

Mid Southern California Area 09

Hosted by District 04

Virtual 32nd ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY



Sunday, September 27, 2020
2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time

ZOOM ID: 965 6129 0645
PASSWORD: heritage

PROGRAM

Opening Prayer

Introduction & Welcome

Joan S. – 63 years
Judi B. – 42 years
Raul C. – 40 years

Gerry W., District 04 Archives Chair

Interviewed by Maryka d.
Interviewed by Anthony A.
Interviewed by Maryka d.

BREAK (10 Minutes)

Jerry B. – 52 years
Jerry F. – 50 years
Richard W. – 37 Years

Interviewed by Gerry W.
Interviewed by Gerry W.
Interviewed by Anthony A.

Q&A via Virtual "Ask it Basket"

Closing Remarks

Maryka d., District 04 Alt DCMC



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BIO'S OF TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Joan S.

Joan's last drink was on June 15, 1957. She got sober in Pasadena. Her first meeting, Arroyo Secco, was one of only two meetings that existed for all of Pasadena. Joan's sponsor was Cybil C., the first woman west of the Mississippi, to stay sober. Joan recounts that then "...they just grabbed a hold of you and tried to keep you alive." Joan's current service passion is speaking all over the world via Zoom. Now, more than ever, Joan is aware that - "it doesn't count if you don't show up - so I just show up!"

Judi B.

Judi B., a native Californian, got sober on October 8, 1977 in Torrance, California. Judi's long-time sponsor died a couple of years ago. Judi has been active in the various levels of service work throughout her sobriety. In addition to service work within the structure of AA she is co-founder of KISSAR, a Long Beach, California roundup for the sober LBGTQ+ community. Her home group is the Ten Plus group in Long Beach.

Raul C.

Raul got sober some 40 years ago in Guatemala. Raul's first sponsor was friends with his father who also sponsored Raul's brother at the time. When Raul came to the U.S he gave Service work a chance. Since then, Raul has held many, many Service positions including Registrar for Area 09 and Archivist. He is very involved in Hospitals and institutions and has spoken all over North America.

As a matter of note, Raul's story is included in the third edition of the Spanish Big Book.

Jerry B.

Jerry B. grew up in Brooklyn the son of an alcoholic father full of rage. His sobriety date is January 28, 1968. Arriving in Hollywood, Jerry found gay AA through an ad in the Advocate newspaper. Unfortunately, those meeting were not allowed to be listed in the regular meeting directory. Jerry worked with a group to create 'Alcoholics Together'(AT), developing an alternate directory for gay meetings. Thankfully, the central office soon had to acknowledge the growing number of AT meetings and agreed to list them in the main directory. Jerry moved to Long Beach in 1993. Today his life is full and he is grateful for Alcoholics Anonymous and his many years of a sober life.

Jerry F.

Jerry F.'s sobriety date is September 14, 1970. His home group is the Long Beach Over 50 Group. As a newspaper reporter it was easy to get away with driving drunk which he did many times. A flash of his press pass and the cops would just tell him to go home. A big part of Jerry's sobriety has been attending countless round ups, district and area events and international conventions. Today his life is productive and creative. Sobriety, for Jerry, is an opportunity to live a rich, full life.

Richard W.

Richard has been sober since 1983. During his 37 years of recovery, he has remained active in AA, focusing on H & I, sponsorship, and speaking commitments. About 14 years into his sobriety, Richard began to think of yet another way to give back to the Long Beach recovery community. Inspiration came from a tourist/gift shop in Huntington Beach that had been operated by an AA member. She sold the typical tourist gifts but tucked in the back was AA merchandise. Maybe, Richard thought, I could do something like that in Long Beach, with the emphasis specifically on recovery-related books and gifts. In honor of the steps, traditions and concepts, Easy Does It Books & Gifts opened at 12:12 pm on April 12, 1997, and has been a vibrant part of the recovery community ever since. Richard is happy to report that, as he anticipated, the store has taken on a life of its own, providing a number of services to recovering people, beyond just that of a retail establishment. It's been referred to as a haven of sorts, with customers sometimes coming in just to unwind...just to be.