



***December 2020***

**Vol. 33, No.6**

[View this email in your browser](#)





### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

December 10, 2020 @ 7pm

### **Intergroup Delegates Meeting**

December 10, 2020 @ 8pm

Both meetings will be on Zoom. Meeting ID & password will be sent under separate email prior to the meeting.

**New Delegate Form**

---

**Welcome New Board of Trustees who have committed their time and service to Intergroup Office.**

Paul K.

Casey M.

We look forward to your service to Houston Intergroup for the next three years!

**Thank you to our outgoing Board of Trustees who have fulfilled a term of dedicated service!**

James H.

Lester B.

Thank you for your service to Houston Intergroup. You will be missed!

---

## **Meeting Notifications:**

Our top priority is to provide the most accurate information so that ALL can find a meeting, especially the newcomer.

Meeting Changes can be made by phone, email or on website as follows:

Phone: 713-686-6300

Email to [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org)

Website Meeting Change Form: <https://aahouston.org/support-for-aa-groups/meeting-schedule/>

PLEASE NOTE: There are specific instructions (i.e. password-social distancing-mask wearing) for each MEETING in the note section. For the Meeting Guide App, click on the meeting or use the arrow button to find the note section. In the Meeting Finder, please click on the specific meeting and look under Meeting Information. Please call the office if you have trouble locating the meeting note section.

## **Meeting Space available**

Intergroup conference room is now opened. If you are looking for a place to hold your meetings we have the space for you. We have meeting space available for early morning, afternoon or late evening. Check out our spacious conference room at <https://aahouston.org/intergroup/intergroup-facilities/> or come by and we will be happy to give you a tour. We would love to have a group call this home. Please contact Kelli at 713-686-6300 or send email to [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org).

## **Bookstore**

The Bookstore is now open Mon-Fri 10am – 4:00pm. We will practice social distancing, mask wearing and disinfecting surfaces after each customer. If you feel uncomfortable physically coming in the store, consider ordering books and gifts through our Online Bookstore or by Phone (713-686-6300) and we will provide “curb-side” delivery.

## **Donations**

Contributions can be made in person, by mail or online at <https://aahouston.org/product-category/donations/>. Recurring contributions are greatly encouraged, as they help us plan our yearly budget. Remember, no contribution toward carrying the message can be too small. And, again, even if you or your Group find yourselves unable to contribute at this time, we very

much appreciate your support, past and present.



*Thank you Volunteers! The Intergroup Staff and Board of Trustees appreciate your excellent service work! We could not do without you!*

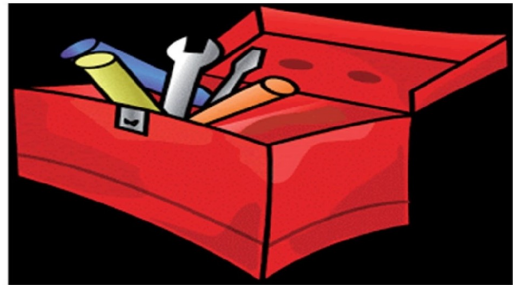
## What's in your Toolbox?

### Articles Wanted!

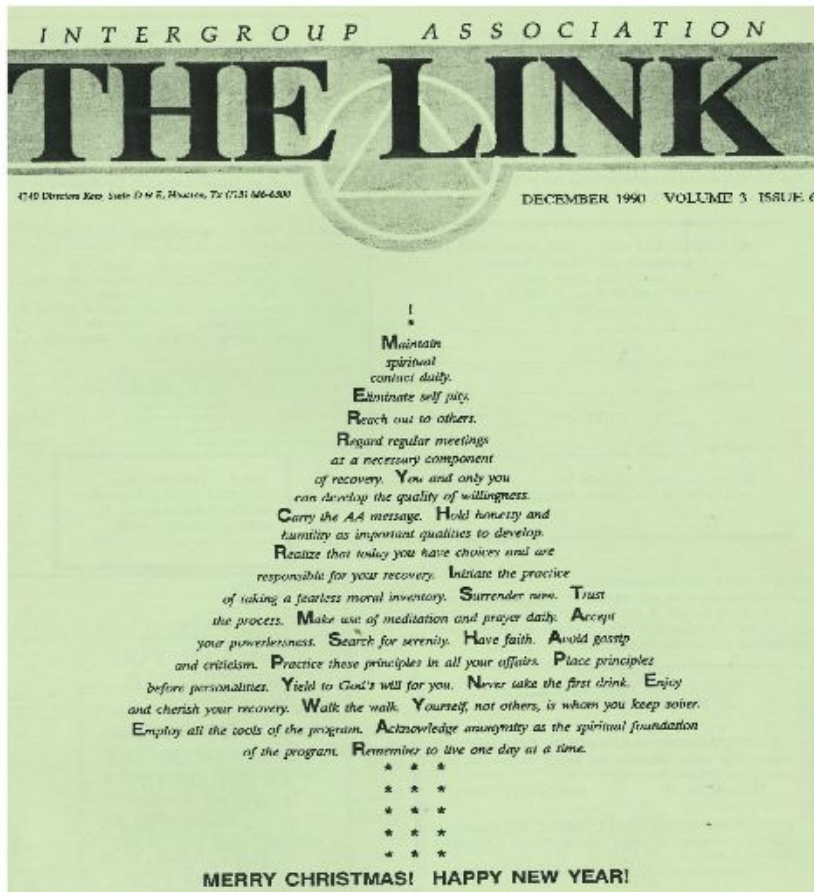
We're looking for stories about your recovery experience during 2020, for our future publications. What's in your toolbox? Was there a number one item you used or multiple items? We give it away to keep it – maybe your experience, strength and hope will help someone use the tools instead of picking up a drink.

