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Step 10—*Susan B.*

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Personal Stories

“Meet C13”

A Personal Story about one addict's experience with being inter-sexed in Narcotics Anonymous

SUBMIT!! SUBMIT!!

SUMBIT!!

norvananewsletter@cprna.org
Newsletter meets every first Saturday of the month at 6pm at 1-(857)-232-0357, conference code 235215

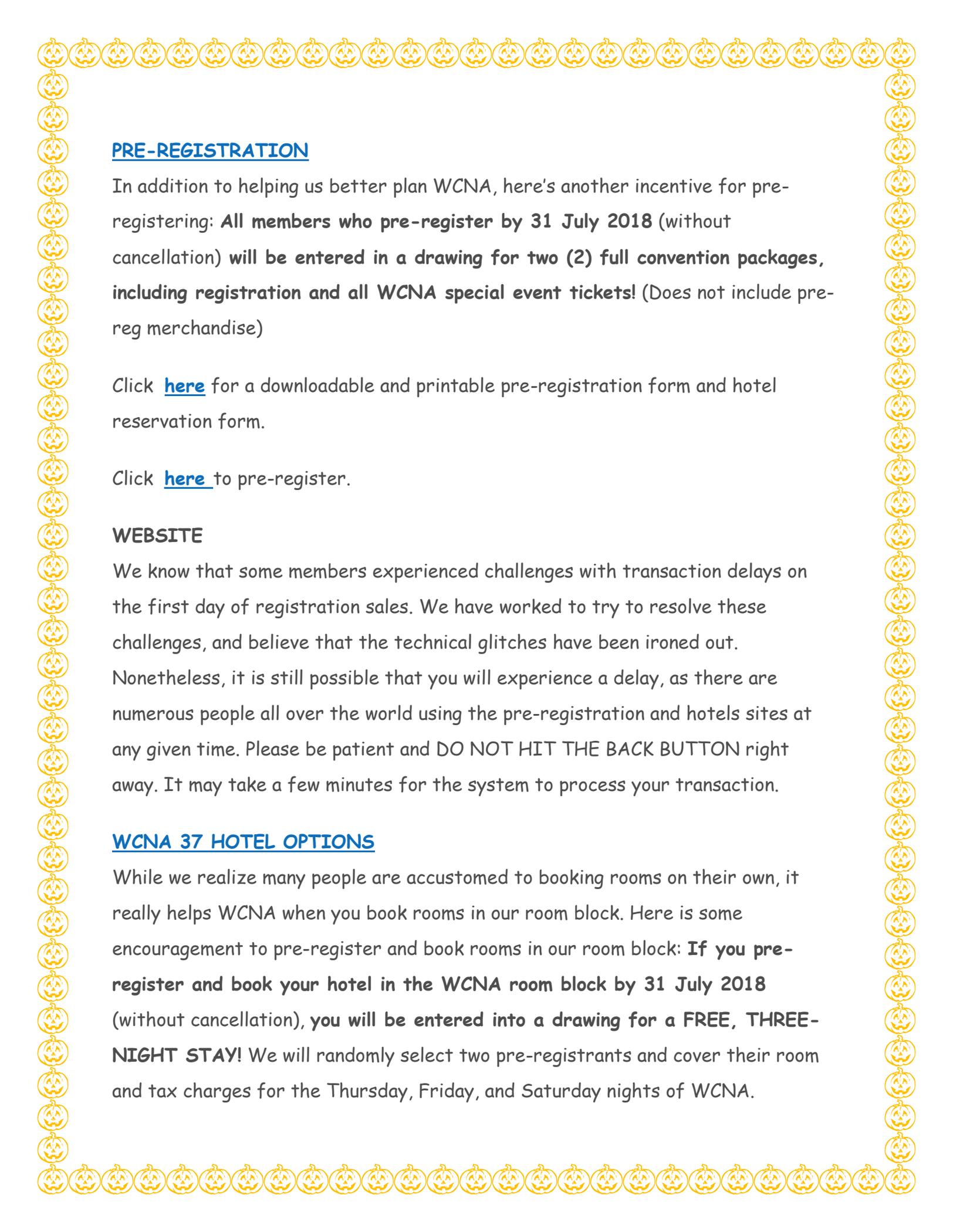
Artwork/poetry/doodles N.A. related recovery experiences

[Kind Komments or Koncerns ☺](#)



WCNA 37 – [The Magic Is Still Real](#)

**August 30, 2018 through
September 2, 2018
Orlando, FL, USA**



PRE-REGISTRATION

In addition to helping us better plan WCNA, here's another incentive for pre-registering: **All members who pre-register by 31 July 2018 (without cancellation) will be entered in a drawing for two (2) full convention packages, including registration and all WCNA special event tickets!** (Does not include pre-reg merchandise)

Click [here](#) for a downloadable and printable pre-registration form and hotel reservation form.

