

# the Point

*The point is, that we are willing  
to grow along spiritual lines.*

from Chapter Five of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous

2017  
June 6

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous




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The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Marin Counties). The Point's pages are open to participation by all AA members. Nothing published herein should be construed as a statement of AA, nor does publication constitute endorsement of AA as a whole, our Intergroup, the Central Office, or The Point Editorial Committee. Letters and articles to help carry the AA message are welcomed, subject to editorial review by The Point Committee.

*Cover illustration by Anonymous*

# June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at Intergroup meetings, Intergroup committee meetings or service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including ASL interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative formats, should contact Central Office at (415) 674-1821 no less than five business days prior to the event.</p> <div>     </div>			
4	<b>5</b> <b>FIRST MON</b> <b>Technology Committee Meeting</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 6pm	6	<b>7</b> <b>FIRST WED</b> <b>Intergroup Meeting</b> First Unitarian Universalist Center 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco <b>Orientation</b> 6:15pm <b>Meeting</b> 7pm
<b>11</b> <b>SECOND SUN</b> <b>Golden Gate Young People in AA</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 12pm <i>(even months at Central Office; odd months at Marin Alano Club)</i>	<b>12</b> <b>SECOND MON</b> <b>SF Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco <b>Speaker Workshop</b> 6pm <b>Business Meeting</b> 7pm	<b>13</b> <b>SECOND TUE</b> <b>Marin H&amp;I</b> Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael <b>SF General Service</b> 1111 O'Farrell St. <b>New GSR Orientation</b> 6:30pm <b>Concept Study</b> 6:30pm <b>Business Meeting</b> 7:30pm	<b>14</b> <b>SECOND WED</b> <b>Marin Bridging the Gap</b> Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael <b>Orientation</b> 6pm <b>Business Meeting</b> 6:30pm
<b>18</b> <b>THIRD SUN</b> <b>Archives Committee Meeting</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 2pm <i>Business meeting followed by work day</i>	<b>19</b> <b>THIRD MON</b> <b>Marin General Service</b> 9 Ross Valley Rd., San Rafael <b>Orientation / Concept Study</b> 6:45pm <b>Business Meeting</b> 7:30pm <b>SF Teleservice</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco <b>Orientation</b> 6pm <b>Quarterly Business Meeting</b> 6:30pm	20	21
25	26	<b>27</b> <b>FOURTH TUE</b> <b>Marin Teleservice</b> Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael <b>Orientation</b> 7pm <b>Business Meeting</b> 7:30pm	28

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3
8	9	10 <u>SECOND SAT</u> <b>The Point Committee Meeting</b> Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 12:30pm <b>Founder's Day</b> First Unitarian Universalist Center 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco <b>Doors</b> 5:00pm <b>Speaker Meeting</b> 7:00pm
15	16	17 <u>THIRD SAT</u> <b>SF H&amp;I</b> 2900 24th St., San Francisco <b>Orientation</b> 11am (odd months have a business meeting)
22 <u>Fourth Thu</u> <b>Marin Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)</b> Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael <b>Business Meeting</b> 7pm	23	24 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> <b>CNCA Meeting</b> 320 N McDowell Blvd., Petaluma 10am
29	30	



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*"The only urgent thing is that  
we make a beginning, and  
keep trying."*

*~ Twelve Steps and Twelve  
Traditions, p. 68*



## Meeting Changes

### New Meetings:

Sun – Fri	5:00pm	Pacific Heights	Anything Is Possible, Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. / Webster St.
Sat	1:00pm	Pacific Heights	Afternoon Reflections, Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. / Webster St.
Mon	11:59pm	Inner Sunset	First Meeting of Day, The Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave. / Irving St.
Tue	11:59pm	Inner Sunset	It's A Good Day Anytime, All The Time, The Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave. / Irving St.
Wed	11:59pm	Inner Sunset	One Is Equal To What You Do Over Time, The Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave. / Irving St.
Thu	11:59pm	Inner Sunset	We, You, Us, All, God, Plus The Twelve Steps, The Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave. / Irving St.

### Meeting Changes:

Sat	6:30pm	Cow Hollow	Happy Destiny (SF), St. Mary the Virgin Church, 2325 Union St. / Steiner St. (Was called The 4th Dimension)
Wed	7:00pm	San Rafael	Wholly Together Now, Nativity Episcopal Church, 333 Ellen Dr. (Temporary change from St. Paul's Church until construction is complete)

### No Longer Meeting:

Sun	8:00pm	Novato	North Bay Trudgers, 1907 Novato Blvd./McClay
Mon	6:00pm	Inner Sunset	Burning Desire Step Study Group, The Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave. / Irving St.
Mon	8:00pm	Castro	They Stopped In Time, Golden City Church, 754 14th St.
Thu	8:00am	Castro	Design For Living, St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. / Market St.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We occasionally receive reports that meetings listed in our schedule are missing or no longer active. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken, and sometimes not. **If you know anything about a meeting that has relocated or disbanded — even temporarily —** please call Central Office immediately: **(415) 674-1821**. This helps us direct newcomers, visitors and sober, local alcoholics alike to actual meetings and not to rooms that housed a meeting once upon a time. *Thank you for contributing to the accuracy of our schedule!*

The **Tech Committee** has been working to create a new and improved **AASF.org** website with a target launch date of **June 10, 2017**—Founders Day!



**The new site is as easy to use on a mobile device as it is on a desktop—no pinching or horizontal scrolling required. Information and navigation is rearranged to make sure newcomers, members, and trusted servants can easily find what they need, when they need it.**

This is the first redesign in 10 years, and we are very excited to launch! We sincerely thank Tech Committee members, Kristin Z., Ben B., Chris S., Michael P., and James O'C., and Josh R., for their work on the new site. We are definitely making headway into the 21st century!

## From the Editor

# Making a Beginning

*Only Step One, where we made the 100 percent admission we were powerless over alcohol, can be practiced with absolute perfection. The remaining eleven steps state perfect ideals. They are goals toward which we look, and the measuring sticks by which we estimate our progress. Seen in this light, Step Six is still difficult, but not at all impossible. The only urgent thing is that we make a beginning, and keep trying.*  
~Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 68

It's late, after a day chock-full of challenges, so I tell myself to just start typing and something good will happen. Because it's worse to remain immobilized by the fear of failure. Like my first sponsor used to say, "Just blurt it out first and we'll clean it up later." Luckily Claire A. provides impetus for releasing perfectionism, even though her mind doesn't like the idea, on Page 10. And on Page 6, Bob S. starts us off "at once" with his sense of urgency for completing steps.