Length of article can vary from a half-page to a page. Please include your name and home group.

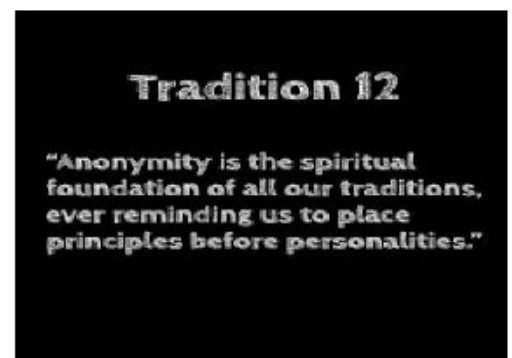
Submit article via email to [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org).







Intergroup's Cover December 1990



Click on phone for 2020 Phone Stats





## Featured Article



### Season's Greetings

FOR DECADES, I failed to grasp the true meaning of the Biblical quotation "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I always heard it at Yuletide and considered it a bit of propaganda intended to ease the disappointment of a child who got less for Christmas than he had expected.

Now, as I approach my tenth sober Christmas in Alcoholics Anonymous, I know that it is another of the heartwarming descriptions of the AA program in action. A charity campaign may use the slogan "Give until it hurts," but we in AA know that the best kind of sharing is to give until your whole being is full of joy.

I am grateful that, for me, many of the deep meanings of serving in our Fellowship have come slowly. How surely and solidly the truths sank in when the dawn came.

My own awareness of what AA sharing embraces developed when I got involved in carrying the message to suffering alcoholics and to unenlightened nonalcoholics by acting as public information chairman at an AA central office. From this vantage point, I have witnessed again and again the never-failing harvest of unsolicited rewards for giving.

I've been impressed by noting that no member has ever returned from a successful Twelfth Step call without feeling elated. I've never seen a volunteer end hours of answering cries of help on the telephone without saying, "God, I feel good!" Not a single speaker to a non-AA group has finished a long trip to a strange locale without calling the central office to say, "Thanks for the chance. How soon can I go out again?"

We find that no effort is too small to have lasting value. And even if a lengthy major action produces just a tiny victory, the personal rewards are still significant.

Remembering a day during an earlier holiday this year keeps both my gratitude and my humility healthy. Last Easter time, my friend Sam G. and I drove for a total of three hours on southern California's fiendish freeways to share with some elderly alcoholics in a recovery program near a gigantic senior-citizen village.

Sam and I are old retirees. He, with twenty-six years' sobriety, is eighty-two. I, eight years away from my last

Article From "The Link"

December 2000 Volume 13 Issue 6

### More Blessed to Give

drink, am seventy-eight. So we have a total of 160 years of life's journeying between us. But we have stayed young at heart and, we hope, in mind by scurrying around the Los Angeles area to tell oldsters with drinking problems that it is never too late to sober up, that old dogs can learn new tricks.

Since both of us have learned that "aging is a necessity, but maturity is a choice," and that "one should learn to enjoy growing old, because it is a privilege denied many," our mission is to so inform others.

Though whopping big victories have yet to come, we are not discouraged. We remind ourselves that God's delay is not God's denial and that things for which we pray will come in God's time, not ours. Still, at our ages, we'd love to see His time and ours coincide.

Long ago, we chose to believe that the admonition "Don't project" does not deny us dreams, nor hope that the dreams can come true, nor faith that they ultimately will. So we have faith. Once, when I told Sam I had displayed cynicism as a youth by declaring, "Faith is the total rejection of reality," he reminded me that we say in AA, "The absence of faith is utter despair." Of despair, we want none.

The day of the long drive, we spent talking with only eight persons — seven women and one man. The man had never taken a drink until retirement. All eight were coming back from slips. All wanted sobriety very badly.

As we started home, I told Sam that the world is full of materialistic men and women who would say we should have our brains examined for travelling so far to try reaching so few.

Sam smiled. "But that kind will never know the joy of believing that, if just one of them makes it, the whole trip will be worthwhile."

I thought of a line from Emily Dickinson: "If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain."

This Christmas, I will really know how much more blessed it is to give than to receive.

