



The Hollywood NA Times

September 2020

Vol. 2

SURRENDER SURRENDER SURRENDER

WELCOME

This is our second Edition of the **The Hollywood NA Times**. We hope you enjoyed our first Edition and that you will make it a priority to read **The Hollywood NA Times** each time the Newsletter is published. Please feel free to submit short essays(1-2 paragraphs), poetry, artwork, jokes, and/or brief stories relating to recovery for publication. We would also love to hear any suggestions and/or concerns you may have as well. Please contact us at:

tsjonny1NA@gmail.com.

Jonathan S., Chair

Julia I., Co Chair

Nick G., Copy Editor

Surrender: To give up absolutely. To quit with no reservations. To put up our hands and quit fighting... Basic Text p. 22. Thank you **Nick G., Tony Mac, Mikhail, Julia I., Cindy R., Tom K., and Marc O.** for sharing your experience, strength, and hope with us.

EVERYTHING I HAVE IS YOU

By Tony Mac 3/19/1988

With a little willingness on my part and a faith powered by the gratitude of being clean for 32 years, I have learned not to trust my thinking and allow God to work His miracles in my life. My process of letting go silences the unnecessary worry and stress over the things that I cannot change.

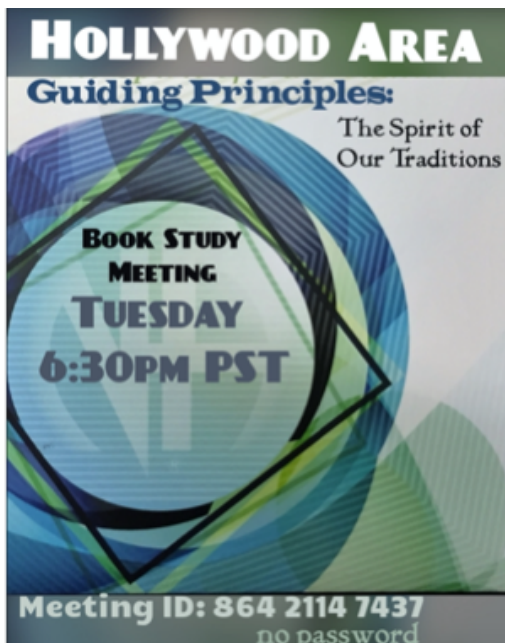
In the times of this pandemic stress, when I apply my newfound faith in my loving and powerful Higher Power, I get filled with this energy and become hopeful about another NA day of recovery. I'm able to write, be creative, and be more loving to those I care about, including myself. I know how to begin letting go of old resentments, fears, doubts, failures, and self-centered ways. I'm not over reacting to the emptiness inside of me. I haven't been fixing with food, sex, and buying a whole lot of stuff that will put me in debt. That massive weight is lifted from my shoulders and I get in touch with freedom. Somehow, with a little willingness on my part to apply recovery and putting God first, I can breathe again.

Even though my thoughts are chaotic, I am driven by gratitude to write to you. I am once again at that familiar crossroad in my life, obsessed with wanting to reach out to you, to explain to you, so you can possibly understand. (con't next column)

EVERYTHING (Con't)

I am grateful to be happy, joyous, and free during this time of being locked down from the world wide pandemic. My lifestyle may be locked down, but my spirituality is free. Through my eyes of faith, I can see recovery everywhere and coming my way. I may become sick, feeling like Max Headroom in being in these Zoom meetings, but I see myself becoming healthier. I may wind up struggling in my finances, but I can see myself with more than I can ask for. I may be lonely, but I am happy that I'm with the woman of my dreams. I'm remembering before this covid-19 pandemic, when we were whole... when the future was ours for the taking, ours for the making. So many years have been sacrificed into planning and building our foundation. I am sure we can walk through this pandemic shut down, because our lives have meaning and purpose.

To my NA family, I wanted to thank you for taking time for being in my life and showing me how to live and become a winner in a battle against a powerful enemy. Every time my spirit grows stronger, my growth and the willingness to continue to keep coming back to you is the evidence that this NA life works. Thanks for being in my life.



降
伏

Surrender
in
Japanese

Thank you Marc O.'s Dad

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Over 100 worldwide speakers sharing their experience strength and hope

Celebration of a life worth living and support
Narcotics Anonymous World Services

SEPT 4TH 12 NOON (PST) - SEPT 7TH 12 NOON (PST)
72 NON - STOP HOURS OF RECOVERY!

