

The Rainbow  
Connector

# The Rainbow Connection



" ... caring and sharing the N.A. way ... "

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Published as a service of the  
Marietta Area Service Committee  
Individual opinions expressed do not  
necessarily represent those of N.A.  
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TWO

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

\*\*\*\*\*  
GROUP NEWS  
\*\*\*\*\*

Windy Hill - New H&I meeting 8:00 pm  
Open meeting in cafeteria on  
Thursday nights. Contact Tony T.  
for more information. Support H&I.

Sunday Women's Group - Has a new name,  
by group conscience: WOMEN'S NIGHT  
OUT. Also, new trusted servants:  
Secretary/Treasurer Karin B., Alt  
GSR Karen J., GSR Karin B. Call  
426-8926. Needs support badly.

Friday Night at Brawners - 8:00 - Needs  
support. In August there was a  
meeting with twenty members and  
only four from the outside. See  
Bruce if you are willing to  
volunteer for discussion.

Brawners Tuesday Night - 8:00 - Newly  
formed H&I meeting. Four to eight  
members to twenty or thirty  
patients. One meeting a month is  
speaker. The rest are open  
discussion. Everyone welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*  
OUT OF TOWN  
\*\*\*\*\*

Athens Groups celebrate 5 years on  
Saturday, September 27 at 7:30 pm.  
There will be a dinner, a meeting

THREE

and a dance. Go to the Athens  
Christian Church on Prince Avenue  
at the corner of Pulaski in Athens,  
Georgia.

\*\*\*\*\*  
NA BIRTHDAYS  
\*\*\*\*\*

ONE YEAR

Mariea M.            September 22, 1985  
Jack H.              October 25, 1985

TWO YEARS

Phillip (Midtown) October 16, 1984

FIFTEEN YEARS

Greg P.              October 25, 1970

To allow us to include the  
announcement of you upcoming birthday's,  
please contact us and give us the  
information on where you will be  
celebrating, etc. Thanks for allowing us  
to serve.

\*\*\*\*\*  
SERVICE  
\*\*\*\*\*

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

Attend meeting Thursday, September  
25 at 6:15 P.M. at the Clubhouse of the  
Rising Sun in Marietta to get involved.  
The Committee is following the World H&I  
Guidelines and needs help getting some

## FOUR

new meetings started and servicing the needs of existing meetings. Some clean time required for certain positions but everyone is welcome to attend.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recently, momentum has begun to build with the reorganization of the Marietta Area Public Information Committee. An organizational meeting was held on August 21, 1986 where many ideas were tossed around and great enthusiasm was generated.

Some of the ideas of the sub-committee were discussed with certain actions planned immediately and others were put off until a stronger structure has been established. The overwhelming feeling among the people was that something must be done. For over a year, Area PI has been virtually non-existent. Today, there are many things that can be done. We can investigate the possibility of a local helpline, radio and TV announcements, high school assemblies and numerous other outlets to carry the N.A. message to those who need our program. We must keep in mind our Eleventh Tradition by attracting addicts to our program while being careful not to promote N.A.

As our PI activities mature, we will need more places to hold our meetings. Over the past few years we have seen growth here in Marietta just as we have seen Worldwide growth of N.A. Many meetings are very crowded, even as new meetings start.

Our primary purpose is to carry the

## FIVE

message to the addict who still suffers. We hope to accomplish this through our service structure. If you are interested in helping with PI activities, have ideas to help our efforts or are just interested in what all of this PI stuff is, come to our monthly meeting at 9:30 pm on the Third Thursday of each month at the Clubhouse of the Rising Sun.

In Loving Service,  
Jim W.  
Marietta Area PI Chair

Note: P.I. Workshop/Fundraiser October 3, 4 and 5, 1986 at John Tanner State Park, Carrollton, GA workshops all day Saturday. Marathon meetings. Out of town speaker on 'UNITY': Jim M. from Lanham, MD. Spiritual meeting Sunday morning. Cost \$8.00 registration includes two nights camping, dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. 50/50 raffle.

### GEORGIA LITERATURE

Thanks to all the members who attended the last meeting. The next meeting will be held at Sign City, 2818 Atlanta Road, Smyrna, GA 404/432-8840. Future meetings will be held on the last Sunday of the month to simplify attendance for members.

