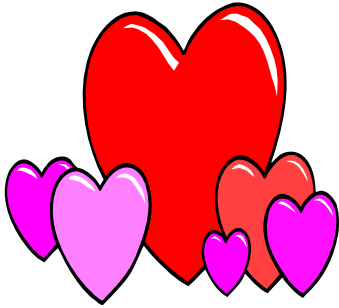


**HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S DAY**



# Mid-City Area

Special points of interest:

- *Question and Answers  
form 1998 NA Way*

## Mid-City area present our

**MONTHLY SOCIAL**

**Homan Square**

**3333 West Arthington**

**Chicago, IL**

**Friday, Feb 22, 2008**

**Begins at 7:45pm**

**MID—CITY ARE A**

**PLEASE COME OUT AND GIVE BACK  
WHAT WAS SO FREELY**

Inside this issue:

<i>Fellowship Quotes</i>	2
<i>Q&amp;A 1998 NA Way</i>	2
<i>Clean dates</i>	3
<i>Birthdays</i>	3
	4
	5
	6

GIVEN TO YOU. 1701 S. 1ST AVE



ON THE FIFTH FLOOR SUITE  
508A

## Chicago land Regional Convention

**CRCXXI**

**For**

**YES**

**The Journey**

**More Information**

**WE ARE GOING BACK !**

**Continues**

**Contact :**

**DOWNTOWN DATES**

**Early bird registrations**

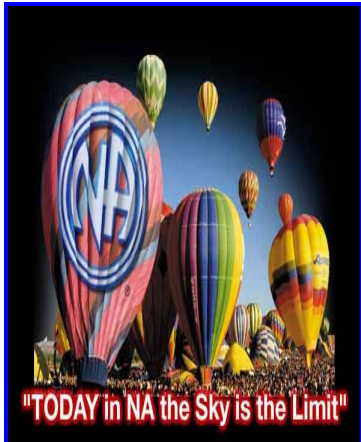
**Yulanda T.**

**TO BE**

**are Available**

**(773)430-0560**

**ANNOUNCED**



## Fellowship Quotes

Shared by a member at St. Anthony  
**"Pain motivate me to stop. Misery made me actually stop"**

Facts About NA

*Hold on change  
 Is coming  
 There  
 Hope*



In Narcotics Anonymous, members are encouraged to comply with complete abstinence from all drugs including alcohol. It has been the experience of NA members that complete and continuous abstinence provides the best foundation for recovery and personal growth. NA as a whole has no opinion on outside issues, including prescribed medications. Use of psychiatric medication and other medically indicated drugs prescribed by a physician and taken under medical supervision is not seen as compromising a person's recovery in NA.

**Q.** Do you think that's due to people coming in with "higher bottoms" these days?

**A.** I don't know. I think people are afraid to give each other direction today. It's not hip to tell someone, "hey, you're making a mistake." We've gotten to be this "we'll accept anything you do" thing, and that's bullshit. People need direction once in a while. The old-timers when I came around would get in your face if they thought you were doing something wrong. I was in a meeting a couple of weeks ago, and this guy was sharing about how alcohol wasn't really a problem for him and he could drink. I interrupted and said NA's a program of total abstinence and he really shouldn't be sharing here. People got upset with me for saying that.

Fall 1998 NA Way

They said you couldn't stay clean without going to meetings. Nonsense! I bought all that when I was new. If you wanted to meet someone who was gung-ho on meetings, steps, Twelfth Step work, I was that person originally. I changed as time went on. Now [I ask]: What is recovery about? What is the sickness? What is within us that's recovering? And there's more than one way to do that.

NA is always going to be reborn with new people maturing within the fellowship and implanting their persona on it. But what's dangerous is the idea of "circling the wagons"—outside is bad and inside is good.

