

Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

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www.queensaa.org T: 718-520-5021 (24 Hour Hotline)
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm
Saturdays from 10am to 12pm

A Message from QIAA's Chair

As the Chairperson for Queens Intergroup of AA, I want to start out by thanking each and every member for their support during this year's Holiday Share-A-Thons. It was a little scary for the steering committee this year because we were afraid that the word would not get out and attendance would be low at the events. Between the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Years Share-A-Thons there were more than 5,000 members attending the meetings. Thank you for your continued support of Queens Intergroups' Share-A-Thons. You folks Rock!!

I also want to thank those who completed the Share-A-Thon surveys. Since we had to move the event to the new location, we wanted feedback from the attendees. The surveys were geared toward answering questions regarding the location, the facility (including parking) and ease of travel. Additionally, we requested suggestions for locations we could investigate that may be AA friendly and accommodate future Share-A-Thons.

The survey responses were overwhelmingly positive toward the location and facility. Members traveled from all Boroughs, Long Island, and beyond by public and private transportation and most indicated traveling was fairly easy. There were some complaints about the restrooms which will be addressed regardless of where the next Share-A-Thon is located. We realize that change is not always easy for us and we were hoping that everyone was satisfied and had a good time. There was a complaint about parking by someone unaware of the rear lot.

There were a few members who suggested other locations and I would like to respond to them. One suggestion was the former Share-A-Thon location. The reason the Share-A-Thon was moved is the new administrator at Our Savior wanted to cut the event short. We would not have had meetings on the three crucial days leading up to and including January 1st 2015. Another location mentioned was the Community House in Forest Hills. From what I hear, it is not a big room and they would never accommodate an event like ours. The location in Astoria is a 20 minute walk from the subway.

Overall, the committee believes we had a successful event and look forward to the next holiday season. Our final thanks to Rodney P., and members of "A Fresh Way to Start a Day Group" for allowing us to use their space!

Suggestions and comments can be emailed to me at survey@queensaa.org.

Yours in Service,
Jo Ann Mc.
Chairperson QIAA



Upcoming Events

March 7th

**Queens Speaker Exchange
and Delegates Meeting**

Location:

**All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Ave,
Jamaica, NY 11432**

7:30am: Exchange Meeting
9:00 am: Delegates Meeting

2015 International
Convention of Alcoholics
Anonymous



**July 2-5, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia**

Visit www.aa.org for more
info.

2015 SENY CONVENTION

March 20 - 22, 2015
Westchester Marriott Hotel
Tarrytown, NY

Visit www.aaseny.org for
more info.

Questions, Comments, Events,
Notes?
Email the Newsletter Editor at
newsletter@queensaa.org

QIAA 24 Hour Hotline:
718-520-5021

The History of Queens Intergroup: The Shareathon

Shareathon is Queens Intergroup's signature program. Unique in its early years and uncommon in the world today, Shareathon is a series of 24/7 meetings hosted by AA groups from all over Queens held in one location over Thanksgiving weekend and again from Christmas Eve thru New Year's Day. Typically Shareathon consists of about 300 hours of meetings attended by about 6,000 people who donate about \$6,000. Shareathon, in its impact on individuals and its import to AA in Queens, is simply awesome.

Within weeks of its founding in 1991 QIAA held an "Open House" on Thanksgiving afternoon in its tiny office on Jamaica Avenue in Bellerose. The next year the Open House was held in QIAA's new office space over the Cinemart Theater on Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. Members of the Steering Committee and friends hosted meetings from 10 in the morning to 10 at night on Thanksgiving Day, 1992. The Thanksgiving event was so popular that an "Alacathon" was held the following New Year's Eve and Day.

In 1993 the Thanksgiving event was entitled an "Open House Share-Athon" and lasted the entire weekend. In addition to food, donations for the Institution Literature Fund were requested. To this day Shareathon is QIAA's major fundraiser, accounting for about twenty percent of its annual income.

In 1994 the name Shareathon was adopted, although there is still no standard spelling or typography. Also fixed in 1994 was its schedule of Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve thru New Year's Day. Hosting by Groups rather than individuals and selection of the Groups by lottery had become part of the tradition by 2005, together with answering the Hotline and volunteering for the Twelve Step list.

After the Cinemart lease expired in 2003, Shareathon was relocated to Our Savior Lutheran School on Woodhaven Boulevard in Rego Park. Forced to vacate again in 2014, Shareathon was most recently held at Christ the King Center on Farmers Boulevard in Springfield Gardens.

Over the years many have contributed significantly and generously to Shareathon. Five should be noted: Frank R, Hank G, Manny A, John Francis B, and Chris R.

For Queens AAs attending Shareathon is like going home during the holidays. Sometimes it's painful, sometimes consoling or joyful; but we are most always there, if only in our heads.

Note: This article is the first of several about the history of Queens Intergroup that will appear in the newsletter. If you have any comments, please address them by email to archives@queensaa.org.

NEW GROUPS

- "This Thing Of Our" Spiritual Awakenings - (Flushing) is a new Group. They meet on Saturdays at 7:30am at N. Presbyterian Church, 25-33 154th Street.
- Movin On - (Flushing) is a new Group. They meet on Fridays at 7:00pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 42-15 165th Street.
- New Shades - (Flushing) is a new Group with a daytime Meeting. They meet on Mondays at 11:00am at Messiah Lutheran Church, 42-15 165th Street.
- Western Queens Group - (Woodside) is a new Group with a daytime Meeting. They meet on Saturdays at 12:30pm at 62-07 Woodside Avenue (*see website for further information*).
- The "Just Stay Group" - is new in South Jamaica. They meet on Saturdays at 4:00pm at Saint James The Less Episcopal Church, 107-61 166th Street.
- Came to Believe - is new to The Rockaways. They meet on Sundays at 7:30pm at First Congregational Church, 348 Beach 94th Street.

In Memoriam

Frank D.

*Cedar Manor Group and
Spruce Group*

President of the *I-Can Club* since
1985

31 years Sober

(Hosted annual family Christmas parties at the club; joined the neighborhood block association to help get rid of the drug dealers on Farmers Blvd; gave shelter and purpose to homeless newcomers)

Linda S.

Lighthouse Group

Served diligently on the Hotline for over twenty years and was a perennial greeter at the *Lighthouse Group*. Her voice, her hand were always there.

Jiggers

Founding Member of *Queens
Gratitude and Sobriety on 111th*
37 years of sobriety

*Thank you for your years of service. You'll Be
Missed!*