PRESENTED BY
WASHINGTON NORTHERN IDAHO REGION

THEJOURNEYCONTINUES2020.ORG

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON MEETINGS

ZOOM MEETING
4949655895

24 HOURS A DAY!
7 DAYS A WEEK!

SURRENDERING

By Nick G.

I Surrendered to my active addiction and turned it over to my God. I also accepted that God's will be done, not mine, and to trust the journey. I Accepted the fact I had a disease of addiction and it made me powerless over people, places, and things. By Reading steps 1, 2, and 3, I learned how to surrender every day. And by coming to Narcotics Anonymous meetings on a daily basis, I started to see a little hope in my life... a hope that all things are possible with my Higher Power.

Before, my faith was in my addiction. I was spiritually broken, because I placed street drugs before anything else. I was the addicted whore awarding myself with drugs when I got a promotion at work. Today I understand when my sponsor tells me, "What you put out is what you get back - no growth, no change." However, a God of my understanding lead me to a power greater than myself - a caring, loving God who can restore my sanity. I believe that my faith has carried me through my worst days. You always hear this saying around the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous, "Don't leave before the miracle."

Let me fill you in on some reservations: You will find nothing but trouble when you go to old hangouts and are with people in active addiction. They are not your friends. These groups of people are waiting for you to slip. Making wise decisions implies actions. In moving forward, when I put the pen to paper, I can see a clearer picture of myself. I can read it all day and the greatest part about this is no one can see the person on paper, but myself. I accepted it. Now I can move forward as I realize I'm not the only one living with this disease of addiction in the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. This is my safe haven.

Virtual NA Vacation??

Canadian Convention of Narcotics Anonymous

September 18, 19 & 20, 2020

A Virtual Recovery Celebration

Convention Information:

ci.contact@canadianconvention.com

Programming Information:

program.contact@canadianconvention.com

Registration Information:

registration.contact@canadianconvention.com



FINALLY SURRENDER

By Anonymous

Only darkness
Screaming silently
Searching for one more
Voices in my head
On my knees
Demoralized
Crying
Pleading for death
Wasted life
Falling
Failing
No more
Finally
Surrender

SURRENDER HAIKU

By Cindy R.

*I surrender this
All to my higher power
Waiting for answers*



MONASTERY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

By Mikhail, Folsom Prison

Freedom Behind the Walls Sponsee

Working in a prison is not unlike a box of chocolates: it should be plain and simple, but you never know what you're gonna get. In here, the sacred and profane blur into an indiscernible stew of characters and circumstances, radiating faith and folly, seeking of Heaven within the half-baked pie of our Hell.

Thankfully, our facility's designated place of worship is an unassuming cluster of cubicles huddled around the main chapel room, like the cities of a refuge amidst the sea of insanity which is the yard. Not long ago, the chapel served as a haunt for drug deals, sexual acts, and "handling business." In fact some years back, a man was beaten to death during a religious service: a tragic reminder that there's nothing sacred in prison. The sacred space for worship can quickly morph into a sacrilegious den where one meets his Maker.

Recently, the chaplain called in a prisoner for an unexpected sit down. This is seldom a good sign... We watched in anxious anticipation as this man's uncertain steps found their way to the office. There he heard what no parent should ever face: his son was murdered the day before as he was coming home from work.

When I was summoned into the chaplain's office, the distraught father barely got off the phone with his family, still reeling from shock and trying to comprehend the reasoning behind his child getting gunned down for no apparent reason.

As pain gripped his face, the father grappled with the realization that his child was going to be buried before him and that he would be absent at his own son's funeral, just as he was absent during most of his son's life. *(Con't next column)*

MONASTERY (con't)

Memory, that last bastion of a prisoner's private treasury, always flickers with the glimmer of hope that the joys of the past can at least be rekindled in some vaguely possible future beyond the horizon of rigid prison sentences. Death quenches that hope and replaces it with the jammed reality of what is forever lost. More so, the prisoner will not be able to console his grieving family as the ripple shock and disbelief saturated their hearts, and now this would eat away at him in his miserable abode, where as a rule, misery always finds company.

