

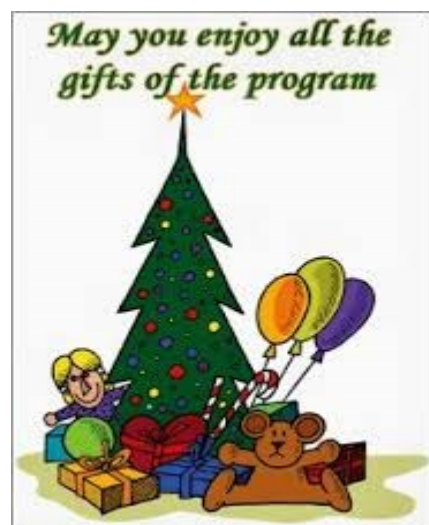
**Promise Number Twelve:
We will suddenly realize that God is
doing for us what we could not do
for ourselves.**



**TWELVE STEP TIMES
DECEMBER 2015
EDMONTON
INTERGROUP
MAGAZINE**

INSIDE THESE PAGES:

- 2 It's your Twelve Step Times
- 3 What's Happening
- 4 Birthdays in December
- 5-6 Announcements
- 7 Events and Calendar
- 8 Grapevine
- 9 Stories from members
- 10 Current focus



We want your input!

Do *you* have something to say? Perhaps you have more to say than you might think. Do you have a passage from the Big Book, a poem, meditation, etc, etc, that speaks to your heart? We'd like to hear it and hear why. Maybe you've had a 'profound' spiritual understanding/awakening of a step, principle or tradition.

We *would* like to hear from you about your AA related experience, strength and hope, keeping in mind copyright and credit concerns.

As a bonus, for the remainder of 2015, contributors are entitled to a free mailed copy of the edition in which their article is printed, as well as a Central Office token of appreciation.

You can either include your address to have a copy sent to you or you may pick it up at Central Office.

Deadline for news items and copy is the *fifteenth of the month prior to the edition.*

Submissions should be between 100-250 words, printed or typed, signed with your full name, group, and a phone number where you can be reached

(of course we will protect your anonymity). Submissions by Fax, (587-523-4334) or by e-mail to: edmontonaa@hotmail.com

**Newsletter
Subscription**

\$15.00 for

1 year

Call Central Office today for this
Newsletter

Expiration Date: 00/00/00



Contact central
office to announce
your events in AA.

Email:
edmontonaa@hotmail.com

YOUR TWELVE STEP JOURNALS



**Around The Clock Meetings
For 48 hours straight!!**

Dec. 24 at 6pm.

to

Dec. 26 at 6 pm.

Please sign up on Volunteer sheet

**FOR ALL EVENTS WE HAVE A SEPARATE
BROCHURE BUNDLE AVAILABLE!!**



84 ST HOLIDAY ALKATHON

DECEMBER 24 STARTING AT 12:00 PM

RUNNING RIGHT THROUGH TILL DECEMBER 26 AT 1:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DINNER IS SERVED ON DECEMBER 25 AT THE CLUB

BETWEEN 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

THERE IS NO NEW YEARS ALKATHON.

THE 84 ST GROUP HAS THEIR ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE BASH.

PLEASE CONTACT LAWRENCE @ 780-266-0871 OR CENTRAL OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS.

ALANO CLUB ALKATHON

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24 7AM-FRIDAY DECEMBER 25 1AM

&

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25 7AM - SATURDAY DECEMBER 26 1AM

BOXING DAY

DECEMBER 26 7AM - SUNDAY DECEMBER 27 1AM

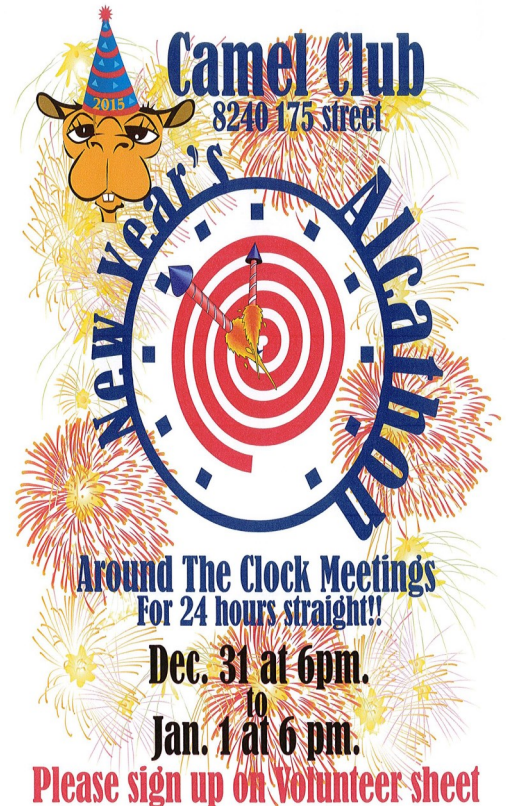
THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 7AM - FRIDAY JANUARY 1 1AM &

FRIDAY JANUARY 1 7AM - SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1AM

MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY 2 HOURS STARTING AT 8AM CAFÉ OPEN WITH REDUCED PRICES.