Click [here](#) to pre-register.

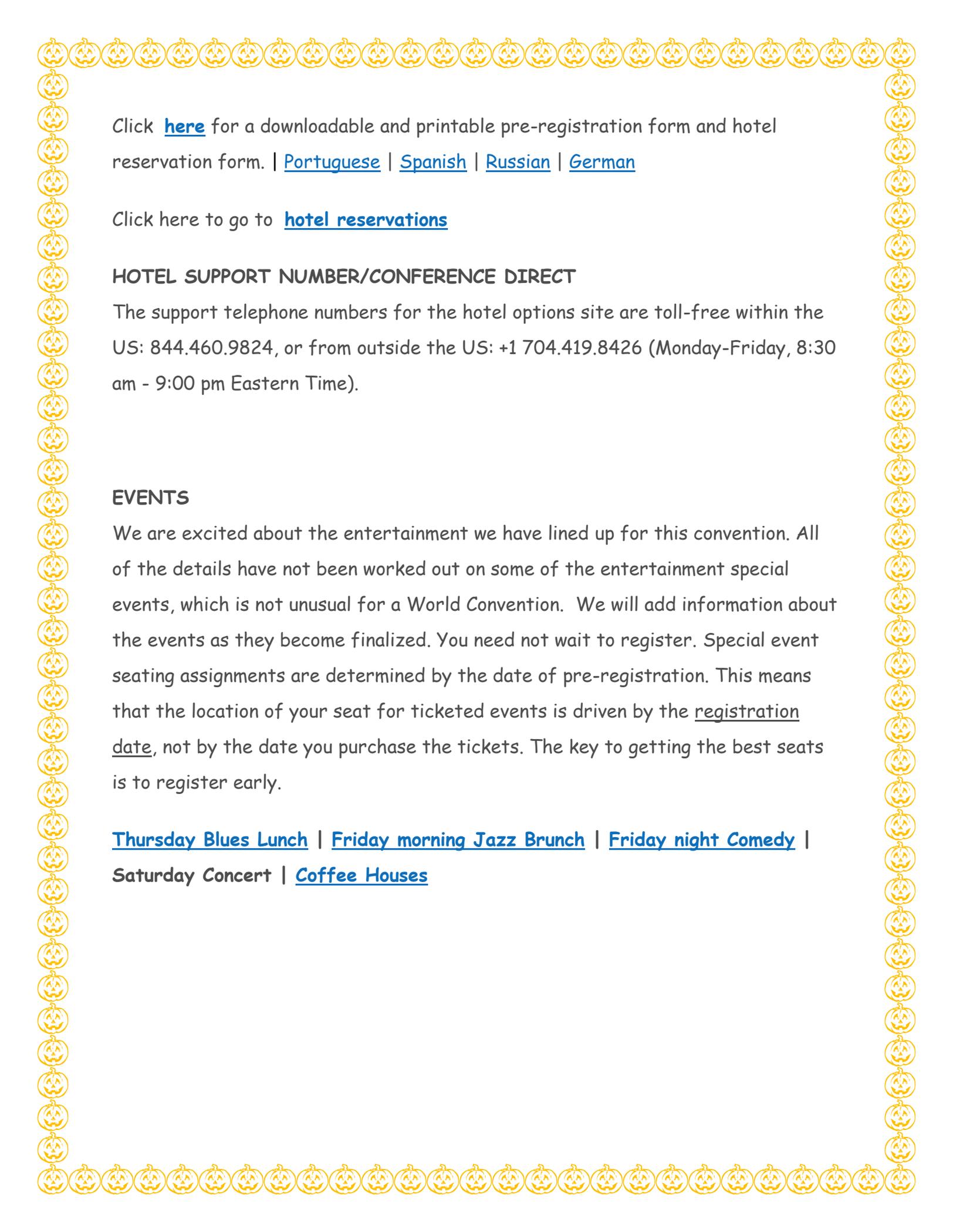
WEBSITE

We know that some members experienced challenges with transaction delays on the first day of registration sales. We have worked to try to resolve these challenges, and believe that the technical glitches have been ironed out.

Nonetheless, it is still possible that you will experience a delay, as there are numerous people all over the world using the pre-registration and hotels sites at any given time. Please be patient and **DO NOT HIT THE BACK BUTTON** right away. It may take a few minutes for the system to process your transaction.

WCNA 37 HOTEL OPTIONS

While we realize many people are accustomed to booking rooms on their own, it really helps WCNA when you book rooms in our room block. Here is some encouragement to pre-register and book rooms in our room block: **If you pre-register and book your hotel in the WCNA room block by 31 July 2018 (without cancellation), you will be entered into a drawing for a FREE, THREE-NIGHT STAY!** We will randomly select two pre-registrants and cover their room and tax charges for the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights of WCNA.