A death notice in prison is often a normal procedure served without anesthesia in our abnormal concrete den of iniquity. We sin against persons and society, and one of the most painful wages of our sins is to be acutely aware when those whom your heart holds dear suddenly tumble through the gorges of death to be seen or heard no more on this side of eternity. The pillars of our lives gradually collapse and are smashed into the dust of silent non-being by the brevity of life. One is left with angst and emptiness in a place which couldn't care less, among men, whom like you, are simply busy battling for survival.

Beholding the weeping father, I related to him not only as a fellow prisoner and "lifer" -- who will eventually lose everyone to the yawning jaws of... insatiable death -- but also as a murderer, who had caused the same tsunami of unquenchable grief in another's family life when I murdered in cold blood their son, brother, loved one in a senseless crime with no apparent reason other than my own blind lust and self-absorbed obsession. *(Con't next column)*



MONASTERY (con't)

The tears I watched fall from the eyes of the father before me must have fallen from the father's eyes of the man I murdered, even as his family was forced to bury their precious family member, along with the love they poured into him and which they received in return, long before his time on earth was supposed to cease.

In prison, I cannot face the many persons whose souls I've permanently shattered, but on this day in the chapel, I had to face what I did and behold another bereaved parent ascend his personal agonizing Golgotha because of malicious hands, which robbed him of his son and his family of a loved one just as I did to another family many years ago.

Like I said, there are no sacred spaces in prison, but all things can be sanctified through willing hearts of those who seek what is holy and wholesome. The buildings made of concrete and steel are often stained with violence and mayhem, but there is another edifice here, one made of flesh: the living heart which pulsates with pains and hopes, and which yearns for redemption, even when that redemption is buried beneath a mountain of sin, beneath the multi-faceted masks we wear, hiding ourselves from others and even from ourselves. It is here, in the heart, that the God and Maker of all meets the man who has wandered far from his home, from the shadow of some paradise lost long ago, in a distant life beyond the razor-wired walls.

After a season in here, it's so easy to blend into the stained surroundings of this hardened place. To blend into this environment means to embrace spiritual death by simply surrendering to it. The other option is to begin the painful journey home, a home which first of all must be reconquered and carved out within one's soul. *(Con't Page 4)*

MONASTERY (con't)

This is the path of restorative justice: extracting life from the jaws of death through the humbling process of repentance. It begins by heeding the still, small voice in one's heart which beckons the man beyond his callous indifference and paralyzing dejection about the past. The voice of conscience calls toward the promise of life and light, toward redemption and resurrection through some power greater than himself, the mystery of the unknown God, who brings us into the world and keeps us when we can't keep ourselves.

Traveling on this path means facing the wrecks I have made during my life's journey and understanding the tremendous degree of my indebtedness to those who suffered because of me. As a murderer, I am living on borrowed time -- borrowed from the innocent life I took -- and the time I am afforded in prison is given to me to change and to strive to do the most good I possibly can before God calls me to account for my life. This means stepping out of the comfortable darkness of denial, excuses, and blaming others for the things that did not go right. Rather I must take responsibility for what I have done and for who I had become.

What is responsibility? It is my ability to respond to the life God gave me and to face what I have done with it. The expectation of my existence requires me to claim my post on the battlefield of Life. If my past is a shameful narrative of how I deserted my position or turned my weapons and abilities against my neighbors, then I must honestly admit my wrongs and strive to undo them. My past wrong cannot become the final word in my life. Unless by God's grace my personal evil is transfigured into some good greater than the harm I caused, then my life is akin to a cosmic black hole which swallows light and entire galaxies, but produces nothing: remaining an irrational pit of destruction against the backdrop of an ordered universe where everything tends to a greater purpose than itself, toward a recovery of life which is temporarily dimmed by the inevitability of death. This same mission of life toward redemption is what I hope for and strive towards, the recovery of what has been lost and demolished on both sides of the barbed wire.

SURRENDER TO SERVICE

Join The Greater Hollywood Activities Committee

Second Tuesday of the month.

Time: Aug 11, 2020 08:30 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84277843228>

Meeting ID: 842 7784 3228

Marc

323-481-2247



Surrender means not having to fight anymore.

Basic Text

PAROLEE NA ZOOM MEETINGS NEED YOU!