NOTE: THE ALANO CLUB WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25, 26 & JANUARY 1 FROM 1AM-7AM

SIGN UP TO CHAIR OR HELP OUT AT THE ALANO CLUB TODAY! 780-423-1807



60 MINUTES:	BEAUMONT	BEVERLY	BREATHE EASY	BY THE BOOKS	CAMPUS	CRESTWOOD
STAN C JOYCE F MELISSA A JEANNE D	TUESDAY: KARIN B	LOUIS W CHRIS T AUDREY B	CLIFF P DOUG S JAC M KIRK S PAT L	SHARON H KIRK M	DINA E LINDSEY M MARTIN P	DAN P DAVE C.
CAPILANO	CLAREVIEW	DAILY	ELLERSLIE	FULTON PLACE	HILLETES #2	JASPER PLACE
ANDY H	CHIRS B	REFLECTIONS STEPHANIE B	BRUCE M ALBERT V LEE P	WARREN L	JAANA O ALICIA J	MIKE T RON R
LIGHTHOUSE	MUSTARD SEED	NORTH EDMONTON	OILMEN'S	OPEN DOOR	St. ALBERT BROTHERHOOD	St. ALBERT SUNDAY BREAKFAST
GUY W	JOSEPH & DARLENE	ANDY MC WALLY I MAX L	ANDREW M FAYE E JOE T	PATRICK L	KEN L DAVID L	BOB L NEIL T
12 STEPS TO SERENITY SHWD PARK	MILLSHAVEN SHWD PARK	SHIFTERS	SOUTHSIDE	S.S.Y.P.	THE WHY	THUS WE GROW
DANNY N DAVE R	COLLEEN R DOUG S	DONAL O KASANDRA DAN M CHRIS U BARRY W	BRIAN M BOB A	NATHAN G LAWRENCE M DAVE G LEAH	LISA B	JEFF R CANDICE B
WEST END 12 STEP	WESTGROVE	WESTMINSTER	TERRA NOVA	Sherwood Park Group:	Ken s Wendy M Mike M Tom S Tim T Bob T Rita Mel S Jean G Linda C Tom J	Over 101 combined years of sobriety.
KELLY S SCOTT W	JIM M JEWEL Mc JANE C MARK O ALEXIS G MYRNA N	RON R KATHY B	RENE L DEAN O JOHN M WENDY V			



THUS WE GROW CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST GATHERING

JOIN US AT THE RADISSON INN 4440 GATEWAY BLVD NW FOR A BEAUTIFUL BUFFET BREAKFAST MEETING. TICKETS ARE \$20.00 & \$7.50 FOR CHILDREN OVER 5 YEARS OF AGE.

CONTACT HENRY AT 780-994-8692 FOR MORE INFORMATION. HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE THUS WE GROW GROUP.

EDMONTON COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

EDMONTON GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

1st WEDNESDAY CENTRAL OFFICE 6:30PM

INTER GROUP

2nd THURSDAY CENTRAL OFFICE 7PM

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

3rd WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM ALANO CLUB

PUBLIC INFORMATION CO OPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

LAST WEDNESDAY 6:30PM ALANO CLUB

DISTRICT MEETINGS CALL



EDMONTON'S PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE'S

Reaching out to non AA groups since 1956

Interested in joining our committee and being of service?

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month @ 6:30 pm, at the Alano Club 10728-124 st NW.

Contact Chair Person Peter J @ 780-904-5761

Prjensen26@shaw.ca



"SPIRIT OF THE NORTH"

REMOTE COMMUNITIES TELECONFERENCE MEETING

"A CALL FOR HELP.... A CALL TO ACTION"

WHEN: EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

TIME: 7 P.M. MST Email: remote@area78.org

CALL -IN NUMBER: 1-559-670-1000

Enter Participant Code: 449092 followed by the # key

The meetings are open to all AA members old and new who wish to participate, particularly those who cannot make it to a face to face meeting. We are here simply to help and especially welcome those located in Remote Areas, Newcomers and also those who have Limited Accessibility and Special Needs.

