The A.A. Grapevine Virtual Seed Packet

Our Traditions in Action

FREE Grapevine Daily Quote

A.A. Grapevine Home Page

This Seed Packet hopes to make you and your group more aware of the A.A. Grapevine magazine.

The Grapevine brings seeds of hope and shoots of sobriety to the newcomer and the old timer alike.

It is our meeting in print and the official voice of A.A, a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. The A.A. Preamble and our Twelve Traditions, for example, were first published in the Grapevine.

The Grapevine has published more than 900 issues, once a month without fail since June 1944.

The Grapevine does not accept any donations nor receives any of the money sent to General Services in NYC.

It pays its own way by subscriptions to the magazine and the sale of its books and other publications in English, Spanish and French and available in printed, ebook and audio forms.

The only way we can support this integral part of A.A. is through the purchase of subscriptions, books and publications for ourselves, our group and other alcoholics who need the A.A message of recovery.

In particular we urge every group to buy one or more subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine as part of the contributions made to A.A.. (The second subscription is 55% off!)

Gift Subscriptions to the Grapevine (Second one 55% off)

Grapevine issues and books make terrific raffle prizes, can welcome A.A. newcomers and carry the messges to our fellow alcoholics in rehabs and jails. For example the books "Language of the Heart" , Bill W.'s Grapevine writings, or "The Best of the Grapevine" are ideal prizes.

Below we have included links to Grapevine resources for more about the Grapevine and its value for our own recovery and to carry our message to others.

P.S. See the special "Grapevine Funny Pages" at the bottom of this email for a chuckle or two...

"We have come to realize that service to others is the only thing we have to offer in this life."

What is the Grapevine? Grapevine Video La Viña video

The A.A. Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in print, digital, audio and video forms. Written, edited, illustrated and read by A.A. members and others interested in the A.A. program of recovery from alcoholism, Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. As Bill W. wrote in the original charter, "...it is the voice of A.A.".

It carries A.A. news and stories of recovery for newcomers and old timers. It carries the A.A. message to fellow alcoholics who are isolated, homebound or in hospitals, prisons or institutions. The Grapevine first published the A.A. Preamble and Bill W's articles introducing the Twelve Traditions. It is a wonderful addition to anyone's spiritual toolkit.

La Viña is the bimonthly Spanish language sister publication of the Grapevine for the growing Spanish speaking community within A.A.

Sign up here to receive the *FREE* Grapevine Daily Quote

The Grapevine Daily Quote is a valuable service provided by the A.A. Grapevine. Insights and inspirations taken from the pages of the Grapevine arrive in your mailbox every morning to start off your day. Please let your friends know and pass it on. There are also options for weekly and monthly emails.

Grapevine YouTube Channel

The Grapevine channel on YouTube hosts a variety of videos and playlists in English and Spanish which will be of interest to anyone in recovery.

Gift Subscriptions to the Grapevine (Second one 55% off)

Buy one gift subscription to Grapevine magazine and receive 55% off the second gift subscription. Give the gift of support and inspiration to your group to use as raffle prizes or send the message of recovery to alcoholics in hospitals, rehabs and jails in your area.

The Carry The Message Project is a campaign to send subscriptions to those who are in need. An opportunity to carry the A.A. spirit to those in fellow A.A.s.

History of the Grapevine Article in A.A. Box 459 Newsletter

The Grapevine was founded by six A.A. members in the New York area — four women and two men. With the blessings of A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., they published the first issue in June 1944, just nine years after the founding of A.A. Every A.A. group received a copy of that first issue — about 300 at the time — as did all known A.A. members in the armed services overseas. An entire page was devoted to letters from these members, who began calling the Grapevine their "meeting in print."

The A.A. Grapevine Store

The Grapevine also publishes a wide range of books covering many different aspects of recovery. Any of these books or copies of the magazine make great raffle prizes! There are also recordings, calendars and other Grapevine related items.

The Grapevine is self-supporting through the sale of its magazine and books and receives none of the money contributed to the General Service Office in New York, Area, District, or Intergroup. **Please support the Grapevine.** Many groups reach out to alcoholics in need by sponsoring subscription(s) to local halfway houses, hospitals or jails.

Grapevine Milestones

DID YOU KNOW….?

- The first issue of the A.A. Grapevine was published in June 1944. A new issue has come out every month since.

- Early A.A. groups adopted the A.A. Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1946. The General Service Conference reaffirmed this designation in 1986.

- The A.A. Grapevine is produced by a staff of professional editors, writers, and artists, many of whom members of A.A. Most of the articles are written by members of the Fellowship.

- Bill W. introduced the Traditions to the Fellowship in a 1946 Grapevine article called "Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition."

- Bill W. wrote more than 150 articles in the A.A. Grapevine between 1945 and 1970. His articles are collected in the anthology The Language of the Heart.

- In July 1995, a special edition of the Grapevine in Spanish was published and in July 1996 the A.A. Grapevine began publishing La Viña, a bimonthly Spanish-language magazine.

- The A.A. Grapevine is self-supporting through the sale of the magazine and related items. It receives none of the group contributions sent to the General Service Office.

- The A.A. Preamble was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the A.A. Grapevine magazine. It was written by the magazines editor, borrowing much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of our Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous".