Please contact Lee

publicinfo@todayna.org (805)319-2820

*Co-Host *Monitor for Zoom Trolls *Take Attendance

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

H.O.W

Friday 2 8pm - 9:15pm

Cafe Tropical

2900 Sunset Blvd., Los

Angeles 90026

<https://zoom.us/j/82661784341>

Password: 396683

If you are looking for a meeting on Friday night, here you go! This meeting needs trusted servants so what a great way to be of service and become a part of a terrific meeting.

BASIC TEXT LINE BY LINE

Sunday-Friday@1:30-3pm

Cafe Tropical

2900 Sunset Blvd., Los

Angeles 90026

<https://zoom.us/j/6699133088>

Password: LL130

This meeting provides an in depth study of the Basic Text as each member reads a line of a predetermined section of the book. The meeting is then open for sharing. If you like small meetings, then this is the meeting for you. Check it out!

HIGH NOON MEETINGS

Mon-Fri @ Noon - 1:30-3pm

Fairfax Senior Center

7929 Melrose Avenue, Los

Angeles, 90046

<https://zoom.us/j/3238501624>

Need a lunch break Pick-Me-Up? The High Noon Meetings have terrific speakers from all over the world. Although the meetings can be large, there is a definite small community vibe to each meeting and there is also plenty of time to share. So bring your sandwich and enjoy a great meeting!

Send your Poetry & Artwork to:
tsjonny1NA@gmail.com

SURRENDER

By Julia I.

Out of the dereliction of active addiction,
 into a room with stories that sound like fiction,
 but I hit rock bottom that I see now was a gift,
 desperation on lock man I was caught in the grip;
 I was defeated like a fighter- my ego deflated with a busted lip.
 Then NA said one day at a time, every hour every second,
 if I want to use I pick up the phone to flip my diseased perspective,
 each and every day getting better learning lessons.
 The obsession and this impulsive mind of mine,
 got to slow down and surrender with every emotion without the usual explosion.
 I learned feelings aren't facts and that they pass like the wind,
 learned to respond not react and bounce it all against my sponsor so I know how NOT to sin.
 My gratitude grew and my heart got triggered,
 my tribe only speaks love and fills me up even bigger.
 Freedom is what I'd eventually find
 in this Just For Today today program one-day-at-a-time.
 Without that first step where I was taught to surrender,
 I'd be dead no doubt or spun like my head was in a blender.
 To take steps you indeed must start with One,
 then the rest will eventually come;
 and that my friend is how my recovery begun.



MASKS OFF RECOVERY

LGBTQ+ NA
Meeting
Fridays at
7:30pm
Zoom ID
833 451 103
Password:
Recovery

The message of NA:
 An addict,
 ANY addict,
 CAN stop using drugs,
lose the desire to use, &
 find a new way to live.
 Our message is hope &
 the promise of freedom

Surrender:
 Surrender means
 having the open-
 mindedness to see
 things in a new way,
 as well as the
 willingness to live
 differently (Living
 Clean, "Awakening
 to Spirituality").

Surrender: In
 ridding ourselves of
 all reservations, we
 surrender. Then, and
 only then, can we be
 helped to recover
 from the disease of
 addiction (IP #29).