"The Area 78 Remote Communities Committee is committed to carrying the A.A. message of Recovery, Unity and Service to the suffering alcoholic in communities that are remote in terms of geography, language and culture."

Please Note: The "Call-in" number is not free and is a U.S. number. Long distance charges will apply. Many phone plans offer free calling or low rates to anywhere in Canada and the U.S. so please be sure to check what your rates are and what your plan covers.

**GET INVOLVED
COME TO SERVICE
MEETINGS**

Breathe Easy Group
Annual Potluck

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday - December 11/2015 - 8pm-10pm

Hosanna Lutheran Church
9009-163St

Doug.S (780) 483-4524
Kethra (780) 293-6817

Annual Sober Ladies Christmas Dinner

December 9th, 2015

Held at: Franco's Restaurant
12881- 50 Street
Edmonton, AB

Time: 6:00 PM

Come One! Come All!

Bring yourself, your sponsor, your sponsees
and friends



Tellinek Society

Your Holiday Invitation to Join
Us for Our
*Christmas Dinner
&
Open House*

Sunday December 20, 2015
2:00pm - 6:00pm
Dinner @ 3:00pm
(Donations Welcomed)

11229 - 100 Avenue
Recovery Meeting Downstairs
after Dinner at 5:00pm

Please RSVP
by December 7 to
emilias@tellinetsociety.ca
or call
780-488-1160

DEC 24

CAMPUS GROUP

Peace ON EARTH

CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST

**Varscona Hotel on Whyte
8208-106 St.**

Coffee at 7:00am
Breakfast at 7:30am
Open AA Call Up Meeting at 8:00am
\$25 Adults; \$12.50 Children (4-12 years)

**FOR TICKETS CALL: 587-986-0704
OR CENTRAL OFFICE: 780-424-5900**

ALTERED ATTITUDES GROUP

34TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

7:30 AM THURSDAY
DECEMBER 24, 2015

CHATEAU LOUIS CONFERENCE CENTRE

TICKETS \$25

Available at Central Office
Or Call Tom: 780-906-1750
Bob: 780-446-6289

NORTH POLE

GROUPS NEEDING SUPPORT:

HOME GROUP #18
MONDAY NIGHT 8:00PM
CALL ROY P 780-496-9566

NORWOOD GROUP
WEDNESDAY 8:00PM
9516 -114 AVE

SERENITY GROUP
FRIDAY NIGHTS 8:00PM
8420- 145 ST

BEGINNERS DISCUSSION MTG
TUESDAY NIGHT 7:30PM
SOUTHSIDE CHAPTER HOUSE

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
SATURDAY NIGHT 8:00PM
SOUTHSIDE CHAPTER HOUSE

YOUNG & OLD MTG
TUESDAY NIGHT 8:00PM
6329 118 AVE RECOVERY ACRES

DOES YOUR GROUP NEED SUPPORT?
IS YOUR GROUP HAVING A FUNCTION, A SPECIAL CELEBRATION CONTACT
CENTRAL OFFICE AND WE CAN HELP

NEW GROUPS TUESDAY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS:

NEW GROUP:


U OF A AA GROUP
7:00 PM Thursday Nights
ST. JOSEPHS COLLEGE NORTH CAMPUS
11325 89 AVE



TUESDAY NIGHTS
7:30-8:30 PM
10603 ELLERSLIE
ROAD--BAPTIST
CHURCH

**South
Sound
Fellowship
Group**

NEW WOMEN'S MEETING



**Wednesdays
7:30 pm.**

**Church of the Nazarene
Basement
1380 Sherwood Dr.
Sherwood Park**

(Only approved AA literature is used)

DO YOU WISH TO BE OF
SERVICE IN WOMEN'S
CORRECTIONS?
CALL MARGARET TODAY
780-464-5277



Give the Gift of Grapevine

Carry the message. Each Subscription to Grapevine has the potential to travel far beyond the subscriber.

Share sobriety with your sponsees, friends, group or alcoholics in need. Give a gift subscription to Grapevine magazine in print or Grapevine Online.

Experience. Strength. Hope. Like the personal stories heard in meetings, the stories cover a wide range of experiences—from getting and staying sober to problems solved, to emotional and spiritual healing. Many focus on "what it was like, what happened, and what we are like now." Others focus on the Twelve Steps, and the tools of AA.

