Plain & Straight

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The Serenity Prayer and Alcoholics Anonymous

The original "Serenity Prayer" was conceived in a little stone cottage in Heath, Massachusetts by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and, confirmed by his daughter, was written like this:

"God, Give us the grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed, Courage
to change the things which should be changed,
And the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

In the early days of WWII, with Dr. Niebuhr's permission, the prayer was printed on cards and distributed to the troops by U.S.O. At that time, it had also been reprinted by the National Council of Churches. It is no surprise that it caught Bill w's attention and he took action.

In AA Comes of Age, Bill W wrote in 1942 that a NY member – Jack-brought to everyone's attention the Serenity Prayer. Everyone in A.A.'s General Office on Manhattan's Vesey Street was struck by the power and wisdom contained in the prayer's thoughts. ***"Never had we seen so much A.A. in so few words,"*** Bill writes.

Someone suggested that the prayer be printed on a small, wallet-sized card, to be included in every piece of outgoing mail. Ruth Hock, the Fellowship's first (and nonalcoholic) secretary, contacted Henry S., a Washington D.C. member, and a professional printer, asking him what it would cost to order a bulk printing. Henry's enthusiastic response was to print 500 copies of the prayer, with the remark: "Incidentally, I am only a heel when I'm drunk. So naturally, there could be no charge for anything of this nature."

"With amazing speed," writes Bill, "the Serenity Prayer came into general use and took its place alongside our two other favorites, the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of St. Francis. Personally,

I am happy this historic prayer became a part of AA and am very conscience of the important message

ACCEPTANCE, COURAGE, WISDOM!

With love and service from Leslie B., the archives liaison to the Plain and Straight. **Archives service is more than an activity. It is a means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our fellowship. Visit our dedicated website at district1archives.org to learn more about the Pinellas County Archives Committee.**

Meetings! Meetings! ...and More Meetings!...

by Renee B.

When I first came into the program attending meetings was a daily requirement in the sober home where I was staying. I had to go to one in the morning and one in the evening. I don't recall hearing people talk much about alcoholism. I remember hearing people just talking about things that were going on in their life. Disappointments, frustrations, broken relationships, work-related problems and the like. I remember wondering how listening to people complain and vent about their problems was going to keep me sober. As time went on, I began to realize that I was learning how alcoholics cope with daily annoyances without picking up a drink.

"I HAD to make and sustain sober connections. In virtual meetings, I wrote down the numbers of women who put their contact information in the chat. When I attended in person meetings, I announced that I was a newcomer."

I resisted the idea of going to meetings because I had a difficult time figuring out what I had in common with the women in the room. None of them, it seemed, had experienced the kind of low bottom that I had. I remember feeling ashamed of how low my bottom was compared to the other people in the room. I shared my concerns with my temporary sponsor. I explained how different I felt from others in the group. The first and best piece of advice I received was identify don't compare. When other people share, listen for the similarities not the differences. As the fog from the alcohol began to lift I was able to listen more attentively to what people were sharing. I started noticing how many of the participants shared some of the same emotional predispositions (depression, anxiety, seeking the approval of others, loneliness) that I had struggled with all my life.

Meetings have served several different purposes for me throughout my sobriety journey so far. At first, attending meetings was obligatory. If I didn't report my attendance to the house manager, my sober living arrangement could have ended abruptly. When I was released from that commitment, I continued attending meetings because I had distanced myself from individuals I drank with. I felt very alone. I knew that if that feeling had persisted, it would not be long before I drank again. I HAD to make and sustain sober connections. In virtual meetings, I wrote down the numbers of women who put their contact information in the chat. When I attended in person meetings, I announced that I was a newcomer. Many of the women would swarm around me after the meeting offering their number. It felt awkward to have total strangers approaching me in this way. I could tell that their motives were genuine. It was the first time that I had felt that kind of love and warmth in a long time.

In addition to the fellowship that meetings offer, it's the sharing among members that has kept me sober so far. In the beginning, I sat in the back of the room and just listened for at least 3 months. I was afraid that I would not be able to share as eloquently as others. I didn't think that what I shared would be important or relevant. When I finally did get comfortable sharing, I talked about the guilt, shame, and remorse that I felt around the relationships that I destroyed with my family and the opportunities that I lost because of my drinking. I noticed that people approached me after the meeting telling me how much they needed to hear what I had to say. My share kept them sober that day. I didn't understand why at the time, but I do now.

