

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio and films." — *Tradition 11*

Area 49 votes to make case at next General Service Conference for an atheist, agnostic pamphlet

By Ed W., GSR, *This Ungodly Hour* (District 404)

This April, District 404 voted unanimously to adopt "The 'God' Word: Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.," a pamphlet that is already "conference-approved" by the United Kingdom's General Service Office, and to propose to our own General Service Office that it be made available for distribution in the U.S. and Canada. Our hope is to get this proposal on the agenda for the 2018 General Service Conference. The odds are now looking better: SENY Area 49 has voted to back this effort and a Canadian district has already made a similar motion.

Why a new secular pamphlet and why now? There are sober alcoholics in the Program, including many atheists and agnostics, who don't believe in the traditional concept of God or a Higher Power. Many of them wish for literature that better carries the message to suffering drunks with similar beliefs. The 2014 pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality" was a step in the right at direction. But many feel it doesn't properly address what it's like being an atheist or agnostic in A.A.

"What we are are not trying to do here is reinvent the wheel, let alone the Big Book, or change anyone's beliefs. ... We are just hoping to add another tool to the toolbox of recovery."— Ed. W.

The stories in "The 'God' Word" identify with atheists and agnostics in the program. They better communicate to the newcomer that it's okay to believe differently and work this program — and says it bluntly, without having to dress it up in overtly spiritual language. Here are some excerpts:

- *"I am glad that there are a few atheist meetings now where newcomers can share freely. I do have a practice which some people would describe as spiritual, although I wouldn't call it that myself. I meditate every day and I think it helps keep me on an even keel, mentally and emotionally."* (p. 9)
- *"I did realize, however, that I had a faith all along, not in a magic man in the sky but in the power of nature. If I cut my hand the cut will heal, all by itself as long as I keep it clean. My body has been busy healing, recovering from the damage caused by alcohol. I believe that this also applies to my psychological well-being. With the help of the human power of compassion and unconditional support I get from the members of this Fellowship and the tools of the Twelve Step Program, I can give this healing process a chance. It is certainly a power greater than myself."* (p. 13)



What we are are not trying to do here is reinvent the wheel, let alone the Big Book, or change anyone's beliefs. The Program will remain the Program. We are just hoping to add another tool to the toolbox of recovery. The SENY Area 49 Literature Committee may recommend the Conference create a brand-new pamphlet or adopt the U.K. one. It will then require a two-thirds vote of the U.S./Canada GSC to pass. (District 10 of Area 83 [South-Central Toronto] has already passed and submitted a similar motion to the Conference. Now, additional support from Area 49 could lend weight to the proposal.) "The 'God' Word" can be downloaded at NorthBrooklynAA.org. Thank you for your support!— Ed W., GSR, *This Ungodly Hour*

ONE WAY TO HELP OUT AAs ON THE INSIDE



The New York Inter-Group' Corrections & Treatment Facilities Committee's monthly meeting in Brooklyn convenes at 1 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month at: 103 Quincy St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238 (btw. Franklin & Classon Aves.; in basement.) More: www.nyintergroup.org/get-involved/ctfc/.

Queens County to host 2017 edition of 'spirituality through service' workshop in December

"LISTS: Long Island Spirituality Through Service" is a workshop put on by all four counties — Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Kings (Brooklyn) — located on Long Island. It is somewhat like a Share A Day, only a bit shorter, and focuses on the service legacy of our Fellowship. This year, the workshop is hosted by Queens County and takes place Dec. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The location will be JHS 231, 145-00 Springfield Blvd., in Springfield Gardens, Queens, NY 11413 (If driving, take Exit 22 off the Belt Parkway near John F. Kennedy Airport.)

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What's new on the SENY scene?