You are invited to attend a Workshop to review 'Staying Clean on the Outside' and 'Am I an Addict?'. Go to 790 S. Central Avenue in Hapeville (S. Atlanta) at 12:00 noon. This is YOUR literature, please tell us what you

## SIX

think of it. For more info call: Bryce 404/951-0788, Bo 404/432-8840 or Ellen 404/961-5109. Flyers have been passed out with maps. The material should be available through your GSR. Call or write if you need assistance. Thank you.

### ODE TO THE NEWCOMER

I know you are hurting  
Though your mind is gone.  
Still, feel for me with love.  
Hobbling down the road of life,  
I love you, little turtle dove.  
How painfully you move, yet  
If you quit now, you will die.  
I love you, little turtle dove.  
My love is large and wide,  
Yet, I know that you can't see it.  
Still, I love you; you are mine.  
Your wing is broken,  
Your feathers are ruffled,  
And your beak is bruised.  
You have taken a dive, and lost  
everything.  
Now, you have nothing left to lose.  
I love you, little turtle dove.  
You are my little one.  
Keep babbling; mind not the future.  
If I had meant for you to be perfect,  
You would not gather dirt and need  
to be cleaned.  
Do not think that you are not worth it.  
Who said that I was perfect.  
All that I can do, is love you  
little dove.  
Torn wing,  
bruised feet,  
tortured mind:

## SEVEN

My love for you is unending.  
Inside you, I can live, even  
In that hell, rats in a maze.  
Keep walking, I could cry.  
Love is very healing.  
I have compassion for the being  
that you are.  
If I could have your pain;  
Easy,  
    Easy,  
        Step  
            by  
                Step...

Hank F.  
Marietta, GA  
R.C.-March 1981

## RENAISSANCE

Re-NA-sance. How about it? Are you wondering where we will go from here as a Fellowship? Ask your Higher Power!

It has been said that the hardest thing in the world to do is to stay where you are at. I believe this is true from my own personal experience. Always, I used to think if only I could get this or that or the other thing, I would be happy and able to just sit back for the duration. Today, I know better. Life is a journey and I need to be able to follow a path to keep from getting lost.

As almost all members know, a lot of time honored dreams have come true for us as a Fellowship within the last ten years. Today we have our Basic Text, an active World Services and more meetings and members than seemed



## EIGHT

possible in so short a time not long ago. We have grown inwardly as well as outwardly in these years. Perhaps, the real dream of staying clean and enjoying life without the use of drugs is just beginning. The emphasis today is more and more improving our personal programs. While we are still 'expansionistic' we are becoming 'inspirationistic' as well! A lot of addicts have gotten clean in the last few years and are realizing that the Twelve Steps require more than lip service. They are essential. As a Fellowship, we know that we have to seek spiritually if we are to grow. Superficial recovery and abstinence will never fill in the hole in the gut. The damage we have experienced from our disease is healed through the Twelve Step process.

There has never been a time when personal service was not more important and essential for our growth than any service titles or positions. One on one, personal service has always been our bottom line. None of our service efforts would make any sense except for this type of service.

The renaissance is coming from the fact that many members are coming to realize that there are a lot of things they can do to help which will go undone without them. Just acting on Faith and giving it our best is enough to insure results. We know enough about what happens when we give uninformed and uninspired members who fear the structure the right to shut down our services. It has happened and the only

## NINE

result is disorder and disunity. Personal preferences take precedent over our N.A. group purpose and there is no benefit to anyone, those who perpetrate the problems or the members who do without the services.

You know how our disease works: we get together and good things happen as long as good people dominate. Envy, fear, doubt and dismay may set in where this is not the case. Your servants are entirely dependent on the good wishes and gratitude of you the member. This is the only basis for any sort of real progress. We have found that we cannot grow from above. We grow upward from the ground gained, from the will of you the Fellowship.

From funeral of a member's grandmother:

God hath not promised  
    Skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
    All our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
    Sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
    Peace without pain.

But God hath promised  
    Strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor  
    Light for the way.  
Grace for the trials,  
    Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy  
    Undying love...

## THE N.A. GARDEN - A GARDEN OF LIFE

I can remember that moment like it was yesterday. I was on the ceiling looking down at a small group of people who were gathered around a body on the floor. They were talking to the person on the floor, but there was no reply. The person's legs were jerking about uncontrollably. His face was drained of all life...the eyes were opened, but they stared blankly off into space. Then I heard my name, and it struck me that it was me stretched out on the floor. I tried to tell them that I wasn't down there, I was up on the ceiling, but they couldn't hear me. Then I realized that this was it. I was leaving. My pain was over. They picked my body up and carried it into the bedroom down the hall, but I remained on the ceiling. I heard a girl crying, but it was very distant, like an echo. Something happened. I felt an energy pulling me into the bedroom. The next thing I knew, I was looking into a pair of eyes, and a stream of strength and calmness was flowing into my body from those eyes. I still could not move or speak, but I was reunited with my body and I knew I was going to live. For the first time in years, I felt a desire to live.

