

## FEBRUARY 2025

### EXPLORING TRADITION TWO

“A loving God as He may express Himself” allows me the freedom to believe in a Higher Power of my understanding. Our Higher Powers are unique, we carve them out and tailor them, they help guide us thru the day.

Reading Tradition Two in full is a great reminder on the how and why A.A. works.

### SHARE YOUR STORY



Please scan the QR Code or tap this box and you will be directed to our anonymous content submission page.

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Submit Group News, medallions, event notices, letters to the editor and articles to Better Times, before the 10th of the month prior to month of issue by email to [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org) or contact Alex at 416-487-8110

## I CAME TO BELIEVE



Greetings, my name is Bob S., I am an alcoholic. I came to Alcoholics Anonymous stayed and listened this time. Unbeknown to me by asking God for help, I received it.

At a convention in Newfoundland, I met a fellow named Shane whom I talked too and realized we both had something in common. I came back to Toronto and started drinking again for two months, after my last drink. October 09th 2005 I knew the jig was up. To get back what I loved so much, my family, I knew I had to go to A.A.

October 10th, 2005, I returned to the rooms of A.A. While there I listened intently. A fellow got up to do the slogan's, I thought to myself I know him, he was the fellow I met in Newfoundland. It was then and there that “I came to believe” in God and I knew I was in the right place.

It was suggested to me do the “Ninety in Ninety” and give A.A. a chance. I began driving a few long timers to meetings and was given more suggestions, get a sponsor, do the work, go to meetings, get a group, and help others. By doing the suggestions I was able to stay sober. Living “One day at a time”, and believing in a Higher Power changed my life and with that my family and I got better.

Today when I have a problem it's my problem. Through working the step's, I now understand I need to let go of it.

Today I have a life I never thought would be possible. Today I sponsor others and pass along the message. I am grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous for my sobriety, serenity and the gift of being loved by my whole family. I am truly blessed, without Alcoholics Anonymous I would never have the happiness of family, friends and the spirituality that I have today, gifts from Higher Power (God).

Alcoholics Anonymous program “works when you work it”; please come and join us and be part of the world's largest family, and “Keep Coming Back”.

-Bob S., West York Group

# ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

## A NEW HAPPINESS



The 2025 ORC will be taking place on March 14-16, 2025, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Our theme this year for the ORC is  
**“A NEW HAPPINESS”**

We are looking forward to Celebrating Recovery & Fellowship with you.

### **HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET!**

If you have not, take the leap and join others to win a FREE hotel room for 2 nights! Oh, But Wait! It Gets Better! The one lucky winner will also receive a \$100 The KEG Gift Card. Each ticket purchased by Feb. 1, 2025, will be entered into a random draw with one winner selected on Feb. 9, 2025. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card for THE KEG and two nights free hotel room for March 14 and 15, 2025.

**General Admission tickets are \$55 (Will you be the lucky winner?)**

**Banquet tickets are \$115**

**The discounted Hotel Rate is \$245/night + HST**

**Visa/MC Credit & Debit are accepted**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://aaorc.ca>**

Start Spreading the News! Tell your friends from AA, Al-Anon & Alateen of the ORC 2025 News, and yes, please include your family and friends that they are welcome to join us on March 14 - 16, 2025. It is just around the corner, so do not hesitate to register to win.

**I believe I can speak for all of the 2025 ORC Committee when I say ...  
“We can’t wait to see you when you join us to enjoy ... A NEW HAPPINESS”**

**Yours in Love and Service,  
Ed V. (Deer Park Group)  
Promotions Chair  
2025 ORC Committee**

P.S. We also have a need for volunteer greeters. Being a greeter is a great opportunity to welcome members, make friends, and enhance your ORC experience with the Spirit of giving back.

You can sign-up as a greeter at the same place as you buy tickets: <https://aaorc.ca>

Just go to the Volunteer Tab after you register for the ORC.  
<https://aaorc.ca/volunteer-2025/>

\*\*\* Volunteers must be registered for the ORC conference \*\*\*





GREATER TORONTO AREA  
**INTERGROUP**

## ONLINE HELP CHAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



### ✦ ONLINE HELP FOR ALCOHOLICS ✦

GTA Intergroup is looking for members to operate our new online website help chat tool.



All Training Provided. Training Starts Soon!