Later in the issue an anonymous writer breaks down the semantics of Steps Six and Seven. Rick R. reiterates his simple belief in the spirit of the universe. Forrest P. reminds us to hold on to our chairs, since we're about to find a life beyond our wildest dreams. Karen C. shows how clubs can practice cooperation without affiliation by following Tradition Six. Bronwen L. expands on our "broken elevator" adage. Sheila H.'s poem describes strangers and stragglers welcoming her into "the rooms" to make a bleak Friday night bloom with hope.

Reminds me of Goethe (or Murray) on beginnings: "The moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred... Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now."

## EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Point* is published monthly to inform A.A. members about business and meeting affairs of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, *The Point* publishes original feature articles submitted by local A.A. members that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining the editorial content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions.

This statement is a summary; for the full editorial policy, please go to [www.aasf.org](http://www.aasf.org). To contact *The Point* committee directly, write to [thepoint@aasf.org](mailto:thepoint@aasf.org).



## Faithful FIVERS!

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members Who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

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(Continued on Page 19)

If you would like to become a Faithful Fiver, please download a pledge form from our website. You will receive a complimentary subscription to **The Point**. And remember, individual contributions are 100% tax deductible!





Peg L. — Artists & Writers, Sometimes  
Slowly, Women's Kitchen Table  
Sobriety date: 11/10/1981

## Sober Circus: Founders' Day 82!

Join us for a celebration of sobriety and carnival fun.  
**Saturday, June 10, 2017, 5:00pm**

First Unitarian Universalist Center  
187 Franklin Street, San Francisco

Advanced tickets and information @ [aasf.org](http://aasf.org)

FOUNDERS DAY

## BURGERS AND BINGO



JOIN THE NOVATO FELLOWSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE TO CELEBRATE 82 YEARS OF AA




**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

**4:00 PM AA Speaker Meeting**  
Hosted by Barnyard Group

**5:15 PM Dinner / 6:00 PM BINGO**

**\$20 Dinner and BINGO**  
Druids Hall - Reichert Ave @ Grant in Novato



# Step Five Timetable

*Prompt action yields positive results*

by Bob S.

The information for Step Five began with a sincere session of spontaneous writing where I asked God to make clear my selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear. This awareness, plus my “official” Fourth Step inventory process (directly out of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*), provided a new awareness of the lurking demons (grosser handicaps) that had kept me drunk year after year. These destructive fiends freely frolicked in my unapproachable subconscious. They were protected from the *sunlight of the spirit* of truth by a dense, dark and distorted fog of falsehood and deceit. This Fourth Step awareness did not make them disappear, but at least I had found honest information for use in Step Five. Someone said, “The truth will set you free,” but I have come to believe there is more to it than simple awareness. I have found that continued action is needed to

face and be rid of my now-obvious shortcomings and defects. This was to take place in Step Five.

## *The Big Book tells me to do Step Five at ‘first opportunity’*

The Big Book tells me to do Step Five at “first opportunity,” which turned out to be about five minutes after the Step Four session (I love the Big Book timetable). I confided to my sponsor a detailed revelation of those little demons and devils of conceit, jealousy, carelessness, intolerance, ill temper and all the rest of it—not only to my sponsor, but to God! My sponsor had not the power to relieve me of this new-found “bondage of self,” but luckily the Big Book tells me that “God could and would if he were sought” (p. 60). Those dangerous demons cannot survive in the sunlight of God’s truth. The Fifth Step promises, on page 75, tell us that we now

begin to have a spiritual experience. Well, the realization that God is soon to remove the very things that blocked me from seeing and acting on the truth-in-drink indeed speaks of a radical inner transformation. I believe the main goal of this vital step is to bring realization of what dominant inner forces have blocking the truth-in-drink.

Following Step Five I knew what imperfections to ask God to remove in Steps Six and Seven. It was very important that I acted before my mind decided to remember only what it wanted to remember. I believe that the Big Book timetable is very important here. We are told to do Step Four “at once,” Step Five at “first opportunity,” review for a short period and “then” (not later) do Step Six. After which, go right into Step Seven “when ready.” My sponsor helped me via the Big Book timetable directions. I haven’t had a drink of booze since!



# The Spirit of the Universe

## *The God idea works*

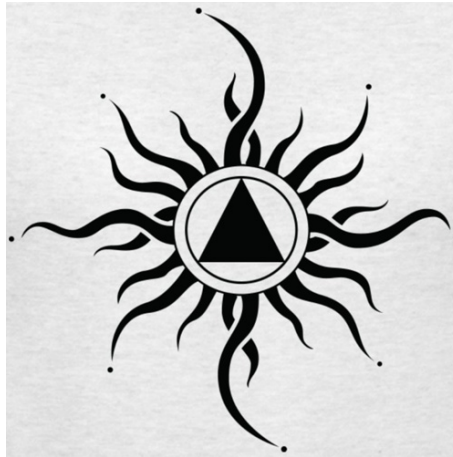
by Rick R.

In the meetings that I attend on a regular basis the topic of God comes up quite often and that's not surprising since there is such an emphasis on trusting in some form of a Higher Power in order to stay sober. Alcoholics who continue to show up at the doors of A.A. all come from differing cultures and it is a blessing that the founders of A.A., when forming the structure of the steps and traditions, had the insight to insure that no alcoholic was left out, regardless of where they stood on this topic. The question of whom or what God is may never be answered to everyone's satisfaction; lest A.A. could be turned into a religious organization and the Oxford Group proved that doesn't work. In A.A., we have members from many different religions with different versions of what God means to their members. We have Buddhism, which doesn't worship any form of a God. We have atheists that get sober in A.A. and do just fine as long as they have a conscience and live by good moral standards.

### *God show me what to do and please give me the strength to do it*

On page 52 in the Big Book it says, *"When we saw others solve their problems by a simple reliance on the Spirit of the Universe, we had to stop doubting the power of God. Our ideas did not work. But the God idea did."* When I first read this, it made me ponder. Is

the Spirit of the Universe God, or is God the Spirit of the Universe? Considering the fact I have never seen God in person (that I know of) it occurred to me that God resides in the Spiritual Realm. Most of my life troubles stem from my instincts gone astray and they are spiritual in nature. Fear, guilt, shame, dishonesty and above all pride and selfishness, all reside within my spiritual makeup. As the result, I cheat, steal and lie.



