

SOBER TIMES

A A I N T H E G O L D E N I S L E S O F G E O R G I A *

Each New Year Starts With Just One Day; Take Each Day As It Comes.

*Golden Isles
Intergroup serving AA
groups in Glynn, Wayne
& MacIntosh
counties, Georgia

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A New Year's Greeting

(From Dr. Bob and Bill)

A new chapter begins... Maybe we should borrow its title from Dickens. Why not call 1948 "the year of great expeditions"?

We may rightly expect that thousands of our kind will be released o' their soul sickness: at year's end most of us will acclaim 1948 the happiest yet. Should misadventure befall any of us we shall remember that joy is to be found in the midst of any difficulty, if we can abandon ourselves to God's will.

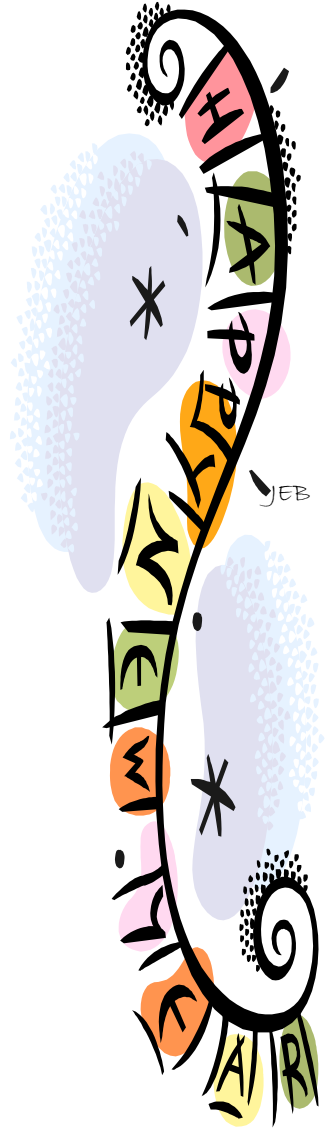
What great gifts there! Who indeed could expect more?

So at the beginning of this fresh chapter-the good year of 1948-may we all look thankfully at each other exclaiming, Great Expectations and Happy New Year!

**This article was on the front page of
*The Grapevine, Vol. IV, No. 8, January 1948.***

Thank you Dr. Bob and Bill...

May it ring true for 2011!



“WHEN YOU THINK
YOU ARE OVERDUE
FOR A MIRACLE IN YOUR LIFE,
JUST REMEMBER: YOU ARE RIGHT
IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE.”
From *The Grapevine*, May 1986



We are recovering alcoholics 12/7. And 12/7 it is our responsibility to live as recovering alcoholics, not just during a meeting or when it is convenient or when others are looking.
A single word or phrase of encouragement can change a life.
Strive to be the person giving that encouragement and changing a life.
A New Year's Resolution, suggested by a "Sober Member of AA".

Charming Is the Word for Alcoholics by Fulton Oursler (July 1944)

DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE social scale of AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables, and the outcasts, all under-privileged and all known by one excoriating epithet - relatives.

I am a relative. I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope no one will mind if I venture the plaintive confession that there are times, oh, many times when I wish I had been an alcoholic. By that I mean that I wish I were an AA. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, I have found it my fortune to meet many of the people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know the ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I have broken bread with kings and ministers and ambassadors; and I say, after that catalog, that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to an evening with any person or group of persons I have indicated.

I asked myself why I consider so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few.

The AA people are what they are, and they were what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and an awareness of universal truth. They are sensitive, which means that they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they have found their restoration, they are still as sensitive as ever - responsive to beauty and to truth and eager about the intangible glories of life.

That makes them charming companions.

They are imaginative, and that helped to make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imagination on to greater efforts. Others guzzled only to black out unendurable visions that rose in their imaginations. But when they have found their restoration, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, and their talk abounds with color and light, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed of a sense of humor. Even in their cups, they have been known to say damnably funny things. Often, it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek escape in a bottle. But when they have found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to reach a godlike state where they can laugh at themselves - the very height of self-conquest. Go to the meetings and listen to the laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

And they are possessed of a sense of universal truth. That is often a new thing in their hearts. The fact that this at-oneness with God's universe had never been awakened in them is sometimes the reason they drank. The fact that it was at last awakened is almost always the reason that they were restored to the good and simple ways of life. Stand with them when the meeting is over and listen as they say the Lord's Prayer!