Click [here](#) for a downloadable and printable pre-registration form and hotel reservation form. | [Portuguese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Russian](#) | [German](#)

Click here to go to [hotel reservations](#)

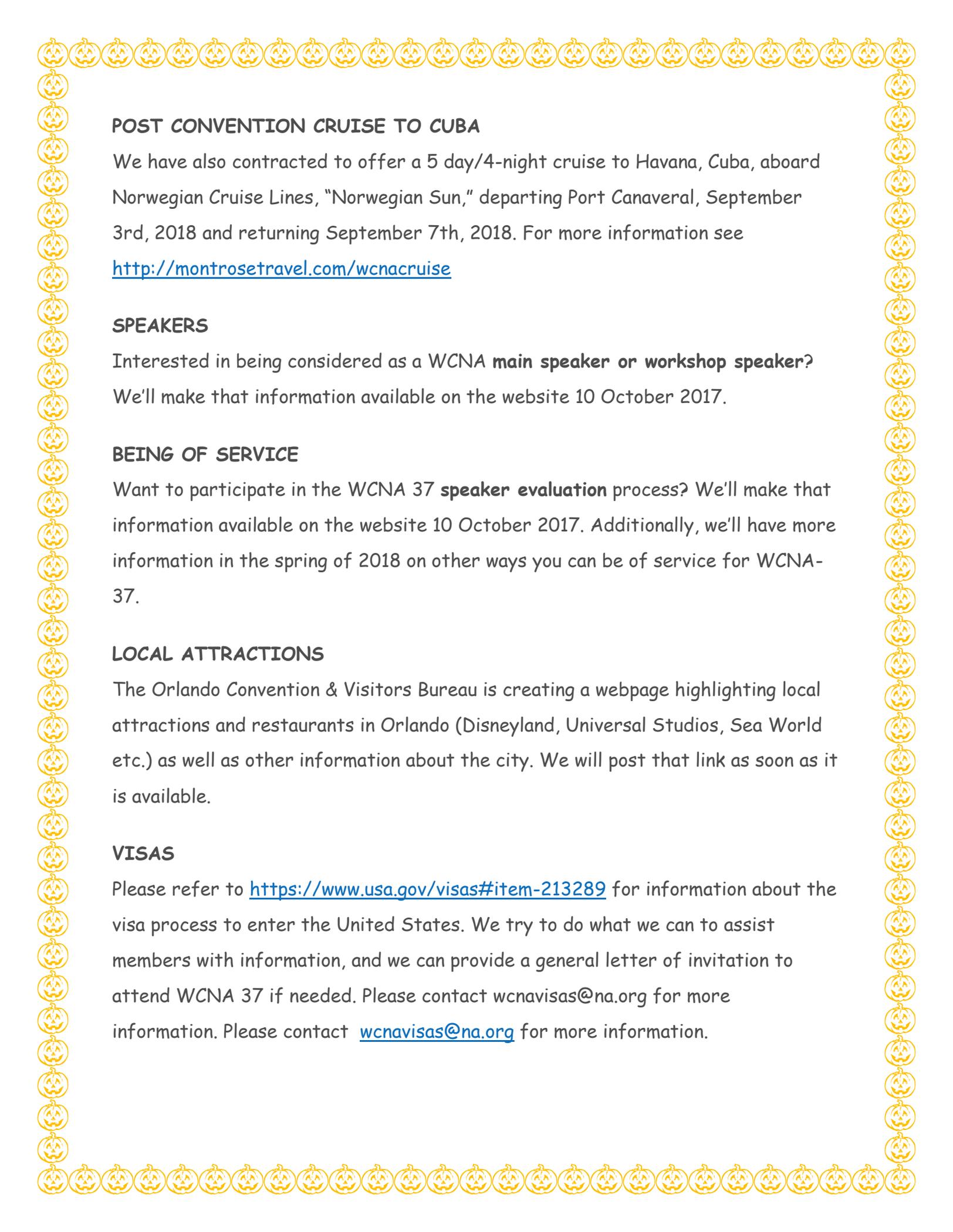
HOTEL SUPPORT NUMBER/CONFERENCE DIRECT

The support telephone numbers for the hotel options site are toll-free within the US: 844.460.9824, or from outside the US: +1 704.419.8426 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 9:00 pm Eastern Time).

EVENTS

We are excited about the entertainment we have lined up for this convention. All of the details have not been worked out on some of the entertainment special events, which is not unusual for a World Convention. We will add information about the events as they become finalized. You need not wait to register. Special event seating assignments are determined by the date of pre-registration. This means that the location of your seat for ticketed events is driven by the registration date, not by the date you purchase the tickets. The key to getting the best seats is to register early.