Other people's shares, especially those of the newcomer, remind me of the damage that my drinking has caused and can still be caused if I were to drink alcohol again. My sponsor always reminds me that sharing my experience, strength, and hope is a form of service to the group. As alcoholics we tend to be selfish and self-centered to the extreme thinking only about what we can get rather than what we can give. Attending meetings gives me an opportunity to practice generosity, selflessness, humility, and honesty. The more I develop these characteristics, the easier it is for me to stay spiritually fit and sober, one day at a time.

2250

October

Arthur 45
Karen C 16
Karen 4
Tiny W 4
Jeff M 4
Terry D 40
Fernando 25
Amanda 12
Kim 7
Dorinda 4
Tim 3
Donna 2
Kails 1
Cory 1

At The End of The Rainbow

September

Alicia 38
Marty 33
Denise 24
Tara 13
Lynn 11
Melissa 2

At The End of The Rainbow

October

Cathy 37
Laura 37
Christina 9
Cassie 7
Carly 2
Kelly 1
Audrey 1

Free Spirits

October

Tom Y. 40

Ozona

October

MEG. 1
CRAIG. 2
ALEX. 7
DEANA. 14
MARK. 26

St. Pete Group

November

Brian 15 years
Cody 3 years
Dawn G. 2 years
Rob 1 year

Progress Not Perfection

July

Teshanna 21
Christine 21

September

Candy21
Theresa 5
Kathy11

October

Laine 6
Jen 14
Clare 28
Danielle 16
Suzanne 40
Pam 40

Sunrise Sunset

October

Tim 3
Jake 32
Rob 6
Lisa 35

Back Porch Lunch Bunch

October

Joanne S. 39
Charlie M. 39
Melissa S. 3
Kevin M. 8
Margaret S. 2
Mike D. 12
Jim H. 44
Bud S.

Walsingham Group

October

Walter 51
John R. 14
Jim H. 44
Brian C. 9

Spirit Group

October

Mike H 11

The 49ers Group

October

Brooke 9

Danny f 30

Christina W 2

Jerry M 48

Ken M 16

Amber 1

Travis 1

Linda C 12

Buffy D 11

Rob V 18

Loving 3

Sonia 32

Bonnie 14

After Work Bunch

October

Paul M 36

Michelle C 27

Karen B 18

Pamela B 18

After Work Bunch

October

Kelly W 7

William E 5

Roxanna B 1

Beach Bunch

October

Ken B 37

Cheryl Lynn 34

High Noon Daily

October

Lynn E. 1 yr.

Ginny A. 18 yrs.

GOYA

October

Stephanie C. 1

Stephanie D. 2

Andrea E. 2

Theresa J. 7

Jacqueline F. 14

Alex F. 14

GOYA(Cont)

Steve M 19

Patricia I 32

Charlie Mc 39

New Women for Sobriety @ Rebos

October

Jill S 50!!!!!

Tiffany 4

Design for Living

October

Adrienne H. 20

Brian B. 4

Feelings Group

November

Matthew L. 11

Stella L. 1

Upcoming EVENTS

THE SERENITY CLUB
631 Turner Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

THE COFFEE BAR ATTENDANTS ARE VOLUNTEERS.
THEY VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO SERVE

- **MEMBERSHIP DUES** -The Serenity Club is owned & operated by its
- members. Participate in the operations of the club. Be a club member!
- **RENOVATION FUNDRAISER** - Please help –donate in the can located in the coffee bar.
- **BOOK FUNDRAISER** – Located in the coffee bar. Donate or purchase gently used books.
- **CAN DRIVE** - Please donate any aluminum cans in the designated containers.