As I progressed through the steps, I was introduced to several prayers to help me weather the storms that I faced as I took responsibility for my past failings. They helped me to get right with myself and the people I had harmed in the days when I had no scruples. Things changed dramatically for me when I addressed Step Nine with the faith that I acquired in the program up to that point. When I reached Step Eleven the word "only" threw me a curveball. It tells me that I should only pray for knowledge and strength. I read that to mean, God show me what to do

and please give me the strength to do it. I don't know if anybody hears my prayers, but I hear my prayers and the right answers seem to come to me in time.

### *Don't let anything block you from the sunlight of the Spirit*

Well-meaning people sometimes talk about praying for people to get well from a somewhat hopeless physical illness and I have to question the "only" clause in Step Eleven. The conclusion comes to me that if praying for that to happen and it worked, the hospitals would be full of sinners and the people we pray for would be healthy and happy. I don't see any evidence that God works at that level. When someone I know is in a grave condition I ask for guidance and it usually ends up with me being quietly realistic and giving support to the family members around that person. I have heard of miracles happening in some cases but I have seen just as many or more tragedies.

We take the best that religion has to offer; as we do with all respected philosophies and hopefully we become better human beings—deep down inside every human being is the fundamental idea of God. We all have a conscience and an ego. As my friend once said, *"you don't have to understand thermodynamics to enjoy the warmth of the sun."* I say, "don't let anything block you from the sunlight of the Spirit."



# When I Became Entirely Ready

*A model that worked for me*

by Anonymous

What is the meaning of the word *defect*? What is the meaning of the word *shortcoming*? Those are two words we hear often about Steps Six and Seven. If we get caught up with semantics it distracts us from the heart of the matter. I can understand why a person could get confused since they both imply that something is wrong. If they were intended to be synonymous why did they not include both in Steps Six and Seven? Early in sobriety I heard they didn't want to be redundant when they wrote the Big Book. I see that as a weak explanation. When I read the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (12 & 12), I see a much more active role expected of us than simply asking God to rid us of these faults. Understanding the founders never wanted to edit the Big Book, I can see that these issues had to be addressed. The 12 & 12 provides amplifying information.

## *Correct the defects and the shortcomings disappear*

To find a simple framework for addressing these steps I had to conform to the spirit of the program and rid myself of my obvious character flaws. I might use an example that we are all familiar with: If a person purchases a new car and several months later they discover a defect in the braking system causing the car to continue to roll forward instead of braking, the car would be recalled. The defect would be corrected, and the brakes would perform properly each time you put your foot down on the pedal. The defect was the faulty brakes, and the shortcoming

was the behavior of the car. It wouldn't stop properly. Once the defect was corrected, the shortcoming went away.

## *There are two ways to have the tallest building in town...*

While talking to a close friend of mine about gossiping, his comment on the matter was, "All forms of criticism and character assignation stem from low self-esteem." The low self-esteem was the defect that caused the gossip (shortcoming). Since that conversation, whenever I caught myself wanting to criticize others, I replaced the gossip with compassionate understanding and took the fall back position.



There are two ways to have the tallest building in town: 1) Build the tallest building, or 2) Tear down all of the other buildings around you. When I saw how pathetic that behavior was,

I quickly started to remove it from my day to day interactions with others (stop the gossip). I use this model on all of my defects as I discover them and it seems to have taken all of the power out of them.

This is a never-ending process and nothing has served me better. Discover and correct the defects and the shortcomings disappear. My shortcomings were apparent to everyone but my defects of character were not. When I could identify them in myself, all I had to do was to use a little self-restraint and the results were amazing. When I asked my Higher Power to remove my shortcomings, I became *entirely ready* and this process became the answer I was searching for. As a result, most

of the guilt and shame have dissolved into nothingness. I don't let the semantics of the two words, *defect* and *shortcoming*, stop me from applying a model that works for me. I am a firm believer in step study meetings and have been attending one weekly ever since I got sober in 1969. I liken it to a rock tumbler. Each time you

go through a cycle, slowly but surely, all of the rough edges are worn down and soon you begin to evolve to the finished product that you envisioned. This is one that really worked for me.





# A.A. Isn't a Game of Musical Chairs

*Don't let go of your seat*

by Forrest P.

The first version I heard of this was, “Hold onto your chair, and sit on your hands.”

From the beginning, the treasure of physical sobriety was constantly emphasized. This was the most important aspect of the program whether this is your first time, or too many to count just stay. “If you’ve not drank or used today, you’re a success.”

I was the last to realize I was an alcoholic. The blame was always placed elsewhere—it was this, that or the other, people, places, things; this or that drug or a bad combination.

*When it stopped working,  
I became a sad,  
pathetic person*

Alcohol afforded me the day-to-day coping skills that “normal” people intuitively had. It was as second nature to me as food, water or oxygen. So much of my being human was reliant on alcohol. It was always ready to party or lay low. Perk me up or bring me down. It always worked until it didn’t.

Hold onto my seat? Hell, yes I would!

I’ve no idea what I did in the early ’80s. I’ve only got tiny blips of memories here and there. I do recall that I was my friend’s problem. I was the messy drunk that fell down a lot—gravity and I were not the best of friends.

I recall one night my friends drove me home and when we arrived, I literally

fell out of the car into the gutter. Next day I awoke face sticking to my sheet with dried blood. What kind of friends were they? What had happened? I cleaned myself up and started calling people to find out. Evidently, I had refused their help. Typical belligerent alcoholic, I don’t need anyone, not me! I can take care of myself just fine.

“Girls just want to have fun,” yup that was my anthem. My friends and I were in our early 20’s and felt invincible. Survive, hold on, exist, get blotto, hold down a job and a place to live.

When it stopped working, I became a sad, pathetic person drinking alone in my apartment. I was miserable, walls closing in around me, quicksand all about, the boat was flooding. I was living Chapter Three. I took pills to calm down and sedatives to sleep.



One Friday night it was over. My moment of clarity was upon me. Before passing out, I asked for God’s help—tomorrow I must call and find an A.A. meeting. I was done!

My first day of sobriety I awoke in the early morning. Trust me when I say I had not been up at that hour for years. Awake perhaps and still drunk yes, but getting up? No! The sun was out and so was I! God’s grace carried

*A.A. works now just as  
it did then: perfectly*

me to a noon meeting and two others my first day.

Sure, I’ll grab the book, get a sponsor, a commitment and attend many meetings. I wanted no part of my old tired and worn out self. I’ll do whatever I’m told—I don’t want to return to that nothingness.

Thus, my new life began. It wasn’t easy my first few years, my emotions were all over the place. Now however, I have

a life beyond my wildest dreams. I would not trade anything that’s been on my journey.