[Thursday Blues Lunch](#) | [Friday morning Jazz Brunch](#) | [Friday night Comedy](#) | [Saturday Concert](#) | [Coffee Houses](#)

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POST CONVENTION CRUISE TO CUBA

We have also contracted to offer a 5 day/4-night cruise to Havana, Cuba, aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines, "Norwegian Sun," departing Port Canaveral, September 3rd, 2018 and returning September 7th, 2018. For more information see <http://montrosetravel.com/wcnacruise>

SPEAKERS

Interested in being considered as a WCNA **main speaker or workshop speaker**? We'll make that information available on the website 10 October 2017.

BEING OF SERVICE

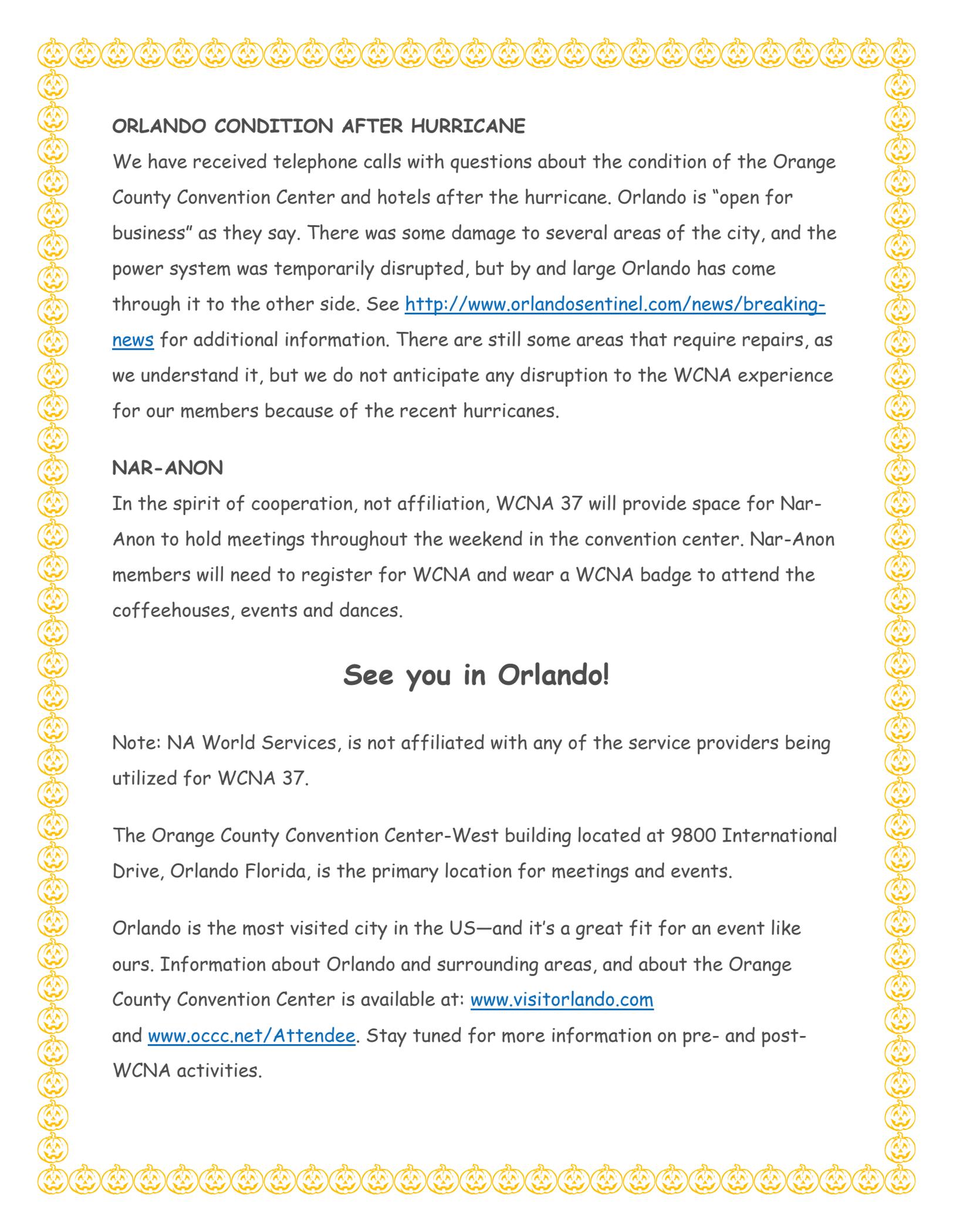
Want to participate in the WCNA 37 **speaker evaluation** process? We'll make that information available on the website 10 October 2017. Additionally, we'll have more information in the spring of 2018 on other ways you can be of service for WCNA-37.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The Orlando Convention & Visitors Bureau is creating a webpage highlighting local attractions and restaurants in Orlando (Disneyland, Universal Studios, Sea World etc.) as well as other information about the city. We will post that link as soon as it is available.