Dear Folks :

IN THIS year of world-shattering crises, none have more reason for Christmas gratitude than we who so well know how great our unexampled privileges have been. Each of us passed through his own hour of trial, then was lifted up by the Grace of the Prince of Peace into the bright awareness of God's goodness and love.

SUCH HAS been our marvelous privilege. This is why we can now say, no matter what betides, "God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change; courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference."
So, dear friends,

Merry Christmas—

Merry Christmas indeed.

*Ever Yours
Bill*

CALL CENTRAL OFFICE TO HAVE ORDERED AND SHIPPED. WE WILL WRAP IT AND SHIP IT TO YOUR DESIRED RECEIVER.

GRAPEVINE LITERATURE

50% OFF SECOND BOOK

WHEN PURCHASING A GRAPEVINE BOOK.
780-424-5900



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

EBENEZER S. WAS A DRUNK

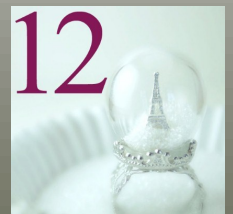
My name is Ebenezer Scrooge and I am an alcoholic. Surprised, eh? You shouldn't be. Confound it, any alcoholic should recognize that story Charles Dickens wrote about me for what it is-hum-bug! I told him the true story myself, one night in the Charing Cross station when we were both waiting for the Liverpool express. A shrewd writer, Dickens. He knew no one would pay two pence for a yarn with a drunk as a hero-not in those straight laced days of Queen Victoria, bless her. So he doctored it up, left out the parts that would offend the public sensibilities and turned it into a bedtime story. Humbug! You want to know what really happened that Christmas Eve? It could happen to anyone-in fact, im sure it has. If not on Christmas Eve, then on other nights when the grog finally catches up with worn out souls like mine. It's our blooming London weather that I blame for the start of it all. In such frost and damp there's nothing can keep the chill out of a mans bones but a finger or two of whiskey. From the day of Jacob Marley and I opened our counting house I kept a bottle of Queens Pride behind the coal scuttle in my offices that every time I fed the stove I could have a little nip. Aye, you guessed it-before long I was visiting that coal scuttle when it was as hot as the hinges of Hades in the middle of July. Now Dickens makes me out to have been not only a miser but an unforgivable grouch. By the time Bob Cratchit came to work for me I'd been drinking morning noon and night for thirty seven years. What kind of disposition would you expect me to have? And Bob Cratchit gave me the fidgets. He never touched a drop. I resented him and when I came in of a morning with a head the size of St. Pauls dome, there was no one to take it out on but poor Bob. Stingy? Of course. I wouldn't part with an odd shilling for fear I might need it some day for an ounce of spirits. I knew Bob Cratchit was underpaid, was underpaid, I knew he had a big family to support, I knew about his ailing lad, Tiny Tim. But an alcoholic never likes to think about those things and I went on trying to make his life as miserable as mine. Well, I always felt lonely and sorry for myself when the holidays came around, and on Christmas Eve it was my custom to marinate myself in Queens Pride and go to bed early. That night I couldn't sleep, and at midnight when those infernal chimes started banging I was sitting in my nightgown in a chair by the fire. You can use your own judgement about what comes next. Dickens says I was seeing "ghosts" They may have been ghosts or they may have been figments of my addled brain, but take my word for it, they seemed as real as the candlestick on my bed table.. First it was Marley, my late partner. (He was an old toper like myself. One night he took a wrong turn staggering home from the Boars Head Tavern and walked right into the Thames and drowned. Dickens left that out, too.) Marley seemed to walk right through my bolted door making a loud racket with something he was dragging behind. Marley was so out of breath he could hardly talk, but he got his message through: In the other world he was condemned to drag around every bottle he had ever emptied, and in case, they stretched to Piccadilly and back. The last thing Marley said before he faded away was, " Ebenezer, its too late for me but its not too late for you." Wouldn't that sober a man up? Not me. I had another belt of Queens Pride and shut my eyes. But the tighter I shut them the more I saw. The past. I lived through it all over again: how I treated my family so meanly, how I lost the girl I wanted to marry. (According to Dickens, she turned me down because she figured I was cold hearted and money mad.) The truth is, she was the vicars daughter and her father finally noticed that every time I came to call I had booze on my breath. The present. I could see into Bob Cratchits house, the meager Christmas they were having there, Mrs. Cratchit calling me on old skin flint, and that poor doomed boy Tiny Tim trying to cheer them up with his " God Bless us Every 'one." I was feeling pretty unhinged by now, but the worst was yet to come. Yet to come.... The Cratchit house somber and gloomy with an empty chair where Tim used to sit..my building boarded up and me out in the front begging alms for the next drink.. A funeral procession my own, and not a mourner in sight. And then, thank heaven it was morning and I say there with tears streaming down my cheeks wishing I could undo the damage of a life time, a lifetime spent in a bottle. I reached for the bottle out of habit but then I stopped. " Queens Pride-humbug" I said aloud, and threw it into the fireplace. Dickens sticks pretty close to the facts from that point on. I spent a glorious Christmas day with people I had loved all along and who miraculously were still willing to love me. Bob Cratchit and his brood became my adoptive family. I've been making anonymous donations to charity and a lot of people would be surprised if they knew their benefactor was that infamous old cuss, Ebenezer Scrooge. There you have it. Next time you take Dickens off the shelf you can read between the lines and get the real meaning of his Christmas Carol. But we don't want to spoil it for non alcoholics, so please remember to respect my anonymity.