A.A. works now just as it did then: perfectly. It seems to be tailor-made just for me. It always

fits. My size is always in stock. The prescription always works: don’t drink, trust in God, help others—and hold onto your chair!



# If You're Looking for a Sign, This Is It

*Laughter really is the best medicine*

by Claire A.

I saw this sign posted at the Gratitude Center in San Francisco the other day, for the umpteenth time. If you've sat on the west side of the main room, you've seen it, too, on the pillar. It always makes me smile. There's so much tied up in that one sign.

First, the idea of just getting on with it! The sign encourages me to dive in. If I let go, surrender, get in the messy, chaotic, loving stream of life, I'll be carried along with the flow. I don't have to have all, or even any, of the answers—I just have to be willing. It really is that simple, even if my alcoholic mind wants me to think I need to do things perfectly before I do them at all. I get so caught up in that trap sometimes. Right now, I'm doing a job search, and as I look through job listings, my alcoholic mind comes up with all the reasons I can't apply for this or that job. Never mind that I have a lot of skills and qualifications. My mind wants to find the perfect fit before I take action. I have to ask God to help me let go of perfectionism, because it doesn't help me!

## *Something shifts in me*

Second, the idea of needing some kind of sign, and having faith that it doesn't have to be a specific sign. The sign reminds me that I don't need to wait for a lightning bolt, and that, really, there are signs all around me. Again, when I get into action, it seems that my HP is all around me, making connections happen, making people show up in my life, making things smoother. For a long time I was suspicious of

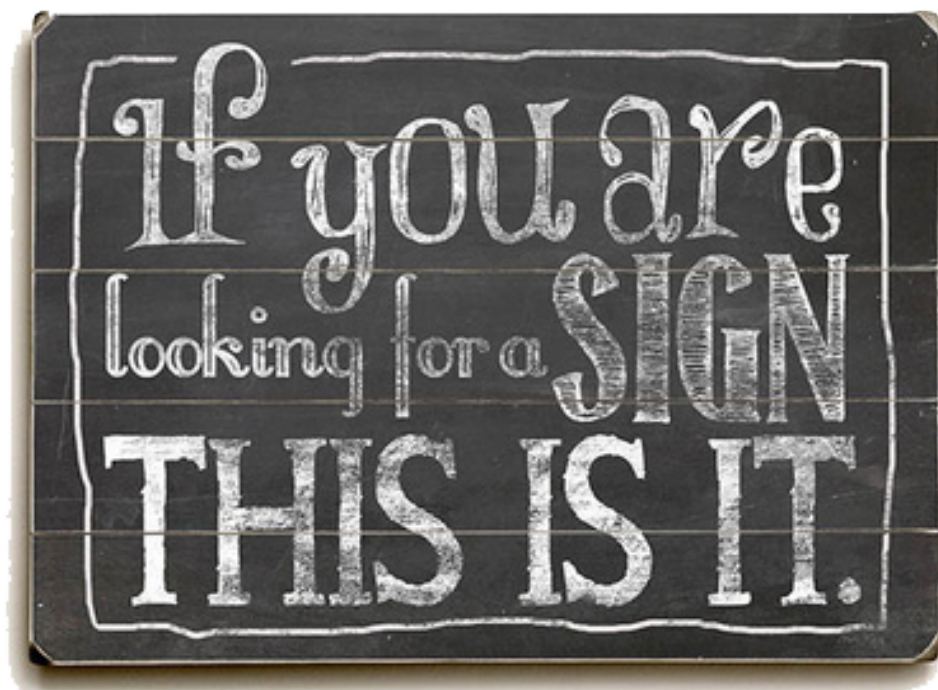
this—that can't be my higher power, I thought, it just can't be. I sound crazy. And maybe I do sound crazy. But, number one, I'm tired of caring how others think I sound. And number two, crazy or not, when I let go and get into action, life really is easier, more fun, more lively. It's scary! Don't get me wrong! All I want to do is hide under the covers. If I could wear the covers around all day, I probably would. But when I just step out the door, and ask to be willing to be willing, something shifts in me. That feeling of being truly alive is wonderful.

Third, the humor. There may be nothing less funny than writing about humor (I don't know whom to credit with that line: Mark Twain?), but I do have to say that the joke is on me. Am I looking for signs? Am I looking outside myself for some reason to get

on with things, make a decision? Well, this clever sign is short-circuiting that thinking. And laughter really is the best medicine. At a minimum, a good belly laugh shakes the tension out of my stomach knots!

## *Let go of perfectionism*

Lastly, the idea that someone thought of making the sign, and someone hung it up—we're connected. I don't know who hung that sign, but I thank them. Every time I see it, it's a reminder of all these things. And I feel a connection to that person who saw the humor and the truth in the sign, and hung it up to share that with others. I also feel connection because I am not alone—at least the person who hung the sign and I are on the same wavelength, and I bet plenty of others are right there with us.





# Tradition Six – Let's Take an Inventory

*How this tradition plays out in our clubhouses*

by Karen C.

Tradition Six states: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

OK, let's face it, Tradition Six isn't the sexiest of the traditions—it doesn't have the curb appeal of, say, your Traditions One, Five, Eleven or Twelve. However it's been every bit as vital in A.A.'s path to survival. Along with Tradition Ten, it's kept A.A. out of entanglements with outside issues and enterprises which could easily have led to its extinction (as occurred in the Washingtonian Society).

## *Are basket collections automatically given over to the club?*

Coming from a common experience, all the traditions are inter-related, but the relationship between Traditions Six and Seven is especially clear. In brief, Tradition Six says we don't finance outside enterprises and Tradition Seven says we don't let outside enterprises finance us. I think most of us are pretty clear that *as A.A. groups* we wouldn't endorse or fund hospitals or rehabs, but the idea gets a little murky when it comes to clubs or meeting centers. So how does this tradition apply in a practical manner, especially to the issue of clubhouses?

When I was new I was encouraged to go to meetings at locations that housed several groups because they offered the opportunity to see the same faces

at different meetings, and hopefully to begin building new friendships, as my old ones had either disintegrated or become dangerous. This turned out to be excellent advice as I found a fellowship which has now been "home" to me for 30 years.



How then, do the various groups at clubs or meeting centers practice cooperation but not affiliation? Tradition Four, in discussing the great freedom each A.A. group has,

warns of affiliation, and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* cites two storm signals (pg. 147): "A group ought not do anything that would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else." And Tradition Six tells us on p.157 that "in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, *no matter how good* [emphasis mine]." So what sort of questions should we be asking ourselves in regard to our clubs which might be storm signals—signs the wind might be blowing in the wrong direction?

