

“So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question” – *Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 130 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

Editor's Note: the first issue of the Daily Reprieve

Singapore AA turns 52 this year, something which we found out during the preparations for our '50th' Anniversary Celebrations!!! (courtesy of the WSO website: <http://www.aa.org/aatimeline/> year 1958). Over that time the Singapore Fellowship has grown, with several new groups appearing in recent years, necessitating the creation over the last year of a Singapore Intergroup to coordinate service activity within Singapore as a whole. One initial result is that Singapore AA has been able to follow in the early US fellowship's footsteps by developing valuable cooperative relations with a prominent local addictions physician, leading to the opening of our first (trial) meeting in an institution (Raffles Hospital, Tuesday night). We hope more such H&I and PI/CPC work (check out www.aa.org website under 'for groups and members' for explanations of these activities) will give all Singapore members plenty of opportunities for carrying the message, helping others and ourselves to become sober and happy! Check with your group or contact AA Singapore through the website to find contacts for AA service activities in Singapore. The Anniversary meeting and Dinner & Dance was another early fruit of our new Intergroup service structure.

Reports on these and other AA activities within Singapore are included in this newsletter. The 'Daily Reprieve', as part of the Intergroup activity, is a forum for the fellowship in Singapore to share our experience, strength and hope in print, and to cultivate unity through communication. Contributions are encouraged from all members. We hope it will have a distinctly Singaporean style, and meet the needs of the fellowship here as similar publications do for other countries and cities around the world. Singapore members' sharing will continue to be an integral part of our publication. To contribute to future newsletters, contact Brad at ba_smithy@yahoo.com.au, or through your Intergroup representative.

from the Intergroup Charter

The Singapore Intergroup is a service office that has been established to carry out certain functions common to many A.A. Groups in the Singapore community. Operating under the guidelines of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, the Singapore Intergroup is maintained, supervised, and supported by the local Singapore A.A. groups. The primary purpose of Singapore Intergroup is to aid the individual A.A. groups in their common purpose to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Some of the items Intergroup is working on are: coordinating twelfth step calls; maintaining the telephone answering system, website, and meeting list; providing public information; carrying the message in hospitals and institutions; cooperation with the professional community; organizing local AA events; providing information exchange among local groups via regular meetings and a newsletter; and ordering literature. Intergroup meets every month. Contact your Intergroup group representative or email the AA Singapore website for contact information if you wish to contribute to these service activities.

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Singapore AA Intergroup Newsletter

Singapore AA Website:

<http://www.alcoholicsanonymoussingapore.org/>

AA Singapore 52nd Anniversary celebration

Imagine my amazement when we held hands forming a giant circle of over 100 people that afternoon to say the Serenity Prayer. This was the conclusion of the meeting portion of our celebration which then stretched on until 10pm with a Dinner and Dance. It was great to have visitors from many nations join us and participate in the meeting. Lots of recovery, and lots of excitement as we had the sobriety countdown. This ended with an Oldtimer giving the newly sober person a Big Book signed by those attending the meeting. What a special moment!

Of course our speakers shared their experience, strength and hope. One member brought us back to 1957 when AA first started in Singapore. His humour as usual kept us chuckling as we marveled at how AA in Singapore has grown. Our next speaker shared his story and how AA was here for him. Finally our invited speaker from Bali inspired us with her story of recovery. It was for me a time of gratitude as I looked out on the gathering of people from all over sharing one thing in common – the disease of alcoholism and the solution that is found in AA!

The Dinner and dance portion of the celebration was just as uplifting. The M.C. had us all playing games to break the ice. It was wonderful watching the spouses and children of us alkies also joining in the fun as we did the newspaper dance! Lots of prizes and the girls' team won the sobriety race. Yeah girls! Our DeeJay got the music right with some help from younger members so we could groove to the newer songs! It was especially nice to see some families dancing together – mum, dad, and kids! We even had a giant birthday cake for AA Singapore. I know the event would not have been possible without the Events committee who helped make the whole event a success, AND all the volunteers who turned up on the day to lend a hand! Wow! I was totally overwhelmed by the love in the room and the miracle that happens when a bunch of drunks in recovery pool their resources. Amazing! We WILL have to do this again.