## Celebrating Recovery Through the 12 Steps

12 speakers, AA with  
Al-Anon and Alateen

Saturday February 8, 2025

REGISTRATION: 8:30AM

PROGRAM HOURS: 9AM - 4PM

UNIFOR BANQUET HALL

23 Regan Rd, Brampton  
NE of McLaughlin Rd N  
and Bovaird Dr W

Tickets, questions and  
7th Tradition, email  
crtts17@gmail.com

- POTLUCK LUNCH
- DOOR PRIZES
- 50/50 DRAW
- BASKET RAFFLE

### TICKETS

\$15 each/\$5 for Alateen

Tickets & information,  
contact Wendy at

416-409-3873



PLEASE BRING A HOT OR COLD  
POTLUCK FOOD ITEM

## GTAI/DISTRICT - DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Accessibilities** - Sun. Feb. 16 – 11 a.m.

ID: 824 8962 1874 - PW: 799763

**Archives** - Fri. Feb. 14 – 7 p.m.

ID: 841 5376 9412 - PW: 018851

**Communications** - Tues. Feb. 18 – 8 p.m.

ID: 850 5256 7237 - PW: 984555

**CPC/PI** - Mon. Feb. 17 – 7 p.m.

ID: 854 7547 0291 - PW: 002060

**Correctional Facilities** - Tues. Feb. 04 – 7 p.m.

ID: 883 8002 9737 - PW: 950392

**Self-Support** - Meets every other month.

Next Meeting: Thurs. Mar. 20 2025 - 6:30 pm

ID: 820 9238 0206 - PW: 319853

**Treatment** - Sun. Feb. 16 - 4pm

ID: 868 2207 4860 - PW: 787289

**Twelfth Step** - Wed. Feb. 12 – 7 p.m.

ID: 813 0646 6967 - PW: 572531

**IT Subcommittee** - Tues. Feb. 03 - 7 p.m.

ID: 814 0942 9019 - PW: 379691

**Information AA Day** Sun. Feb. 24 - 7 p.m.

ID: 811 827 5978 - PW: 587553

## GRAPEVINE BOOK OF THE MONTH



### INTO ACTION

How AA members practice the  
program in their daily lives

This collection of Grapevine stories shows the many ways members work the program of AA. Written by men and women, young and old, with different lengths of sobriety, the articles in this book highlight how members practice the Twelve Steps, use our literature and slogans, and get into service, sponsorship and fellowship. The stories demonstrate the various ways members get active in AA to stay sober, carry the message and live rich and rewarding sober lives.

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/action-stories-aa-grapevine-softcover>

-Imran R. Grapevine



Scan this QR code to access more  
"Better Times" issues!

## SHARE YOUR STORY



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS  
FOR BETTER TIMES'  
WINTER ISSUES

Winter is here. Do you have any tips for staying sober in the winter?

Please scan the QR Code or tap this box and you will be directed to our anonymous content submission page.

# ARCHIVES CORNER

## Did you Know .... ?

**On Feb. 1, 1938**, William Richardson asked Frank Amos to visit Akron, Ohio & make a report on the young Fellowship of alcoholics. Amos' report was detailed & quite favorable. It highlighted Dr. Bob's financial situation & suggested actions that should be taken to help him. Richardson sent Amos' report to John D. Rockefeller Jr. urging a donation of \$5,000.00 a year for one or possibly two years. On March 17, 1938, Rockefeller replied to Richardson that it was contrary to the policy of his philanthropies to fully fund a charitable enterprise unless it was decided to carry it indefinitely. Rockefeller declined to a donation for the second year but provided \$5,000.00 to be held in a fund in the Riverside Church treasury. Much of the fund was used to assist Dr. Bob by paying off the mortgage to his home. The remainder provided Bill & Dr. Bob (who were both in very difficult financial straits) with \$120.00 a month so that they could continue to dedicate themselves full time to the Fellowship.

**In Feb. 1939**, Dr. Harry Tiebout became the 1st psychiatrist to endorse AA and use AA principles in his practice. In summer 1944, Bill began twice-a-week treatment with Dr. Tiebout for debilitating episodes of depression. Some members were outraged & castigated Bill for "not working the program," "secretly drinking" & "pill taking." Bill endured the attacks in silence.