- Are basket collections automatically given over to the club, or does the group get to handle their funds as they wish, as long as they pay their rent? In effect, are we allowing each group to adhere to our Seventh Tradition and be self-supporting?

- If the basket collections are given directly to the club, are they then co-mingled with basket collections from other Fellowships which meet at the location?
- Are funds from the H&I pink cans being co-mingled with the basket collections and diverted from their intended purpose?
- Are we encouraging direct support of the club *at group level*, maybe even asking our group to pass a second basket for the club?
- Do we think that serving on the board of the club is an A.A. service commitment?
- Are we enabling dysfunctional groups by placing too much financial burden on the strong groups? When too many groups are spending all their money on rent, there's not much left to distribute to our service entities.

## *Are funds from the H&I pink cans being co-mingled with the basket collection?*

Personally I love our clubs and meeting centers; each seems to have its own personality, which provides a variety of atmospheres for newcomers to sample. We can support our clubs through our continued presence at meetings where we help pay the rent, and we can also support them privately if we wish. What we don't do, according to Tradition Six, is endorse or finance them at the A.A. group level—thus separating the spiritual from the material.





# Climbing the Steps to Freedom

## *Choosing the steps instead of the elevator*

by Bronwen L.

The elevator of life, with the cables shredding and holes in the ceiling, was a path I took for many years. As a machine does repetitive movements orchestrated by a man behind the glass, I too was doing repetitive movements driven by fears and resentments. As the rickety elevator scaled each floor, increasing thoughts of hopelessness were consuming my air space.

Life without the elevator seemed daunting and I always went back to my comfort zone. One day, beaten and bruised I got off the elevator and let the doors close behind me. Scared to try something new, but knowing the elevator was a death trap waiting for the perfect moment to free fall, I whole heartily tried a new way of life as suggested in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Looking up at the steps ahead of me, the first step I had to take was to surrender to a power greater than myself that I truly was an alcoholic and I could not manage my own life. The second step I had to take was to come to the realization that my thoughts and actions were insane. I certainly didn't like that idea. I had always been someone who wanted to be recognized as smart and ambitious. In my narrow-mindedness, I didn't see how much the ride in the elevator cut off my oxygen to smart thinking. Once I finally surrendered to the idea that my thoughts and actions were irrational, it was a little easier to take the Third Step. Every day God reminds me that he is the boss. Every time I try to be the boss

consequences follow—God always knows what is best for me.

### *The elevator was a death trap waiting for the perfect moment to free fall*

The first time I did Step Four it was a real revelation for me; I played the victim with my every resentment. When my sponsor pointed out that I played a part in every resentment it was mine blowing—I was that selfish and self-centered that I had no concept my actions and words hurt others.

Step Five forces me to be valuable with women. The outcome is always significantly better than trying to do this on my own.

of life and other days I am willing to give my character defects to God and let him handle them. When I let God handle my day, the outcome is always significantly improved.

### *I didn't see how much the ride in the elevator cut off my oxygen to smart thinking*

Step Eight showed me a list of people I was willing to go to any lengths to hurt emotionally to lessen the chaos in my brain so I was very nervous for Step Nine. Fear gripped me with each amends I made, but God had my back with everyone.

Step Ten is now ingrained in me to do daily. There are days where I specifically don't act out because I don't want to put it on a tenth step at night. Other days, I am a full-on participant in my character defects.

In Step Eleven, meditation does not come easy to me—I still find it challenging to be alone with my thoughts; but prayer is something I do consistently.

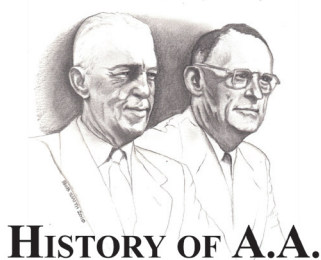
Step Twelve has given me an opportunity to see where I can grow in my recovery daily; one day I might work on a character defect, another day it is to reach out to a newcomer.

I can always choose to go back to taking the elevator but today I choose the Steps.



When I got to Step Six I was still shocked I wasn't a victim to my resentments so I was quite surprised to see the extensive list of my character defects. Step Seven allows me to take the weight off my shoulders of all the chaos in my head. Some days I act like a martyr trying to solve the puzzle





# A Few Big Book Events

## *A yellow pad and a pencil*

by Anonymous

In February of 1938, Bill W approached the Rockefeller establishment requesting funds for an alcoholic hospital and recuperation center. Thus was prompted a Rockefeller associate, Frank Amos, to check out the yet-to-be A.A. group of ex-drunks in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Amos brought back a glowing report and a recommended donation of \$50,000.00 (nearly a million dollars today). However, Albert Scott, from the Riverside Church, brought up the question: "Won't money spoil this thing?"

### *Won't money spoil this thing?*

Consequently, the \$50,000.00 idea flew out the window. However, John D. Rockefeller Jr. decided to contribute enough finances to allow Bill and Dr. Bob a weekly allowance and to pay off the doctor's house mortgage. This financial boon allowed Bill time to start writing what turned out to be our Big Book. This was March or April of 1938. Interestingly enough, he penned "There Is a Solution," as Chapter One and "Bill's Story" as Chapter Two, which were of course later reversed. Dr. Silkworth added "The Doctor's Opinion" in July of that year. A newly sober journalist, Jim S., began helping the Akron story contributors write their stories. The New York members wrote their own, with editing by Bill W. and Hank P., but not without some objections.

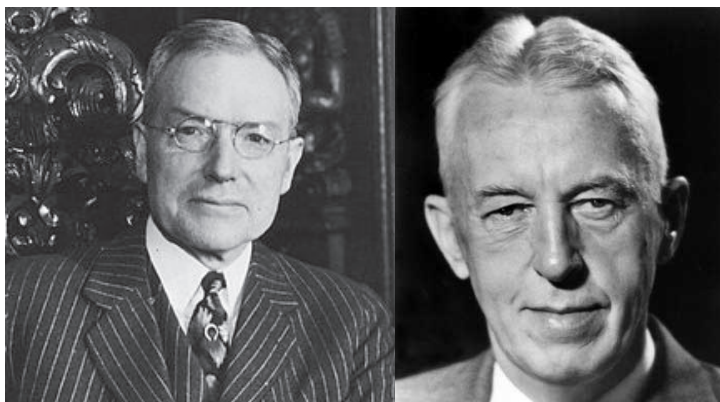
Bill's home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights had Tuesday evening meetings plus several live-in alcoholics. Here Bill and the ex-drunks would consider different inclusions for this new book. Bill would then add these to his own thoughts, write them on his yellow scratch pad, take them to his office, and recite for his secretary, Ruth Hock, to type (this typewriter is exhibited at GSO Archives).