N.A. N.A. 24/7 MARATHON MEETING



- HOST/COHOST
 - SCANNER
 - READER

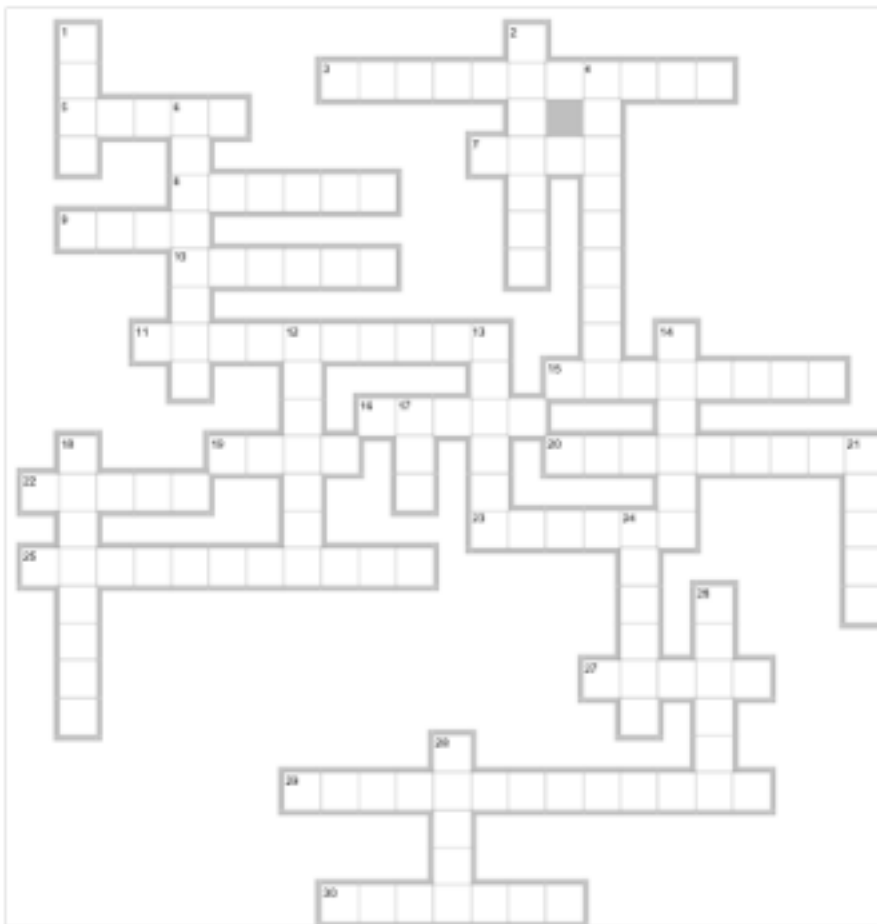
MEETING ID 558-544-927 NO PASSWORD REQUIRED

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

<https://facebook.com/groups/NANA247MarathonMeeting/>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANYONE?

“How It Works” Steps 4, 5, 6



Learning to use our literature helps us stay clean, the solutions are always in there.

Down

1. "We _____ make sure that they know what we are doing and why we are doing it." (pg 31)
2. ""We begin to long for _____ from these defects." (pg 33)
4. "Where we were proud, we now find that we cannot get away with _____." (pg 33)
6. "We learn that we are growing when we make new _____ instead of repeating old ones." (pg 34)
12. "When we ignore our feelings, the _____ becomes too much for us." (pg 29)
13. "Sharing the exact _____ of our wrongs sets us free to live." (pg 30)
14. "Willingness is what we _____ for

in Step Six." (pg 33)

17. "We were entirely ready to have God remove _____ these defects of character." (pg 33)
18. "Eventually faith, _____ and acceptance replace pride and rebellion." (pg 34)
21. "We may _____ be able to remember all of our past mistakes." (pg 32)
24. "We _____ approach old defects with an open mind." (pg 33)
26. "_____ self-assessment is one of the keys to our new way of life." (pg 27)
28. "We _____ about the things that bother us here and now." (pg 28)

All of the words in the puzzle can be found in the "Fifth Edition Basic Text" Chapter Four (pages 27 - 34)

Across

3. "We get _____ with our understanding of these steps." (pg 28)
5. "Perhaps this _____ difficult or painful." (pg 29)
7. "We have found that _____ is a lack of faith..." (pg 27)
8. "Addicts tend to live _____ lives." (pg 32)
9. "Writing will _____ the lid off of our pressure cooker." (pg 30)
10. "When we pray and take _____, it always goes better for us." (pg 30)
11. "This step has the _____ of being difficult; in reality, it is quite simple." (pg 29)
15. "We found that we do not recover physically, _____ or spiritually overnight." (pg 27)
16. "We have found that fear is a lack of _____, and we have found a loving, personal God to whom we can turn." (pg 27)
19. "The important thing is that we do our _____." (pg 30)
20. "Although He already knows, the _____ must come from our own lips to be truly effective." (pg 31)
22. "We know that another addict would be less likely to _____ us with malice or misunderstanding." (pg 31)
23. "This step will _____ our motives and our actions." (pg 32)
25. "This is a step of _____." (pg 34)
27. "We must be done with the past, not _____ to it." (pg 28)
29. "We do not _____." (pg 32)
30. "These _____ grow in the dark, and die in the light of exposure." (pg 31)

Interesting Fact: According to nahistory.org, in 1949 an addict named Danny Carlsen started a self-help group in New York City. He called it Narcotics Anonymous. In 1956 Daniel Carlsen died an early death, but his vision did not die with him.