of us and those newcomers heading into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

These services do cost and while some operating costs have been cut at GSO, the central office is doing the best it can to avoid cutting the actual needed services.

We as members Alcoholics Anonymous have a responsibility to help others achieve sobriety. There are the obvious ways for us to do that such as reaching our hand out to others, doing service inside and outside of our homegroups, showing by example that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous works.

Now, we need to ask ourselves, are we personally, or is our homegroup, contributing to the upkeep of GSO and the other entity structures that help AA to keep their doors open for those newcomers, help provide material and information to those who are in need as we once were and, for me, always will be?

Our 7th tradition collection during meetings are there to cover our basic group needs as well as to provide support for the service entities of AA below the group level. Yes, it is nice to have little extras such as cookies and snacks at our meetings, but what a shame it would be if those unnecessary extras take from what the AA entities below the group level need to provide what is helpful for members and the newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Can you say that eating some cookies during a meeting is more important than the production of pamphlets such as "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous," the "Big Book," *the Grapevine*, or offering assistance to a newcomer looking for help? Sit for a minute and think, which is more important?

On a personal level we can do more.

The dollar in the basket, well, it just doesn't go as far as it used to. Consider this: in 1970 a pound of coffee was \$1.98; today it costs \$4.89. A gallon of milk cost \$0.62

in 1970; today it costs \$3.98. Five pounds of sugar cost \$0.39 in 1970; today the price is \$1.74. Even worse, the average price for a cup of coffee in 1970 was \$0.10; now it averages \$2.62.

Think before you drop a dollar in the basket: *can* you do more, don't you have a responsibility to do more, *if* and *when* you can? We do say you are needed more than your money, but, that doesn't mean your money is not needed.

Next, at your homegroups' business meeting do not be afraid to share with your group the importance of the 7th tradition and what it means, what it is designed for. We are self-supporting, but that self-support doesn't stop at our homegroups, it means to be self-supporting through our contributions below the group level as well. For AA as a whole is self-supported by *us*.

Giving a dollar just is not the same as it used to be. The more we give, *when* and *if* we can, the group can get the support it needs and in turn can pass it on to AA as a whole, which in its turn continues to provide the services needed for all of us in the fellowship. That is what the 7th tradition is there for.

Please pitch in, please do what you can with your contributions and, as important, getting your group to remember what the 7th tradition does, and remind them to pass the buck along so those needed services in AA do not fall by the wayside.

Mitchell K., GSR, Greenwood Group and Brooklyn County Grapevine Chair

CALLING ALL BROOKLYN GROUPS!

Brooklyn Share-A-Day 2016

Please help us make this Brooklyn Share-A-day 2016 a success by sending in your contributions as soon as possible, with a suggested donation of \$50.00 per group, but of course, please contribute what you can.

Please make checks payable to:

AA Brooklyn General Service

P.O Box 170582

Brooklyn, New York 11217

Write "Brooklyn Share a Day" in Memo of check.

Coming in October: Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS)

Yeah, that time is coming around again. Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS) is a workshop or celebration of how we gain in spirituality through doing service in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The event has been held at various times, between mid-summer and autumn. This year the workshop, hosted by Suffolk County, will take place on Saturday, October 15 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the True North Community Church (where Suffolk has previously hosted a SENY assembly).

Now, if you've been to any one LISTS workshop, you definitely have not seen them all. Each year the venue, program and features change according to the creative abilities of the people in charge of planning the event, and of those carrying it out. There have been guided outdoor meditations, skits, AA Jeopardy, service fairs and the like in the past and we'll be seeing some of that this fall as well.

You could probably best describe LISTS (we're trying to get the acronym to stand in for the whole name all spelled out) as something of a shortened Share A Day concentrating on how our spirituality (emotional sobriety and general well-being) have been enhanced by participating in AA's general service structure.

For yours truly, participating in the planning of LISTS has been a very satisfying endeavor. I've been to the Inter-Group locations of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties, where we've held the planning meetings outside of Brooklyn; I've made great friendships with others who have and continue to participate in planning these events. It's one of the many great ways to knit yourself into the fabric of general service within South East New York (SENY).

It is also a great way to introduce newcomers to service below the group level. Think about taking a nice drive in the country on a sparkly October Saturday to partake of the experience, strength and hope of people who've stayed sober over the years (and decades) by extending their hands in service and by carrying AA's message of recovery to those alcoholics who have yet to come into the rooms.

Yours in service,
Cathy M., LISTS publicity chair

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Group Contributions to Brooklyn County can be sent to:
AA Brooklyn County General Service
PO Box 170582
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Checks/Money Orders payable to:
AA Brooklyn County General Service

BROOKLYN SHARE A DAY RENEWING OUR SPIRITUALITY

June 25, 2016 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Bishop Kearney High School

A/SN Share a Day: *This IS Accessibilities/Special Needs*
Sunday, June 26, 2016

WHERE: IS5 - The Walter Crowley Intermediate School
50-50 Jacobus Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373
TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

An AA Celebration!

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 8:00 PM @ St Patrick's
(9511 4th Ave btn 95th & 97th - parking on 97th)

Our speaker will be Chuck M. from The Way Out Group in Roselle, NJ. We heard him speak at the Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast and now we want you to hear his honest, engaging and inspiring story -- a testament to the transformative power of our program.



New York Intergroup is celebrating AA's founding day of June 10, 1935 and New York Inter Group's formation in June 1946 with a **BIG MEETING** - Sunday, June 19, 2016 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the New York Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom 3rd Floor 1335 Ave of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

Brooklyn Institutions Committee!
Saturday, August 6, 2016 - 3:30p

Old Park Slope Caton 74 East 17th Street, 2nd Floor 11226
ALL ARE WELCOME! Help Carry The Message
Remaining meetings will be held on September 3, October 1, November 6, and December 3, 2016 (No Meeting in July)

Labor day alcohon hosted by dist. 410
Stay tuned for details!

SAVE THE DATE! Long Island Spirituality Through Service
Saturday. October 15, 2016 10am - 4pm
True North Community Church 1101 Lakeland Ave Bohemia, NY

Contributions to *The Brooklyn Junction*—be they articles, announcements, poems, haiku, drawings, cartoons, favorite quotations, etc.—can be emailed to:

brooklynjunction@brooklynnaa.org

Alternatively, call or text the *Junction* editor, Cathy M.