Up to this time, the word-of-mouth procedure was a six-step program (there were some variations). Although the Oxford Group had no such program, there was much similarity with their many tenets (note the Big Book's Page xvi). Bill decided the step process needed to be more definitive, that there were too many loopholes. While lying in bed with a yellow scratch pad and a pencil, as

Four hundred copies of the completed manuscript were distributed for review, editing and advice. By early 1939, the major shift in tone or essence took place: Dr. Howard suggested that the words "We must" be changed to "We Ought," wherever possible. Also, Jimmy B. added the "ten-strike:" "God as we understood Him." The first printing of our Big Book was published on April 10, 1939.

### *He completed the first draft in about 30 minutes*

*We are average Americans. All sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social and religious backgrounds. We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We*



John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Bill Wilson

he started to write, he asked God for guidance and completed the first draft in about 30 minutes. These turned out to be 12 in number. This was late December of 1938.

*are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table. Unlike the feelings of the ship's passengers, however, our joy in escape from disaster does not subside as we go our individual ways. The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined. The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution.*  
~Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 17

# Intergroup Meeting Summary—May 2017

The following groups have registered Intergroup Representatives who attended the last Intergroup meeting. If your meeting was not represented, please elect an Intergroup Representative (IGR) and/or an alternate so your meeting is represented.

Marin Groups	San Francisco Groups	Blue Book Special	Each Day a New Beginning	Monday Beginners
Attitude Adjustment Hour	Saturday Weekend Warrior	Castro Discussion	Embarcadero Group	Reality Farm
Happy, Joyous and Free	Sunday Night Corte Madera	Cocktail Hour	Eureka Step	Saturday Beginners
Men's Two Plus	Thursday Night Speaker	Cocoanuts	Federal Speaker	Sometimes Slowly
Monday Blues	Artists & Writers	Come 'n Get It!	Girls Gone Mild	Sunday Night Castro Discussion
Monday Night Stag Tiburon	Be Still	Cow Hollow Young People	Join the Tribe	Sunset 9'ers
On Awakening	Beginners Warmup	Creative Alcoholics	Koo Koo Hump Day	Too Early
Rise N Shine	Big Book Basics	Design for Living	Mid-Morning Support	Waterfront

This is an unofficial summary of the May 2017 Intergroup meeting provided for convenience; it is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes and full committee reports see "Intergroup" on our website [www.aasf.org](http://www.aasf.org).

Our Intergroup exists to support the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic by providing and coordinating services that are difficult for the individual groups to execute.

The Intercounty Fellowship has been organized by, and is responsible to, the member groups in San Francisco and Marin for the purpose of coordinating the services that individual groups cannot provide.

The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 101 Donohue St, Marin City and was started with a call to order and the Serenity Prayer. Baskets for rent and dinner were passed. The April 2017 minutes and the May 2017 agenda were approved.

## Standing Reports

**Board Chair – Chris H.** Still working on details for offering group insurance. Talking about board officer positions. Board members are doing individual surveys. We have three potential candidates for treasurer. We also have three candidates for the board. We need more applicants. Quarterly committee chair meeting was successful. Updates should be made to Central Office Operations manual by

next board meeting. Refresher course on what it means to be an IGR?

**Treasurer – Bob W.** As of March 2017, net surplus YTD is \$12K, which is over budget. Group Contributions for March were under budget, but Individual Contributions were over budget. March 2017 rating is "Excellent." Suggested letting groups know we are in a strong cash position and thank them for helping us get there.

**Central Office Manager – Maury P.** Still have open phone shifts. Central Office had a successful orientation for SOS, Sunshine Club, and 12th Step Work on April 29. Six participants signed up for one or more types of service! Central Office will be closed on Memorial Day (Monday, May 29). Grapevine has released a new book about making amends, so we will try to get that in Central Office ASAP. Let people know that SOS and Sunshine Club services can be researched and requested on the website.

## Intergroup Committee/Activity Reports

**SF Teleservice, Fiona B.** Two coordinator positions are open for Sundays and Mondays.

**The Point, Jane B.** Looking for feedback from the folks who took copies last month to distribute.

**Orientation, Greg M.** Twelve new reps joined last month and 13 people signed up on buddy list. We had two new reps this month so needing a couple more buddies.

**Technology, James O.** Looking to implement a service called Twilio; would come up with different ways for us to communicate with newcomers (i.e., via text). Liz has a draft of the guidelines for digital contributions. This will be distributed to groups once finalized and approved. Taran has been working on implementing G-Suite for Central Office and Intergroup for consistent data storage/services/etc.

**Website Subcommittee, Kristin** They are redesigning AASF.org. Just went through user testing with new look and feel; over 70% of testers (A.A. members) found that website was improved overall and easy to use! Looking to launch the new site in June before Founders Day.

**Fellowship, Michael P.** Founders Day, Saturday, June 10, starting at 5pm, Sober Circus 82. There are flyers for distribution. You can buy tickets in advance on the website, which will include food, drink, and carnival game tickets. Shift sign-up list was passed around.

**Archives, Kim S.** Shared some visuals of "Dr. Bob's Story" from the Grapevine Archive. Working on developing the collection scope, getting volunteers, and the broader function of the Archives Committee.

**SF PI/CPC, Jeff O.** Suggested having IGRs ask their group about what we can really do to share the message of A.A. with professionals and public information groups. Several PI/CPC subcommittees could use help.

# Individual Contributions

to Central Office were made through May 15, 2017  
honoring the following members:

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jay F. — 3 Years  
Jane B. — 9 years  
Basil G. — 10 Years  
Dennis C. — 21 Years  
Nancy R. — 36 years

### Liaison Reports

**Marin H&I, Karen G.** Openings available for speakers. Eight new members signed up at the last meeting. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 9. Conference about H&I in San Jose this weekend (May 5–7).

**Marin Teleservice, Jessica S.** Spaghetti Feed on May 6; 5pm dinner, 6pm speakers. Finances are good. Phone shifts are available.

**GGYPAA, Mac E.** Elections are Sunday, May 7 and there are many positions available. Saturday, May 6 is a History of Young People in A.A. event in Pleasant Hill. Also, there is a camping event in early July.