VISAS

Please refer to <https://www.usa.gov/visas#item-213289> for information about the visa process to enter the United States. We try to do what we can to assist members with information, and we can provide a general letter of invitation to attend WCNA 37 if needed. Please contact wcnavisas@na.org for more information. Please contact wcnavisas@na.org for more information.

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ORLANDO CONDITION AFTER HURRICANE

We have received telephone calls with questions about the condition of the Orange County Convention Center and hotels after the hurricane. Orlando is "open for business" as they say. There was some damage to several areas of the city, and the power system was temporarily disrupted, but by and large Orlando has come through it to the other side. See <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/breaking-news> for additional information. There are still some areas that require repairs, as we understand it, but we do not anticipate any disruption to the WCNA experience for our members because of the recent hurricanes.

NAR-ANON

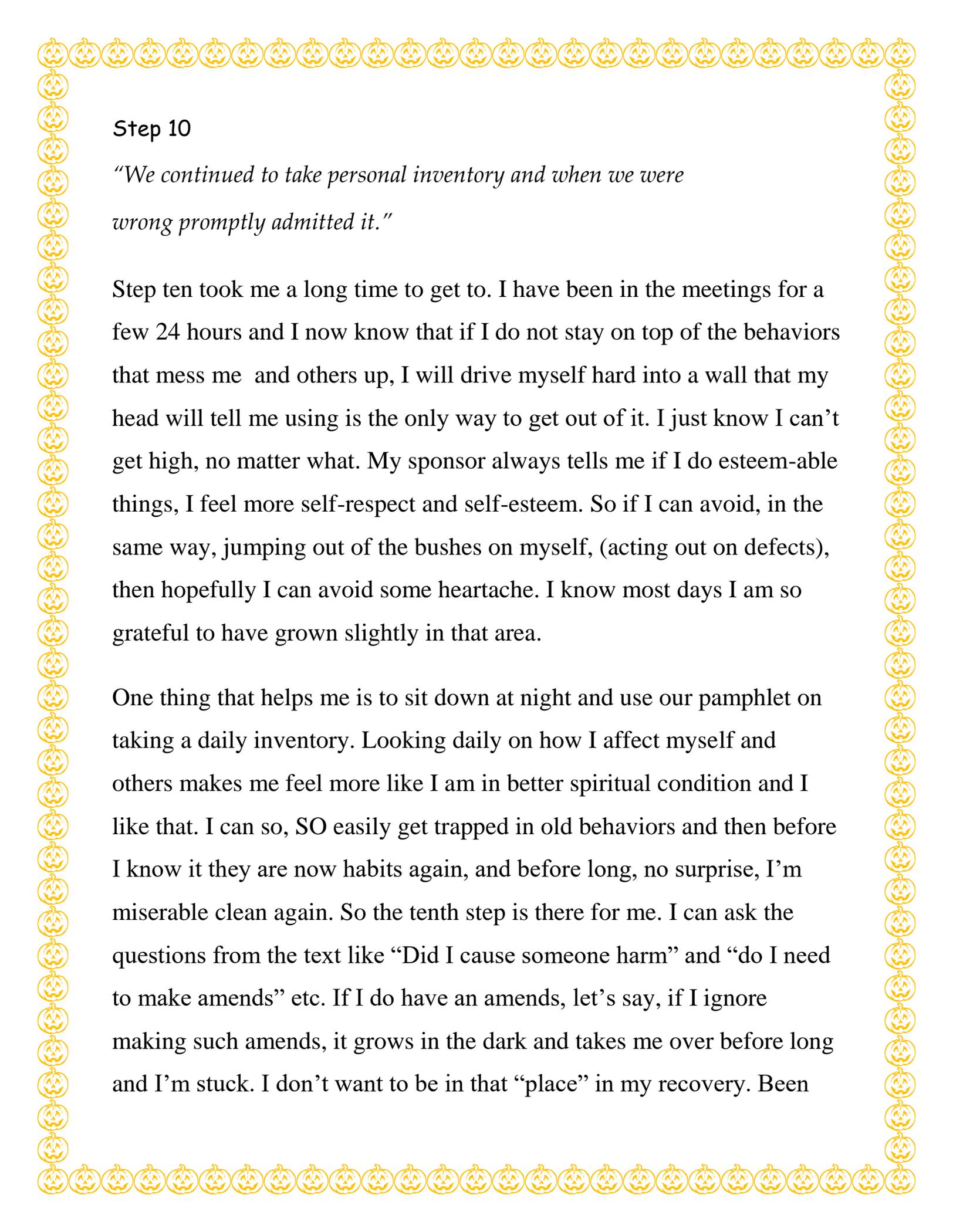
In the spirit of cooperation, not affiliation, WCNA 37 will provide space for Nar-Anon to hold meetings throughout the weekend in the convention center. Nar-Anon members will need to register for WCNA and wear a WCNA badge to attend the coffeehouses, events and dances.