The Traditions Checklist

These questions were originally published in the Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. Since then many A.A. groups have adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

Become a Part of the A.A. Grapevine Community

Cultivate your own sobriety and discover the satisfaction and rewards of serving A.A. by supporting the Grapevine.

Become a Grapevine Representative

A great start is to volunteer as the Grapevine Representative (GVR) for your group to your A.A. District Committee.

Share with the Grapevine

Want to share the details of your event with the greater A.A. community? Post to the online Grapevine Calendar the date, place, time and other information about your conference, roundup, convention, campout or other A.A. function.

There are many other ways to share your thoughts with Grapevine. You can write a letter to the editor or send an article for the What's On Your Mind department of the magazine.

Contribute to the Grapevine

Share your story, jokes, photos, and art! A.A. members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their ups, downs, and in-betweens to the Grapevine since 1944. You don't need prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share.

Writing for the Grapevine Sample Workshop Flyer

A.A. members have been writing for the Grapevine since 1944. Why not join them?

Become a part of our fellowship's living history by writing your own story for the Grapevine. Local Areas and Districts sponsor writing workshops which provide an easy format for telling your story. These workshops also provide the opportunity to interact with other A.A.s who want to write and share their experience, strength and hope.

The Grapevine Handbook

A comprehensive guide to the history, structure and operation of the Grapevine.

"A Society of Alcoholics in Action"

The Twelfth Step of Alcoholics 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."

Tradition Five

"Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers".

A.A. Statement Of Purpose

"Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action.

We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die. Our Society, therefore, will prudently cleave to its single purpose: the carrying of the message to the alcoholic who still suffers." (from A.A.'s Legacy of Service by Bill W.)

Grapevine Quote

"I think we simply fail to recognize miracles for what they are. Sobriety -- one-day-at-a-time -- is truly a miracle."

A.A. Responsibility Statement

I am responsible…
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible

A.A. Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:
To place our common welfare first;
to keep our fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives and
the lives of those to come.

THE GRAPEVINE

FUNNY PAGES

The type AA personality

(Victor E. Cartoon reprinted with permission, Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.)

Top Ten Questions about the Grapevine

1. Who first started calling the Grapevine “our meeting in print?"
   a) Angry John from the Sunday Morning group
   b) Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street
   c) A.A. soldiers in WWII who were sent the Grapevine when it was first published in 1944

2. How often is the A.A. Grapevine published?
   a) the second Tuesday of every week
   b) when the moon is in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligns with Mars
   c) when the rent is due on the AA offices in NYC
   d) once a month without fail since June 1944, more than 900 issues for over 75+ years

3. Who founded the Grapevine and why?
   a) two guys in Akron OH because their Sports Illustrated subscription expired
   b) Bill W because he did not have enough to do with running A.A.
   c) four A.A. women and two A.A. men as a newsletter to the 300 A.A. groups in existence

4. Is the Grapevine an official A.A. publication?
   a) no, it is published by Reader's Digest from stories they rejected
   b) no, it is published by Popular Mechanics for handymen who drink too much
   c) yes, It is part of A.A. along with A.A. World Services and the General Service Board

5. What is the difference between a LifeSaver and the Grapevine?
   a) one can save your life, the other is a little round mint with a hole in the middle
   b) one will help your body, spirit and mind to recover, the other will rot your teeth
   c) both of the above

6. Where where the A.A. preamble and the 12 Traditions first published?
   a) a billboard on Interstate 95 in Brooklyn
   b) on a paper placemat at the Cleveland IHOP
   c) in the Grapevine

7. How is the Grapevine supported?
   a) from the change that slipped behind the couch cushions
   b) from the sale of beer in Fenway Park
   c) it is self-supporting through subscriptions and sale of books
   d) it receives no money from the contributions sent to A.A. General Services in NYC.
   e) <u>both</u> c) and d)

8. What do Grapevine magazines and books do?
   a) make great raffle prizes to carry the A.A. message to newcomers and old timers alike
   b) carries the A.A. message to the isolated, the homebound, sailors and soldiers abroad, people in nursing homes, hospitals, institutions and correctional facilities
   c) provides a monthly dose of hope and recovery to all alcoholics
   d) provides a fascinating record of the history of A.A.
   d) all of the above

9. Why should we support the Grapevine?
   a) having had a spiritual awakening we try to carry our message
   b) our primary purpose is to help still suffering alcoholics
   c) when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, we want the hand of A.A. to be there
   d) we are a society of alcoholics in action - we carry the message or others may die
   e) it is both "Our Meeting Print" and the "Voice of A.A."
   f) all of the above

10) How can I support the Grapevine?

a) when contributing money to Intergroup, District, Area and General Service in NYC include at least one subscription to the Grapevine or La Viña and/or a Grapevine book.

b) sponsor Grapevine/La Viña subscriptions to detoxes, rehabs and jails in your area

c) elect a Grapevine Representative (GVR) for your group

e) invite your Area Grapevine Committee to your groups special events

f) all of the above

Our Final Words

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This Grapevine Seed Packet was prepared by the General Service Area 30 (Eastern Massachuestts) Grapevine Committee. Comments and questions can be sent to grapevine@aaemass.org

This document may be freely redistributed and we ask that you do so.
Please forward a copy to anyone who might be interested!

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