C.C., North Hollywood, Calif.

Reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., The A.A. Grapevine (December, 1978), Vol. 35, No. 7, pp. 5-6.





The Intergroup Holiday Open House has been cancelled and again, it is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the cancellation. The fellowship's health and safety is very important to us here at Intergroup and we felt this was the best decision.

Stay safe, sane and sober!



*Intergroup Association invites you to:*

## **ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday - December 12, 2020  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

4140 Directors Row, Suite D, Houston, TX 77092  
713-636-0300

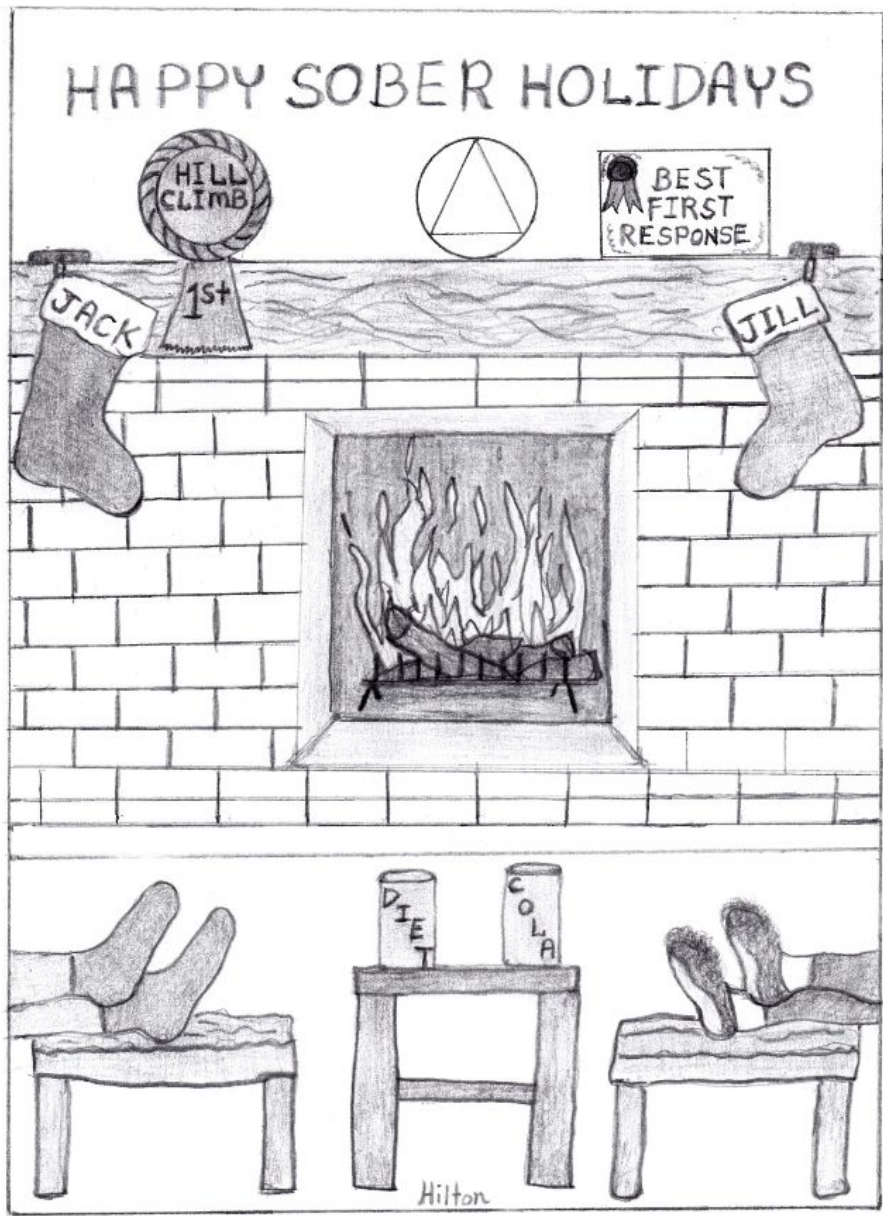
**10:00am** Bookstore Opens  
**11:00am** Play "What Killed the Home Group"  
**12:15pm** Box Lunch – \$8.50\*  
**1:00pm** Guest Speaker – Dudley F. 41 Years  
Home Member of Post Oak, Heights, Cypresswood  
**2:00pm** Silent Auction Winners Announced

*Tax Free Day in the Bookstore*

*\*Your safety is our #1 concern. This year we ask that no food from home be brought in. The lunch boxes will be prepared from a local restaurant. We will not have the dessert auction this year – please consider donating to our Silent Auction. Please email [intergroup@aahouston.org](mailto:intergroup@aahouston.org) for Silent Auction Donations.*

*Lunch Ticket Reservation will open November 2020.  
Intergroup will follow the mandated health guidelines in place in December 2020.  
We look forward to seeing you! We miss the fellowship!*







*Copyright © 2020 Intergroup Association, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