**In Feb. 1940**, Larry J. persuaded Allan C. Bartlett, editor of the Houston Press to ran a series of 6 articles about AA that he wrote with an anonymously byline. They were extremely well written & generated much favorable publicity for AA. Larry was a newspaperman & a Cleveland, Ohio member, who nearly died from the DT's & had a lung ailment which required him to spend much time in a oxygen tent. Larry set out from Cleveland by train to live & work in Houston. While on the train he read the Big Book & had a spiritual awakening. He wrote the series of articles after arriving in Houston. The articles became an early AA pamphlet called "AA". Larry who was sponsored by Cleveland AA founder Clarence S., had never previously attended an AA meeting. Larry went on to start AA in Texas. Early members of the Houston group went on to carry the message to other cities in the US. The GSO Archives scrapbooks of newspaper clippings show that AA in Fort Worth & Dallas area started in 1941.

**In February 1940**, the Alcoholic Foundation office moved from 17 William St. Newark, NJ to 30 Vessey St., Room 703, in New York City. Its mailing address was Box 658 Church St. Annex Post Office. Ruth Hock became AA's first national Secretary.

**In February 1940**, the 1st Clubhouse was rented at 334 ½ West 24th Street in New York City for \$100.00 a month. It formerly was the Illustrator's Club. The 24th Street Clubhouse was acquired because NY members had been growing restive & unhappy with all the moves from place to place for their meetings. Bert T. (of the tailoring establishment) & Horace C. (at whose Green Pond bungalow Bill & Lois often stayed) discovered & guaranteed the rent on this extraordinary little building. In November, Bill & Lois moved into a small upstairs bedroom of the clubhouse for about a year.

**In February 1943**, during WW11 gasoline rationing, the Office of Price Admin. recognizes the "importance and social significance of the work done by AA" and grants AA right to use cars for 12th Step work in emergency cases.

## Greater Toronto Area Groups That Started in February

Feb. 22, 1948 - Lakeshore Group  
Feb. 1962 - Newmarket Group  
Feb. 23, 1963 - Birds of the Feather Group  
Feb. 17, 1969 - Liverpool Group  
Feb. 20, 1974 - Kennedy Park Group  
Feb. 18, 1980 - Start Today Group  
Feb. 11, 1983 - Fellowship Group  
Feb. 14, 1983 - Streetsville Action Group  
Feb. 5, 1986 - Fifth Tradition Group  
Feb. 11, 2015 - Beyond Belief Group (Mississauga)  
Feb. 11, 2015 - Newmarket Freethinkers Group

## FEBRUARY MEDALLIONS

Nathan D., High Park Group, 1 yr, Feb. 2nd  
Matthew D., Erin Mills Group, 5 Yrs., Feb. 03  
Pierre Z., Islington Group, 10 yrs, Feb. 14th  
Adam S., Erin Mills Group, 5 yrs, Feb. 17th  
Andy S., Islington Group, 1 yr, Feb. 21st  
Gowresh R., Hadenuffyet Group, 1 yr, Feb. 23rd  
Jeff T., Erin Mills Group, 10 yrs, Feb. 24th  
Jerrad H., Fellowship, 1 yr, Feb 24th

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Robert T., Friendly Group, 11 yrs, Feb. 4th  
Tom T., Open hands Group, 20 yrs, Feb. 20th  
Bobby D., Friendly Group, 1 yr, Feb. 23rd  
David G., Friendly Group, 8 yrs, Feb. 28th  
Grant D., Rexdale United, 40 yrs, Feb. 28th  
(medallion March 6th)

TO DONATE AA/GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS TO ARCHIVES PLEASE  
CONTACT ARCHIVIST EDDY G. 416-536-7536 or [archives@aatoronto.org](mailto:archives@aatoronto.org)  
OLD GTA MEETING BOOKS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ARCHIVES.

## IS THERE AN UPCOMING MEDALLION?

Please send your medallion details to [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org)  
in the format of:

name - homegroup - year(s) of sobriety - medallion date

*Kindly note that Better Times only publishes the first year of continuous sobriety birthday celebrations or every subsequent 5th year of continuous sobriety (i.e. 1, 5, 10, 15, 20...)*

## GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH PARK GROUP - NEW LOCATION

Effective January 31st 2025  
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1691 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ONM6P 1B1

Southwest corner off Bloor at Indian Road – 100  
meters east of Keele Subway Station  
Green P Parking at Keele Subway Station and Street  
Parking  
(former location St. Johns' Anglican Church – 288  
Humberside Avenue)