- The Area Assembly authorized Delegate John W. to negotiate with the **Tarrytown Marriott** to extend the contract for the **SENY Convention** through 2019 and 2020.
- The Assembly did not approve a motion to request **AA World Services** withdraw from the lawsuit to recover and acquire the **printer's copy of the Big Book** manuscript with prejudice.
- Area Registrar Fred M. attended the **National AA Tech Workshop**. His presentation is viewable on YouTube at web address www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQKzLEHfHc8.

*Have something to announce? Something to say?
Questions or comments? E-mail Ken K. at
brooklynjunction@brooklynnaa.org.*

District 404 presents

"The 411 on Steps 4 & 5"

A "how-to" workshop on Step work



Saturday, Dec. 9 @ 1 p.m.

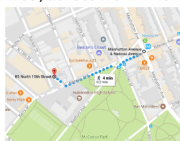
San Damiano Mission

85 N. 15th St., Brooklyn NY 11222

(btw. Nassau & Wythe Aves.; across from The Lot Radio kiosk)

- 3-Speaker Workshop w/ handouts
- Q&A session
- Free lunch provided

For more information, email:
northbrooklyn404@gmail.com



TRANSIT

Subway: G train to Nassau Ave. or L train to Bedford Ave.
Buses: B62, B43, B48 to Nassau Ave. & Manhattan Ave.

Serving below the group level? New to service? Up your AA service game by hitting a Concepts meeting!

OLD PARK SLOPE CATON CONCEPTS MEETING

7 p.m. — 3rd Monday of each month

Venue: 74 East 17th St., 2nd Fl. (Off Church Ave.)

Brooklyn, NY 11226

Transit: B/Q trains to Church Ave.

Brooklyn County Officer Contacts

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
DCMC	Mel R.	dcmc@brooklynnaa.org	
ALT. DCMC	Heidi C.	altdcmc@brooklynnaa.org	
TREASURER	Joe S.	treasurer@brooklynnaa.org	
SECRETARY	Lu D.	secretary@brooklynnaa.org	
REGISTRAR	Nisaa	registrar@brooklynnaa.org	

Queens hosts LISTS 2017 event

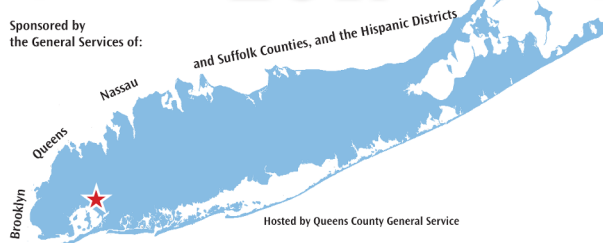
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Following a light breakfast, there will be a meditation meeting and a keynote address from our Delegate, John W. After lunch, there will be breakout sessions on various topics related to the idea of spirituality through service. Topics range from a discussion of some of the Concepts and Traditions, to spirituality in the spirit of rotation and avoiding burnout, among others. The sessions are led by two speakers, who share briefly on the topic, followed by general sharing by the participants. LISTS has been an ongoing event since 2010, with all four counties' General Services sharing the planning off and on with the four counties' Hispanic districts, associated YPAAs and Inter-Groups. This is Queens' second go at hosting the workshop. Next year, Brooklyn will host LISTS.

— Cathy M.

LONG ISLAND SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SERVICE 2017

Sponsored by
the General Services of:



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

JRS 231 145-00 SPRINGFIELD BLVD

SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, NY 11413

Affirming the Spiritual Benefits of Service to Recovering Alcoholics

Light Breakfast and Lunch

Workshops

Big Meetings

Wheelchair Accessible

Meditation

English & Spanish translation

for more information, contact JoAnn M.



HOW YOUR GROUP CAN CHIP IN!

Does your group collection cup (or basket or hat) runneth over with funds? Consider making a group 7th Tradition donation to Brooklyn County. Send contributions to:

AA Brooklyn County General Service
PO Box 170582
Brooklyn, NY 11217

(Make checks and money orders payable to **AA Brooklyn County General Service**.)