**Marin Intergroup 2020 – Pat P.** The group has been getting the word out and has liaisons on all of the committees. Now looking into if it is feasible to support a bookstore, office, etc.? If it is desired by enough folks in the Marin area? Would like to work closely with San Francisco A.A.

### Discussion

We received a request to add Atheist/Agnostic to our meeting designations. We do not currently have a policy

on adding meeting designations. The board would like Intergroup's input on these two items: 1) Should we add the Atheist/Agnostic meeting designation to our meeting schedule list? 2) What should the policy be toward this and other requests for meeting designation additions? We reviewed current list of A.A. meeting designations and IGRs, liaisons and board members shared their thoughts. Chris said we would continue discussing this topic next month. Maury asked that we think about an overall policy about adding new designations and how we vet possible future asks.

IGR dropout. We have noticed that many new IGR reps don't make it back to their second meeting. What ways can we, as a group, help the new member return? Is the Buddy system working? What do people hear from IGR reps that don't make it back? IGRs shared thoughts and suggestions.

Adjourned with the Responsibility Statement.

Next Intergroup Meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 7pm at 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco. Orientation is at 6:15pm, dinner is served at 7pm.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The following is a list of names and email addresses for our Intergroup Officers and many of the committees. Please email that committee at the address below if you are interested in doing service on a committee, or if you wish to receive more information.

### BOARD OFFICERS:

#### CHAIR

Chris H. [chair@aasf.org](mailto:chair@aasf.org)

#### VICE CHAIR

John R. [vicechair@aasf.org](mailto:vicechair@aasf.org)

#### TREASURER

[open] [treasurer@aasf.org](mailto:treasurer@aasf.org)

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Liz M. [secretary@aasf.org](mailto:secretary@aasf.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

#### ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Kim S. [archives@aasf.org](mailto:archives@aasf.org)

#### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Michael P. [fellowship@aasf.org](mailto:fellowship@aasf.org)

#### HOMEBOUND MARIN

Jane B. & David W. [homeboundmarin@aasf.org](mailto:homeboundmarin@aasf.org)

#### ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Greg M. [orientation@aasf.org](mailto:orientation@aasf.org)

#### SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Jeff O. [picpc@aasf.org](mailto:picpc@aasf.org)

#### SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Layne Z. [sfteleservice@aasf.org](mailto:sfteleservice@aasf.org)

#### SOS COMMITTEE

Dorothy V. [sos@aasf.org](mailto:sos@aasf.org)

#### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

David C. & Carole P. [sunshine@aasf.org](mailto:sunshine@aasf.org)

#### THE POINT

Jane B. [thepoint@aasf.org](mailto:thepoint@aasf.org)

# aa group contributions

Fellowship Contributions			Apr. 17	YTD	Marin Group Contributions			Apr. 17	YTD	SF Group Contributions			Apr. 17	YTD
Contribution Box			\$66	\$234	Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm			\$251	\$251	Castro Monday Big Book M 830pm				\$132
GGYPAA				\$18	Sober Sisters W 12pm				\$101	Coit's Quitters				\$120
Intergroup				\$101	Spiritual Testosterone Stag Su 830a				\$375	Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm	\$172		\$1,461	
Northern California H and I Committee			\$4,481	\$4,481	Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm				\$270	Design For Living - Big Book Th 730am				\$102
Sobriety By The Bay				\$2,170	Sunday Express Su 6pm			\$25	\$107	Design for Living Sat 8am				\$396
I Am Responsible				\$100	Sunday Friendship Su 6pm				\$215	Dignitaries Sympathy W 815pm				\$180
<b>Fellowship Total</b>			<b>\$4,547</b>	<b>\$7,104</b>	Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm				\$518	Each Day a New Beginning F 7am				\$767
					The Barnyard Group Sa 4pm			\$95	\$206	Each Day a New Beginning M 7am	\$197		\$197	
					There is a Solution Tu 6pm			\$44	\$71	Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am				\$303
					Three Step Group Sa 530pm				\$236	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am				\$327
					Thursday Night Speaker 830pm			\$500	\$826	Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am	\$396		\$732	
					Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu 7pm & 830pm				\$188	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	\$350		\$1,082	
					Tuesday Beginners' Meeting				\$881	Early Start F 6pm				\$835
					Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm			\$259	\$259	Epiphany Group Th 7pm				\$253
					Tuesday Big Book Tu 830pm				\$50	Eureka Step Tu 6pm				\$238
					Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 830pm				\$793	Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm				\$709
					We, Us and Ours M 650pm			\$64	\$171	Excelsior "Scent" Free For All Sa 5pm	\$60		\$120	
					Wednesday Night Candlelight (Marin) W 8pm			\$325	\$325	Experience, Strength & Hope Sat 9am				\$389
					Wednesday Sundowners W 6pm				\$250	Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am				\$276
					What's It All About F 12pm				\$34	Friday Night Women's Meeting F 630pm				\$139
					Wholly Together 11th Step Meditation W 7p				\$63	Friendly Circle Beginners Su 715p	\$256		\$606	
					Why It Works Sun 6pm			\$115	\$115	Gold Mine Group M 8pm				\$383
					Women's 12 x 12 Fri 1030am				\$100	Grouch and the Brainstorm Thu 630pm				\$126
					Women's Lunch Bunch F 12pm				\$315	Grupo Central Th 10am				\$23
					Women's Meeting Su 430pm			\$220	\$220	Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm				\$227
					Working Dogs W 12pm			\$347	\$347	Henry Ohloff House				\$99
					<b>Marin Total</b>			<b>\$6,233</b>	<b>\$22,043</b>	High Sobriety M 8pm				\$127
										Huntington Square W 630pm				\$64
					<b>SF Group Contributions</b>			<b>Apr. 17</b>	<b>YTD</b>	It Takes A Village Sa 6pm				\$172
					11th Step Power Power Power				\$56	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm				\$310
					20+ Sun 445pm (unlisted)			\$91	\$91	Keep Coming Back Sa 10am	\$606		\$606	
					515 Smokeless M 515pm				\$114	Let It Be Now F 6pm				\$84
					6am Dry Dock Sa				\$69	Like A Prayer Su 4pm				\$109
					6am Dry Dock Su				\$164	Lincoln Park Sat 830pm				\$243
					6am Dry Dock Tu				\$197	Meditation, Prayer & Share Tue 730pm	\$17		\$66	
					A is for Alcohol Th 6pm			\$70	\$290	Meeting Place Noon F 12pm				\$520
					A New Start F 830pm				\$970	Men's Gentle Touch M 7pm				\$220
					AA As You Like It Tu 530pm				\$211	Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am				\$321
					Artists & Writers F 630pm				\$550	Mission Fellowship				\$89
					As Bill Sees It Th 6pm				\$285	Monday Beginners M 8pm				\$282
					Ass in a Bag Th 830pm				\$166	Monday Men's Stag (SF) M 8pm				\$131
					Be Still AA Su 12pm				\$304	New Friday Big Book F 12pm	\$125		\$125	
					Beginners' Step Study Sat 7pm			\$15	\$15	Noon Smokeless Th 12pm	\$125		\$125	
					Beginners Warm Up W 6pm				\$88	Noon Smokeless W 12pm				\$132
					Bernal Big Book Sat 5pm				\$419	Progress Not Perfection Tu 830pm				\$272
					Bernal New Day 7D			\$162	\$746	Raising the Bottom W 8pm				\$60
					Big Book Basics F 8pm			\$478	\$478	Rigorous Honesty Th 1205pm				\$137
					Blue Book Special Su 11am			\$37	\$136	Room to Grow F 8pm				\$80
					Came to Believe Su 8am				\$244	Saturday Beginners Sat 6pm	\$601		\$1,071	
					Came to Park Sat 7pm			\$585	\$585	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	\$535		\$535	