See you in Orlando!

Note: NA World Services, is not affiliated with any of the service providers being utilized for WCNA 37.

The Orange County Convention Center-West building located at 9800 International Drive, Orlando Florida, is the primary location for meetings and events.

Orlando is the most visited city in the US—and it's a great fit for an event like ours. Information about Orlando and surrounding areas, and about the Orange County Convention Center is available at: www.visitorlando.com and www.occc.net/Attendee. Stay tuned for more information on pre- and post-WCNA activities.

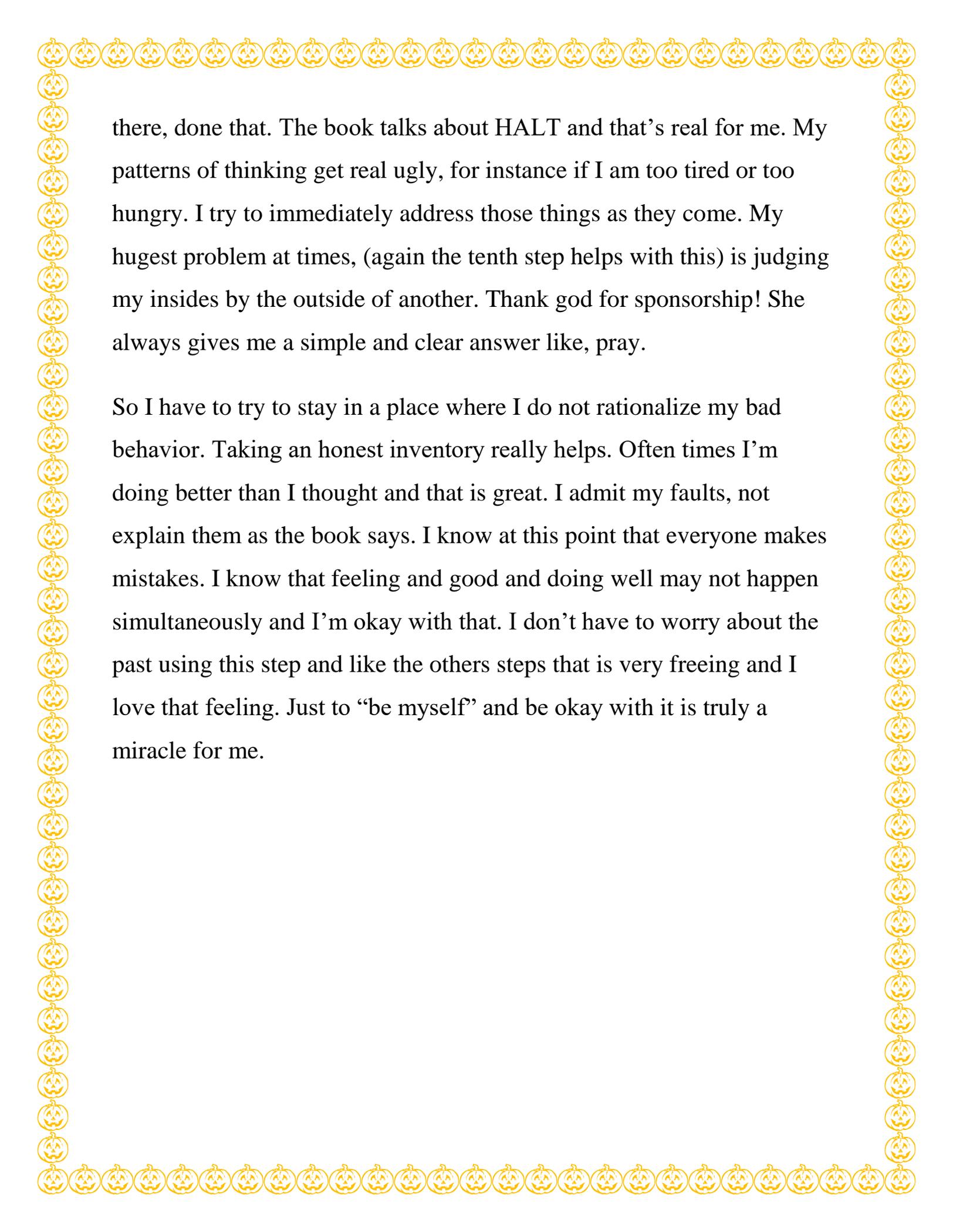


Step 10

"We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."