The eyes belonged to my best friend. He'd been fighting Hodgkin's Disease for two years. Somehow, he's transferred his strength and desire to live into my being. I felt love and peace. Five days later my friend died. His disease overcame him, and he left

## ELEVEN

this world. I grieved, but deep inside I knew that what he gave me was still alive. I continued getting high for several months after that, but something had changed. Every time I got high, I remembered that night on the ceiling. One night it occurred to me that my friend had suffered from a disease, and that he had done everything he could to stay alive. I then realized that I too had a disease, and that I was slowly dying from it. In fact, I should have been dead, but for the Grace of God and my friend's gift. I prayed for the first time that night. I asked God to help me to stop killing myself... to show me a way out of my living hell.

It was three weeks later that I first discovered N.A. That small seed of desire that my friend had planted broke through the surface of life in that first meeting, and it began to develop roots in the Fellowship of N.A.

I shared my grief over the loss of my friend in those first few meetings, and I felt a healing and understanding empathy throughout my being. Most of all, I felt love, and I felt life, all around me. I wasn't breaking through the surface of life alone! I was one of many flowers in this garden of life.

This miracle that I have received is one which I remain always willing to give away to others who are struggling to break through the surface of life. It is important for me to remember, though, that I can only be instrumental in this way by remaining in the garden, then I can help it to find some roots, and to allow the love and empathy of our

## TWELVE

meetings and the Steps to feed it and  
grow into a beautiful flower. Helping in  
this way is the essence of life for me.

Anonymous  
R.C. July 1983  
Marietta, GA

### S U M M E R H A S A R R I V E D

Summer has arrived  
with a feeling of newness and strength.

I want to live again and be happy as I  
once was when I was a child.

It's time to  
step out on faith,  
have no fear,  
and live each day to its fullest.

For I have been given a gift -  
the chance to live,  
the chance to grow  
and the chance to share.

You are special and you have been chosen  
to live a special life  
that is different from everyone  
else's.

Remember this, for there will be times  
you may forget,  
there is a life worth living,  
a life worth growing,  
and a life worth sharing.

Smile at the sunshine  
and welcome the rain,  
for you are but a mere part of  
the universe.

## THIRTEEN

You cannot stop the sun from shining or  
the rain from raining. You can only stop  
yourself from living this life that has  
been given to you.

Given to you by a power that loves you  
and cares for you every step of the way.

Mariea  
Marietta 1986

### P O E M

Never to bed,  
Maybe I'll rise,  
Sun don't catch my still  
sleeping eyes.

'Cause then I'm late,  
My head all confused  
But at least I can say  
I still haven't used!

\*\*\*\*\* DON'T QUIT \*\*\*\*\*

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low,  
and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile  
but you have to sigh,



## FIFTEEN

legs, which suddenly and unnoticably are not available by the willful intrusion of my disease.

They are only mine again through surrender to inventory, a principle made available by personal recovery.

I have no choice but surrender!

Everything I have has been shared, freely given, but I must make it my own. It is only mine based on my own experience with it. I must experience it, for it to become real to me. All else grows from this experience. I must use it, work with it, test it, taste it, and when the experience becomes real to me, it is mine.

When I find something that may work, I have hope. When I try it and experience it, it is an act of faith, and when it works, it is real. Hope and an act of faith have given me a miracle.

This is my experience with the program. I cannot live on borrowed knowledge. I must make it my own, and in doing so it becomes ours. I have, and have become, a larger part of We. I share more of the spiritual unity that is the gift of N.A. A knowledge that we are not separate from each other or from God.

## HISTORY

(continued from July 1986)

After the Literature Conference in Lincoln, plans were made for the next Lit Conference to be held in Memphis, Tennessee. Packets of material developed



in Lincoln were sent out to all active local Literature Committees. These contained materials relating to different chapters. By the time we got to Memphis, there were an incredible number of members informed and involved in the effort. About seventy five from all over the Fellowship showed up to help.