R.Z. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 1961

STEP TWELVE : INTERPRETED BY THE EDITOR ANONYMOUS.

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

This step being the last of 12 would lead one to believe it is the end of our work, but it is really just a plateau: the first floor of a vert lofty building hopefully built on a strong foundation. In other words this is not the end but only the beginning. I can only speak for myself on my spiritual awakening, and what it involved. Initially there were occasions where there were profound feelings that he had intervened in the way my life was going at other times this sense of awakening was more subtle but this is much the same as when I am performing 12 step work. To me there are two types of this work. Actively working with another alcoholic, talking to someone that is reaching out for help, going out on a call or getting someone to a meeting. The spiritual and emotional rewards from these actions are almost immediate. Then there is service work at many levels. The rewards from these come in much more subtle ways. Personally they teach me tolerance over what appears to be the attitudes of so many in the fellowship that think that A.A. is run by a bunch of Alcoholics that are always there but are invisible. When I feel that I am doing more than my share I should be grateful for the opportunity to strengthen my sobriety while so many fall by the wayside. After all ensuring that meetings are set up on time and organized so that the newcomer has a place to go has as much importance as the late night phone call off the monitor list. Remember, if you would to carry the message this holiday season. Many people find the season to be harsh filled with memories and past trauma. Love one another and love thy self.



TWELVE DAYS

On the first day of Christmas, the program gave to me..the gift of sobriety.

On the **second** day of Christmas, the program gave to me 2 trusted friends and the gift of sobriety.

On the third day of Christmas the program gave to me, 3 step meetings 2 trusted friends and the gift of sobriety.

On the Fourth day of Christmas, the program gave to me 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends and the gift of sobriety.

On the **fifth** day of Christmas, the program gave to me 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends and the gift of sobriety.

On the Sixth day of Christmas the program gave to me, 6 prayers praying, 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends, and the gift of sobriety.

On the seventh day of Christmas, the program gave to me, 7 sponsors suggestions, 6 prayers praying, 5 gold coins 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends and the gift of sobriety.

On the **eighth** day of Christmas, the program gave to me 8 lessons learning, 7 sponsors suggestions, six prayers praying, 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends, and the gift of sobriety.

On the Ninth day of Christmas, the program gave to me 9 rides given, 8 lessons learnin, 7 sponsors suggestions, 6 prayers praying, 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends, and the gift of sobriety.

On the tenth day of Christmas, the program gave to me 10 people sharing, 9 rides a given, 8 lessons learnin, 7 sponsors suggestions, 6 prayers praying, 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends, and the gift of sobriety.

On the **eleventh** day of Christmas the program gave to me 11 life stories, 10 people sharing, 9 rides a given, 8 lessons learnin, 7 sponsors suggestions, 6 prayers praying, 5 gold coins 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends, and the gift of sobriety.

On the twelfth day of Christmas the program gave to me 12 steps to live by, 11 life stories, 10 people sharing, 9 rides a given, 8 lessons learnin, 7 sponsors suggestions, 6 people praying, 5 gold coins, 4 books to read, 3 step meetings, 2 trusted friends and the GIFT OF SOBRIETY.

DELEGATE MESSAGE:

Dear Area 78 Groups,

As the holiday season approaches and our rooms begin to welcome the still suffering alcoholics, keep in mind the words from our Big Book (page 85) " every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities. How can I best serve Thee?- Thy will (not mine) be done."

Thank you all for your service to our membership. We need one another to pass on our message of hope and love, along with the God of our understanding. To bless us with another 24 hours of sobriety and serenity. Peace be with you all!

Celebrating 80 years of Recovery, Unity and Service. The foundation of our future. Michelle D-K