Fall 1998 NA Way

## Clean Dates

12-14-93	Anna W.	10-16-98	Regina M	12-12-82	Elaine W 11
11-10-93	Willie W	10-11-07	Calip C	-18-82	Samatha T
9-16-06	Lea B (P-nut)	9-9-07	Mason W	02-04-08	Helen G.
11-15-95	Reggie W	9-15-07	Troy J	03-02-96	Joe, J
9-24-96	Jerron S	2 Yrs	Alice H		
12-27-05	I.V.C	12-29-05	Jeffery G		
7-17-07	Taushia S	12-10-97	Barbara S12		
10-4-03	Elissa	12-16-96	Chiquette1		
8-22-01	Anita D	11-04-96	Lelha W 11		
8-8-92	Blanche				



## Birthday's

12-01	NuQuita I
12-26	Anna W
10-21	Lea B (P-nut)
12-13	Jeffery
11-17	Chiquetta H
11-4	Lelha W 12
-14	Elaine W



**Q. Would you say that NA language played a role in developing NA's identity?**

**A. I don't think so at all. We had a very clear identity. We had our own activities. We had our own Intergroup. We had our own public relations committee trying to get the message out, I'd say even more aggressively then than now.**

**So I'd say the identity as a separate fellowship from AA predated the whole focus on NA language. That didn't hit here until the early to mid-eighties.**

**Q. How did that affect the fellowship in Pennsylvania?**

**A. It caused a lot of problems. A lot of people who were very involved in NA no longer go to NA because of it. This wave of "correct-speak" drove people away. But that wasn't the first thing. We had a major exodus when The NA Tree came down.**



IF THE STEPS TELL US HOW IT WORKS  
 AND THE TRADITIONS SHOW US WHY IT  
 WORKS.WHY NOT FOLLOW THIS  
 PROVEN PROGRAM OF RECOVERY AND  
 WORK THE PROGRAM .NOT YOUR  
 PROGRAM. ADDITION INVOLVES MORE  
 THAN USING AND RECOVERY INVOLVES  
 MORE THAN JUST STAYING CLEAN  
 BE MORE THAN APART OF THE  
 STAYING CLEAN CLUB GET INVOLVED IN  
 YOUR RECOVERY



## Focusing On Recovery



Which do you see? A vase? Or the silhouettes of two faces? The positive or the negative? If we focus on the problem, we progress into the problem. If we focus on the solution, we progress into the solution. An open mind while reading Literature will bring about such a change in perception. If you give a starving man some food, you feed him for a day. If you give him tools, and show him how to farm, you feed him for his lifetime. We believe that the tools we need for our recovery are the Twelve Steps. They are the "spiritual tools" of our program. To help us understand and work them, we use all of

N.A.'s Suggested Literature, the Motility . . .state that it contains "... clear-cut directions showing how" they "recovered to be a straightforward instruction manual, without hidden meanings. They did not intend to say things in a way that needed to be deciphered or figured out. were not designed to entertain us. the pioneers wrote: "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." Many of us seemed to fail because our misinterpretations and confusion simply didn't allow us to see the pioneers' path clearly enough to follow it.

They provided many of us with our first opportunity to correct our misunderstandings and to see the Narcotic Anonymous book as the explicit instruction manual it was intended to be. By using them, we could begin to read the N.A blue book from a positive frame of reference. We could begin to see its con-

tents as solution focused, written from the pioneers' actual experience, to show us precisely how they recovered. Each of us began to believe that since the Twelve Steps had worked for the pioneers, since they could be permanently recovered, since they could have their problem solved, taken away to the extent that it no longer existed for them, then why couldn't this happen for me, too? Reading the N.A blue book with this new perception, we could relate to, and identify with, the solution rather than the problem. We could clearly see and follow the pioneers' path. We could duplicate their experience, and recover. Sharing our understanding of these highlights with someone, perhaps our sponsor or somebody we are sponsoring, and listening to their understanding, enables us to learn, retain and implement what the Big Book describes, on page 59, as our "program

NuQuita Irons then why couldn't this happen for me, too? Reading the N.A blue book with this new perception, we could relate to, and identify with, the solution rather than the problem. We could clearly see and follow the pioneers' path. We could duplicate their experience, and recover. Sharing our understanding of these highlights with someone, perhaps our sponsor or somebody we are sponsoring, and listening to their understanding, enables us to learn, retain and implement what the recovery."

NuQuita Irons