They have found a Power greater than themselves which they diligently serve. And that gives a charm that never was elsewhere on land and sea; it makes you know that God himself is really charming, because the AA people reflect his mercy and his forgiveness.

Charles Fulton Oursler (January 22, 1893 - May 24, 1952) was an American journalist and writer. Contributed by Kathleen H.

CONGRATULATIONS!

*TO ALL THOSE
PICKING UP
CHIPS!*



Happy Hour Group	
Scott E.	01/16/96
Jerry C.	01/24/84

Eulonia Group	
Lee G.	01/04/09
Ken C.	01/05/86
Steve C.	01/06/86
Ellen B.	01/17/98
Jerry A.	01/25/87

Today Group	
Sue P.	01/01/85
McCrae H.	01/09/86
Ellen D.	01/16/85
Wayne D.	01/31/86

Out To Lunch Group	
David J.	01/14/08
Sheila R.	01/25/08

Goodwill Group	
Tom H.	01/02/98
Michael B.	01/05/94
Vivian E.	01/05/06
Robert T.	01/07/88

Step By Step Group	
Molly H.	01/29/07
Adrian H.	01/31/10
Alex S.	02/28/06

Twelve & Twelve Group	
Gaby M.	01/07/99
Kathleen H.	01/14/01
Jean G.	02/06/68

The Women's Meeting	
Eileen B.	01/02/03
Glenda C.	01/15/10
Lori R.	01/25/10
Cindy B.	02/06/08
Anna T.	02/15/07
Catherine F.	02/22/96
Jennifer M.	02/26/06

First Things First Group	
Clif J.	01/28/07

Union Street Group	
Eileen B.	01/02/03
Gaby M.	01/07/99
Tom T.	01/09/95
Jacqueline B.	01/12/08
Jonathan D.	01/15/08

Tabby House Group	
Taylor D.	01/02/08
Barry B.	01/07/08
Terry C.	01/08/01
Jason F.	01/24/08



**Want your name in the paper?
Have an upcoming AA birthday/anniversary?
Please email intergroup.editor@gmail.com**

AN OLDIE BUT GOODIE!

A sponsor and his newcomer are at a meeting when the newcomer suddenly collapses, goes into cardiac arrest and falls to the floor. The paramedics arrive, perform CPR and bring the newcomer back to life. "My GOD!" says the sponsor. "I thought we had lost you". The newcomer looks up and tells his sponsor, "I believe I was actually dead for a short time. I saw a bright light and felt myself basking in the light of my Higher Power. I'm sure it was Heaven. It was an amazing experience!"

"What was Heaven like?" asks the sponsor. The newcomer smiles and replies, "Well, I got good news, and I got bad news. The good news is that in Heaven they have a huge speaker meeting every Thursday night. All the greatest AA speakers that have passed away speak there". "And the bad news?" asks the sponsor.

The newcomer looks his sponsor in the eyes and replies, "The bad news is that you're scheduled to be the speaker next week".

“ W H E N E V E R A N Y O N E , A N Y W H E R E , R E A C H E S
O U T F O R H E L P , I W A N T T H E H A N D O F A A
A L W A Y S T O B E T H E R E .
A N D F O R T H A T : I A M R E S P O N S I B L E . ”



SOUTHEAST CLUSTER FORUM

***FEBRUARY 26, 2011
8:00 AM REGISTRATION***

***MIDWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
249 MARTIN ROAD
MIDWAY GA 31320***

***“WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AA’S FUTURE—
LET IT BEGIN WITH US”
Get involved—Attend the forum!***



WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://GOLDENISLESAA.ORG](http://GOLDENISLESAA.ORG)

WRITERS NEEDED!

Submit an article for the next SOBER TIMES

***Should be written in MS Word, attached saved
file to an email as an attachment
and send to intergroup.editor@gmail.com.***

One small clip art per article allowed.

Sober Times is a newsletter of the Golden Isles Intergroup and is created by alcoholics for alcoholics. Articles in the newsletter written by individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous are expressions of their own experiences and opinions and not necessarily those of our intergroup or AA as a whole. Quotations from AA Books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of AA World Services.

If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider they are there for a reason. We publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Mark Twain

Everyone Invited! To the next
INTERGROUP MONTHLY MEETING
February 1, 2011

*Golden Isles Intergroup
PO Box 397
Brunswick GA 31521
912-265-0892
goldenislesintergroup@gmail.com*