From the AA WSO website historical timeline - <http://www.aa.org/aatimeline/>

“Signing on in Singapore

Dick D, who regularly corresponds with G.S.O. New York, writes in March 1958 that the Singapore group, founded in 1957, now has twelve members and two likely prospects." *Reprinted from WSO AA website, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*”

Events

40th Anniversary Convention of AA in Hong Kong – October 9-11

website: www.aa-hk.org/40thanni.html

2010 International Convention of AA – July 1-4 San Antonio, Texas USA

<http://www.aa.org>

45th Australian National Convention 2010 – 1-5 April, Coffs Harbour

<http://www.aanatconcoffsharbour2010.cjb.net/>

AA Japan 35th Anniversary, March 12-14, 2010, Nagoya

Website: <http://www.aa-japan.org>

AA Malaysia's website: www.aamalaysia.org

News

The Sunday Men's meeting has moved (again: in nomad style) to the Starbucks on Cuppage Rd near Somerset MRT (across from Centerpoint) – cf website for map

8th AOSM (Asia-Oceania Service Meeting) in Bangkok, July 24-26,

Theme: 'Reaching Out'

AOSM is a zonal meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. The AOSM meeting was created to share experience, strength and hope among the participating countries helping them to establish, grow and unify A.A. in the Asia and Pacific area. Sponsorship of developing countries by more established countries helps to reach the hand of A.A. ever further out to help others to achieve sobriety.

At the meeting there were delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore and Thailand. In addition were the AOSM Chairperson and Secretary, the GSO New York General Manager and the staff member who runs the International Desk at GSO NY. Throughout the weekend Nathan and I were asking ourselves and each other what we could take away from this experience to benefit the Singapore A.A. fellowship. We asked questions during the formal meetings, committee meetings, and informal discussions over coffee. We listened to delegates from our neighboring fellowships share their experience, strength and hope – both their successes and obstacles they have faced in carrying the message. From everything we heard, were assured that we are on the right track in forming an Intergroup to expand and unify our efforts in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Overall, the AOSM meeting itself was incredibly informative and exciting. More important is the work we do between the meetings. As your delegates, we are committed to maintaining communication with the delegates from around the region and with GSO New York as we continue to grow our service structure. We are equally committed to reaching out to our neighboring fellowships so that we can support each other in carrying the message of A.A. in Singapore and around the region.

For a full copy of our report, or for the detailed minutes from the AOSM meeting, please contact your Intergroup Representative.

A member shares

By the grace of God, what a revelation to be a member of AA. Being able to contribute my service and stay sober and clean is the greatest awakening for a desperate Chinese Singaporean homemaker.

My story was told five years ago as it came out from 'Jack in a box'. It was a colourful pretty box with many contents inside. "What's inside? I'm curious to know?" Pop! With an explosive bang, out came the many contents.

Feelings inside me were stirred. The fear, pain, self-pity, anger, anxiety, remorse and resentments started to pour out and made me realize such flaws which I had not known before. They were ugly and depressive.

When I hit my 'bottom' and started coming to AA, my journey of recovery and discovery are slowly revealed. In working the program and the step work, my sobriety helps me to stay away from my first drink.

Learning dancing steps is so much difficult, however I came to believe that I can 'dance' through my AA twelve steps program with gratitude and keep practicing one step, one emotion and one day at a time.

With this new experience, strength and hope, am able to pass AA message with willingness, honesty, and open-mindedness. Thus the 'jack in the box' is filled with many AA wonderful mysterious and grateful gifts to be shared.

Public Information (PI) and Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) – by Bonnie C.

Hi everyone,

A few things to report from the Public Information (PI) and Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) activity within Singapore Intergroup.

We have been running a Tuesday AA Meeting at Raffles Hospital. A 12 week treatment program that has been running at the hospital, conducted by a medical professional, has been followed up afterwards with an AA Speaker Meeting.

Speakers and Chairpersons have been volunteering to make this meeting a success. We only have a few weeks left and would like your support through attendance. It is 8:00pm on the 11th Floor – Learning Centre.

We are setting up a 12 step volunteer list to be part of H&I volunteering, please contact AA through our website or your Intergroup representative for more information. Also, we have had requests for information about AA and we have supplied info through GSO and AA approved literature.

The area level service for this PI-H&I committee is very new and we will have a workshop at some time in the future to provide information. Hope to see you on our committee.

"Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically noone, of course" – reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. p.21 with permission of A.A World Services, Inc.