It is impossible to share in writing the beauty and unity we shared at Memphis. Nine days, twenty-four hours a day, we worked. We broke up into workshops and came together for group conscience sessions to keep attending members informed of the progress of the other workshops, then break up into workshops again. We had a blackboard with the goals of all the workshops listed on it and would check off the attainments of each workshop as the work progressed. At the end of the nine days, the material was complete enough to send out for review.

Word went out to the Fellowship that the material was ready to be sent out and that money was needed for the printing and mailing. Before the close of the Memphis Conference, group conscience agreed to one of the most startling plans which worked out well in our entire history! Raise the money, within the Fellowship to print and mail a copy of the Review Form free to every meeting in the entire world! This was done by the end of February, 1981, less than thirty days after the beginning of the Memphis Conference.

## SEVENTEEN

Over ten thousand dollars was raised and the money spent on typists, printing, locating every meeting in the world by phone and mailing them a copy of the grey covered 'Review Form'. Additional copies were sold to members at the same price paid by the members who attended the Memphis Conference and did the work. To accomplish all this, members stayed on in Memphis to help meet the February 28th deadline to send out the material sixty days prior to the World Service Conference to be held around May 1st.

We had been told that committees don't write books and this sounded like the truth to us. How then, did our Basic Text, 'Narcotics Anonymous', come to be written by an N.A. service committee. The truth is that like other service terminology, our 'committee' are really only combinations of members who want to see a certain thing happen and are willing to commit and put forth the effort consistently enough to get the job done. Where these members are committed to spiritual principles like we are, the results are spiritual.

It is also a tribute to our service structure that a work as sensitive and crucial as our basic recovery Text was born among members working together along the same lines and with similiar approaches to problems as our average service committee. The Book itself is proof that our service structure works. Instead of a committee meeting every month with activity by committee members in the interval, we compressed the time factor and brought more attention to

bear by eliminating the distracting elements which would ordinarily present in our daily lives. The group conscience sessions to discuss items and report to the other members the progress of the committee each members worked in was like the monthly committee meeting. The workshop and editing sessions were like the rest of the month when the lion's share of the work got done. The group conscience sessions were held at about six hour intervals throughout the week. With fifty to seventy five members working around twenty hour stretches, it is easy to see how we built up a tremendous number of hours. The work was so inspiring and interesting, it allowed us to transcend our usual limitations.

The next Literature Conference was scheduled for the last week in April, 1981 in Santa Monica, California. Input to the Review Form would be gone over and there was a chance the Committee would ask for approval of the material.

While all this was going on, the rest of the Fellowship meetings, committees and members were energized as never before. Along with the lie that 'addicts in recovery can't write' other lies were biting the dust. We were finding out for the first time on a grand scale what we were capable of when we set aside personal differences for group goals.

After the Book was done, the members who wrote it stayed involved and worked in the other phases of our spiritual service effort like H&I, PI, Activities, Administration and Policy. Personal service still comes first but

## NINETEEN

our standards for other forms of service were raised to higher levels than before. The results were that with increasing unity of effort we were able to carry our message as never before. Laws in the City of New York were changed to allow N.A. meetings. Members overseas found our message in the Grey Form and later in the White Approval Form and eventually the Approved Hardback. They got clean and stayed clean. This process is still going on today.

It was at Memphis that the conceptual stranglehold on Narcotics Anonymous was broken forever. This stranglehold had kept N.A. and its members still relegated to a limited role which said 'addicts in recovery can't write', N.A. doesn't offer real recovery and other myths which have since been broken. This spirit goes on today and may consist of a collective vision of N.A. as a program in its own right, complete with service boards and committees, a functional WSO, our basic text, Narcotics Anonymous and the many enduring works which have come since.

Such increase cannot occur without the pain of birth. Something new was born. Invisible to participants except as a feeling. A matter of course for our newcomers and a devastating 'changing of the rules' for a lot of people not used to thinking of recovering addicts as capable people motivated by spirited love and dedication both to ourselves and the program of Narcotics Anonymous.

(to be continued)

STAFF REPORT

Something real nice is happening. Ten members stayed late after the Saturday Night Live Group to help edit the proofs for this issue. Several members helped collect the announcements and the committees put in some material relating to the local service efforts. It is a real pleasure to serve. Thank you all.

ARTICLES

Please send in announcements and articles for next issue. Our address remains: Rainbow Connection, 2818 Atlanta Road, Smyrna, GA 30080.

I Love You Each and Every One