DICK TRACEY CELEBRATION OF LIFE	SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 1ST
ONEBLOOD-BLOOD DRIVE	WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 5TH
MONTHLY CAR WASH	SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 8th
SERENITY CLUB BOARD MEETING	TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 11th
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 15th
YARD SALE	SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 15th & 22nd
MOVIE NIGHT	FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 21ST
ONEBLOOD-BLOOD DRIVE	TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 25TH
THANKSGIVING DINNER HOSTED BY THE TURNER STREET EVENING GROUP	THURSDAY	NOVEMBER 27th

FLYERS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED IN THE COFFEE BAR

Women With Freedom meets at 10am Wednesdays in the back room of Serenity Club of Clearwater at 631 Turner Street in Clearwater. Spoke on 10/4. 80 in attendance. **Basket $97.**

"A topic based meeting, we talk about The Steps, The Big Book, and Sponsorship. The first Wednesday every month, we go out for lunch afterwards."

Patty 2.0

"I drank just to get away from feelings. Today, I ask myself what are my feelings today. Step One, you're done, nobody comes here by accident. Step 2, believing that everyone else believed. A daily practice, every day, even in the bathroom at work praying, that's gonna calm me down. Learning at 29, how do I cope-do my deep breathing, be still, and know that I'll be all right. Even the boys learned how to not knock on the bathroom door at 7pm, because mom's meditating."

"Steps 4 and 5 Learning about what's going on inside me, and therapy. I didn't realize I had a lot of character defects."

Yvette "About 2 years into my sobriety, i started having marital problems. To tell you the truth, most of my problems were me. I told him that if he didn't go to the therapist or Al-Anon, I was getting a divorce. Nine years, now, and now we are happily married, and he is my knight in shining armor."

Attitude Adjustment meets at 1812 Highland Ave in Clearwater. Spoke on 10/11. 77 in attendance. **Basket $80.**

Greg SD 10/15/84 "ODAAT-even ten minutes at a time. My life is working out today, as long as I get out of the way."

SoberSquad Paradise Church Treasure Island. Spoke on 10/18. 68 in attendance. **Basket $58.** Women meet at 7pm Tuesdays; Co-ed at 7pm Thursdays.

Lacey SD 1/30/24 "I am not an alcoholic because of what happened to me. I have an allergy, which becomes an obsession for alcohol. Today I am figuring out that I have a Higher Power that does not judge me."

Ginny SD 7/15/90 "Everything I learned, I learned in AA. I learned how to be a parent, a daughter, a sister, a friend, a responsible human being, and being accountable."

Quote of the week-"Working with others...I called my sponsor's sponsor, to tell him what I thought, and he said 'if you find fault with people trying to help you, that fact means that you need more help than we can offer you."

Jim SD 2/1/21 "God has really worked overtime on me. We were talking about housing. I lost my house. It's not a loss. I gave it away. I don't have to let you rent space in my head."

Our Common Problem meets at Prince of Peace Church, across from Largo High School at Missouri Ave. 6pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. Spoke on 10/25. 58 in attendance. **Basket $75.**

GREAT Joke by Christopher "Acts 2.38"

Lynn "Before, I was a shell of a person, and I invited God back into my life, and I found that I could not succeed at controlling my drinking, and a friend asked the reason I could not do it myself, and it was because I needed you guys. Today it's my 16th anniversary because of you guys. I could not do it all by myself without all you guys."

Steve SD 1/4/15"I knew I had a drinking problem, but I didn't know why until I went through the steps of alcoholics anonymous."

Connie SD 7/5/82

"At 31, I got sober. I'm the intergroup representative. I started in Oldsmar in 1982. I still feel like a lil kid in here, because this is always a learning process.

Other people's shares, especially those of the newcomer, remind me of the damage that my drinking has caused and can still be caused if I were to drink alcohol again. My sponsor always reminds me that sharing my experience, strength, and hope is a form of service to the group. As alcoholics we tend to be selfish and self-centered to the extreme thinking only about what we can get rather than what we can give. Attending meetings gives me an opportunity to practice generosity, selflessness, humility, and honesty. The more I develop these characteristics, the easier it is for me to stay spiritually fit and sober, one day at a time.

Volunteer for 12-step calls!

We need your help on the
Twelfth Step Call Committee!

If you have at least one year of sobriety, a sponsor, a home group, and have worked all Twelve Steps at least once, we'd love for you to volunteer. You can connect face-to-face with newcomers in need of assistance.

