

## Breaking the Chains

Initially the idea for a men's group on the LES was started when Ralph C's significant other came back from a women's group and she was visibly elated this led Ralph to want what she had and since there were no Men's groups in the area it was a good idea. The first meeting was held on January 15, 1997. In attendance were Ralph C., Cass, Eddie R., Julio and Bobby. 7th tradition collected, \$7. Ralph was elected Chair, Eddie elected Secretary, Cass alt secretary and the treasurer and the GSR positions were tabled. Format was a Speaker/round robin. Suggested names were Men on a journey- Hombres in recovery. The name of the group was tabled.

At the next business meeting the format was changed. It was still a round robin but until 8 o'clock then a show of hands.

By March an emergency business meeting was held to decide on a name. At this point Eddie R. came up with another name "Breaking the Chains" it was unanimous.

The meeting was held on 12th St off of Ave A at 7PM. At most there was eight people attending regularly, then the meeting began to grow and at the same time as the meeting the priest used to have sessions with his parishioners. This began a conflict because we would really get emotional and use loud and sometimes profane language and the priest more and more would interrupt the meeting to ask us to keep it down and not to curse so we as a group decided it was time to look for another space. We did not want to censor our members and anyway it was getting to small, we were growing as a group. In January 1998 an adhoc committee was formed to find a new space on the LES five locations were named. In Feb of that year an adhoc committee (Lenny and Willy) was formed to make the policy.

In may after having no luck finding a space on the LES Larry love along with Angel informed the group that a space might be available at 25th and lex. Lenny and Carlos were sent to meet Larry there and report back to the group.

Target date for first group anniversary is June 17.

On June 10 1998 the group Okayed the move to 25th by a vote of 17 for 0 opposed and three abstained. No one wanted to leave the LES but we had no choice. The group has been located at 130 east 25th street with a start time of 7:15pm ever since.

In 2000 Steve C. was chairing and motioned for the group to conduct a fifth tradition meeting, something of a self-appraisal for the group by its members.

Note: The reason we celebrate in June is because we didn't have money to rent a place and we agreed that the money is better spent towards food.

There was a controversy about celebrating in public, anonymity and all but all of that was resolved through a group conscious.

## **THOSE THAT HAVE PAST**

Angel R. Angel Cartena, Joe, Eddie R. Angel got the space John Vaughner,  
Ted, Tommy the baker, Carlos Rodriguez