Step ten took me a long time to get to. I have been in the meetings for a few 24 hours and I now know that if I do not stay on top of the behaviors that mess me and others up, I will drive myself hard into a wall that my head will tell me using is the only way to get out of it. I just know I can't get high, no matter what. My sponsor always tells me if I do esteem-able things, I feel more self-respect and self-esteem. So if I can avoid, in the same way, jumping out of the bushes on myself, (acting out on defects), then hopefully I can avoid some heartache. I know most days I am so grateful to have grown slightly in that area.

One thing that helps me is to sit down at night and use our pamphlet on taking a daily inventory. Looking daily on how I affect myself and others makes me feel more like I am in better spiritual condition and I like that. I can so, SO easily get trapped in old behaviors and then before I know it they are now habits again, and before long, no surprise, I'm miserable clean again. So the tenth step is there for me. I can ask the questions from the text like "Did I cause someone harm" and "do I need to make amends" etc. If I do have an amends, let's say, if I ignore making such amends, it grows in the dark and takes me over before long and I'm stuck. I don't want to be in that "place" in my recovery. Been



there, done that. The book talks about HALT and that's real for me. My patterns of thinking get real ugly, for instance if I am too tired or too hungry. I try to immediately address those things as they come. My hugest problem at times, (again the tenth step helps with this) is judging my insides by the outside of another. Thank god for sponsorship! She always gives me a simple and clear answer like, pray.

So I have to try to stay in a place where I do not rationalize my bad behavior. Taking an honest inventory really helps. Often times I'm doing better than I thought and that is great. I admit my faults, not explain them as the book says. I know at this point that everyone makes mistakes. I know that feeling and good and doing well may not happen simultaneously and I'm okay with that. I don't have to worry about the past using this step and like the others steps that is very freeing and I love that feeling. Just to "be myself" and be okay with it is truly a miracle for me.

Meet C13

To Live Like No One Dares

Drugs saved my life. It was the escape I needed to survive a conspiracy perpetuated by rigid binary system. The mystery started to unravel in my 5th year with a relationship break-up that began a journey of discovering that I am of 3rd gender, more specifically, I am XXY47 Intersexed (IS) Hermaphrodite. This condition is so rare, that I am not supposed to exist. It is likely that some type of "corrective" surgery was performed, because the tell-tail sign of making ambiguous genitalia aesthetically correct, at such a young age, is over-sensitivity--my situation--or no feeling at all. Even then, it was

well documented that 70% rejected this assigned gender system by this model.

I knew I was different, but with two parents in active addition, I learned that alcohol was there to fix my problems. I had my first drunk at 4, my first joint at 7, and my first cigarette at 11; the year puberty started.

I was not really raised gender specific, as I had severe Asthma, which came with a lot of sedative medication. This illness went away taking those perks with them, as my body took on Secondary Female Characteristics. I liked these changes, but I was not supposed to be raised by these social guidelines. Major depression



settled in by the time I was 12, and alcohol became my life preserver.

I was out of the house by 16, living and working in a hotel, while attending high school. I was in Limbo with many heavy drug users. Alcohol was still my buddy as war dreams emphasized a monthly battle that felt like my system was ripping itself apart from the inside. Marijuana use was the accepted social activity. My first two years in recovery was a last ditch attempt to meet society's expectations, along with a little help of Male puberty at 20. Even so, I could not relate to the men in the program. Dejected, I came to the conclusion that I did not have gender.

With the relapse of my fiancée, I sought refuge in the program.

Unfortunately, there was a strong movement in the rooms to convert people to Christianity, even if it meant relapse to get them there. This lack of support brought isolation and thoughts of suicide.

With the 12-Step programs no more for me, I found solace in gender support groups and took a chance to transition to Female. One night, at a particular large meeting, I met 5 IS people. This started a relationship with one person in that group who brought me to realize that, although living as Female worked better, to truly be happy, was to embrace both.

With this acceptance, my last suicide attempt was in year 8. The next 3 years was a decline in health to where I was told I had 4 months to live (Thyroid failure). Due to my IS status, Modern