Your support can make a big difference!
Let's help others on their journey together!

Call Rick J. at 914-552-2005 or
email: helpline@aapinellas.org to get started.

Cindy Luke's 6PM Zoom Meeting

Link: 84469339958
Pass: 302359

Monday thru Saturday
Monday: BB
Tuesday: OD
Wednesday: Traditions
Thursday: As Bill Sees it
Friday: 12 x 12
Saturday: Living Sober

EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS TO CARRY THE AA MESSAGE FURTHER IN PINELLAS COUNTY

Archives Committee

Help groups complete & submit AA Group History Forms
Curate a Traveling Archives Display for events/workshop
Collect historic documents, photos, and memorabilia related to local AA
Host presentations on AA's local history
Meets: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m.
E-mail: archives@district1aapinellas.org

Corrections Committee

Brings over 50 meetings a month to the Pinellas County Jail, Safe Harbor Shelter, and Westcare DOC facilities.
One year of sobriety is required, and a background clearance is needed only for the 49th St Jail.
Contact us: www.district1aapinellas.org/d1-committees/corrections/

Corrections@district1aapinellas.org

Grapevine Committee

Grapevine@district1aapinellas.org

Encourage groups to elect Grapevine Representatives
Promote Grapevine subscriptions, apps, books, YouTube Channel, Instagram, and specialty items
Host Grapevine-centered speaker meetings and events
Promote story submissions to the Grapevine
More info: https://www.district1aapinellas.org/d1-committees/grapevine/

Literature Committee

Set up literature tables at events
Educate groups about AA literature
Collaborate with committees to provide materials
Monthly meetings: 3rd Sunday from 6-6:30 pm
www.district1aapinellas.org/d1-committees/literature/

Literature@district1aapinellas.org

Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (PICPC)

PICPC@district1aapinellas.org

Provide AA information to community organizations, local media, schools, and libraries. Arrange for ads and PSAs. Staff booths at health fairs and other events.
Provide literature and presentations for professionals such as law enforcement, courts, treatment centers and medical providers.
www.district1aapinellas.org/d1-committees/pi-cpc/

Want to Get Involved?
Visit district1.aa.pinellas.org or attend a
District 1 Business Meeting to learn more.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Send Checks to: Pinellas County Intergroup: 9011 Park Blvd., Suite 206, Seminole, FL 33777

OCTOBER 2025

Wheel Of Recovery	140.00
Recovery Road	348.42
Keep It Simple Group	173.00
High Noon Daily	150.00
DOWNTOWN SERENITY SISTERS	50.00
Free Spirits	75.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Archangel Group	100.00
Primary Purpose	52.80
New Freedom / New Happiness	43.50
Serenity Seekers Group	269.63
Into Action	50.00
Dunedin Sunset @ Weaver Park	1,164.15
Good Orderly Direction	75.00
Friendly's	48.00
Sunset Beach Meeting	202.00
AA By The Sea Group	100.00
Ain't Misbehavin' Group	164.00
Living Sober	298.00
Sunrise Sunset Group	80.00
A New Start	50.00
Walsingham Group	50.00
Individual	35.00
Unity Meeting Intergroup	314.05
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	20.00
2250 Group	100.00
After Work Bunch	112.50
Total Group Contributions	**$4,305.05**

Where & When MEETINGS

New Meeting! 444: Monday - Friday 4pm, OD, Wesley United Methodist in St. Petersburg

Time Change! Early Risers: Now Meeting at 7am in Dunedin at The Warehouse

New Meeting! Clearwater Group 301 Women's: OD Women's Meeting, Wednesday 6:45pm

Time Change! Sunrise Meeting at Alano Beach Club Changes: Our Tuesday meeting at 7 AM will now be a 12&12 meeting (steps and traditions).; Our Thursday meeting at 7AM will now be a big book study. Our Saturday meeting at 7AM will now be a speaker meeting.

New Meeting! A Clear View Of The Big Book: Thursday, 7pm; Clearview United Methodist in NW St. Petersburg.

New Location! 301: Group New Address: 1020 Calamet Street, in Clearwater