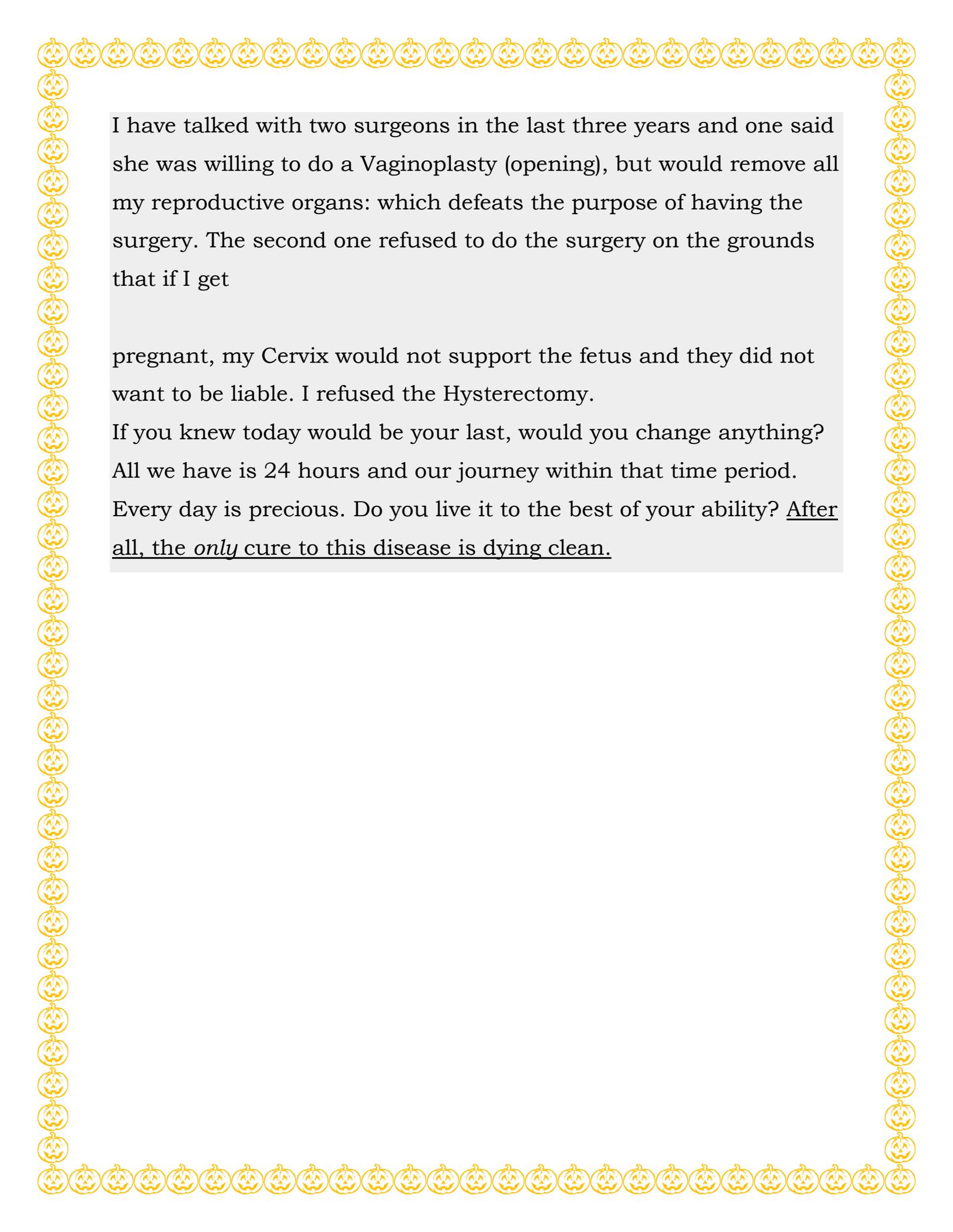
Medicine was not available. I went the herbal route and in time, I had to become my own doctor and pharmacist.

I came back to the rooms of NA, on a regular basis, in my 13th year, when it seemed that the spiritual principles were again being practiced. This does not mean it has always been steady. When I am researching ailment(s) my meeting attendance lags. Medication is highly controversial in the rooms, worse for someone that has to self-medicate.

I have had a couple of misgivings. I put a lot of time into the steps, yet have had very few sponsees; while some who were using had more at that moment than I have had during my entire time clean. The other is that I keep coming back but have not heard my story in 28 years. Should I really be surprised when you consider I get a 50% rejection rate when I tell people that I am Intersexed; not Transsexual (TS).

Three and a half years ago, the diagnosis came: I am Partially Insensitive to Estradiol, the master hormone (Estrogen) that tells all the other hormones (including Androgens) how to function. The medication I take, started [Female] puberty all over gain and awakened an Ovary that has been dormant all my life. It has allowed me to taste, smell and sense things in my environment among other perks.

The biggest drawback is that, with the surgery done to me as an infant, it created an Imperforated Hymen (blockage). A few days out of the month, there is a risk of hemorrhaging to death (close 3 times); and perhaps sepsis.



I have talked with two surgeons in the last three years and one said she was willing to do a Vaginoplasty (opening), but would remove all my reproductive organs: which defeats the purpose of having the surgery. The second one refused to do the surgery on the grounds that if I get

pregnant, my Cervix would not support the fetus and they did not want to be liable. I refused the Hysterectomy.

If you knew today would be your last, would you change anything?

All we have is 24 hours and our journey within that time period.

Every day is precious. Do you live it to the best of your ability? After all, the *only* cure to this disease is dying clean.