SF Group Contributions	Apr. 17	YTD
Saturday Night Regroup Sa 730pm		\$200
Serenity House	\$150	\$600
Serenity Now Tue 830p		\$192
Serenity Seekers M 730pm		\$1,147
Sex and Love in Sobriety M 3pm		\$211
Shamrocks & Serenity M 730pm	\$606	\$606
Sinbar Su 8pm	\$200	\$200
Sisters Circle Su 6pm		\$353
Sober Saturday Sa 830am	\$152	\$341
Sobriety & Miracles S&M Group Sa 5pm	\$118	\$118
Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	\$1,629	\$1,629
Step Talk Su 830am		\$233
Stonestown M 8pm	\$150	\$150
Sunday Bookworms Su 730pm		\$78
Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 730pm		\$1,098
Sunday Rap Su 8pm	\$108	\$207
Sunday Silence Su 730pm		\$484
Sunrise Sunset Women's Step Th 6pm		\$690
Sunset 11'ers Su		\$276
Sunset 11'ers Th		\$86
Sunset 9'ers Th		\$50
Sunset Speaker Step Su 730pm		\$178
Surf Tu 8pm		\$673
Ten Years After Su 6pm		\$681
The 4th Dimension Sa 630pm		\$125
The Drive Thru W 1215pm		\$579
The Dry Dock Fellowship		\$208
The Parent Trap 2 W 4pm		\$87
They Don't Know Who We Are Sat 7pm		\$58
Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm		\$152
Too Early Sa 8am		\$173
Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm		\$141
Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm		\$115
Tuesday Women's Tu 630pm		\$73
Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm		\$60
Valencia Smokefree F 6pm		\$153
Wednesday Noon Steps W 12pm	\$127	\$127
Weekend Update Su 615pm		\$133
Weekend Worker Sat 7am	\$120	\$120
West Portal W 8pm		\$329
What It's Like Now M 6pm	\$165	\$165
Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm		\$683
Women's Came to Believe Sa 10am	\$165	\$358
Women's Meeting There is a Solution W 6pm		\$96
Women's Promises F 7pm	\$253	\$424
Work In Progress Sa 7pm		\$500
YAHOO Step Sa 1130am		\$283
<b>San Francisco Total</b>	<b>\$8,818</b>	<b>\$37,898</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$19,598</b>	<b>\$67,044</b>



## In the Basement

*A Poem by Sheila H.*

*Down to the room  
By dimly lit stairs  
Where strangers and stragglers  
Abide cold metal chairs  
Ignoring my doom  
Loud voices chatter  
Why all the laughter?  
Where's all their gloom?  
Two women smile  
Wave my way  
"Have some coffee,  
You'll be okay."  
Hope now takes a seat  
In the basement room*

*A voice booms welcome  
"Good evening, everyone!"  
Silent heads bow  
"God, grant us..."  
A stranger shares her story  
But it's MY story that's told  
My heart is moved to open  
A soul with courage bold  
A spirit begging surrender  
Begins to take hold  
On Friday night  
In a basement room.*



Thank you again for *The Point* magazine. I look forward each month to read and study A.A.

I am so grateful to God and A.A. God bless all of you at Central Office.

*Barbara M.*

I write with gratitude to thank you for utilizing several of the pieces of poetry [and prose last month] which I have sent along to you. It helps me to feel like I am making a contribution to your efforts to see that happen. Of course, my hope is that it will also inspire others to put pen to paper and submit.

Just wanted to let you know your choices have been appreciated. Working on some new stuff, and will send that along in the next few days.

Sincerely,

*John W.*

# Revenue and Expense Statement: March 2017

	Mar 2017	Budget	Jan - Mar 17	Budget		Mar 2017	Budget	Jan - Mar 17	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					Rent - Other	\$0	\$0	\$435	\$435
Contributions from Groups	\$9,991	\$13,000	\$47,544	\$48,500	Filing/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$20	\$0
Contributions from Individuals	\$5,405	\$3,700	\$12,477	\$10,900	Insurance	\$815	\$800	\$2,485	\$2,500
Gratitude Month	\$275	\$100	\$3,583	\$3,900	Internet Expense	\$358	\$150	\$657	\$450
Intergroup Event Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$10,812	\$8,080	IT Services	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$200
Other Revenue	\$46	\$47	\$149	\$129	IT Hardware	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
					IT Software	\$0	\$0	\$87	\$600
Sales - Bookstore	\$7,666	\$7,328	\$24,452	\$21,984	Office Supplies	\$238	\$120	\$416	\$360
Cost of Bookstore Sales	(\$6,241)	(\$5,994)	(\$19,513)	(\$17,982)	Paper Purchased	\$204	\$125	\$258	\$375
Gross Margin - Bookstore	\$1,425	\$1,334	\$4,939	\$4,002	Printing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$17,141</b>	<b>\$18,181</b>	<b>\$79,505</b>	<b>\$75,511</b>	Equipment Lease	\$407	\$408	\$1,304	\$1,224
					Repair & Maintenance	\$240	\$240	\$836	\$820
<b>Expense</b>					Security System	\$138	\$137	\$138	\$137
Employee Expenses	\$13,620	\$13,672	\$37,787	\$39,626	Payroll Expenses	\$6	\$10	\$15	\$30
Committees					Telephone	\$214	\$200	\$533	\$600
PI/CPC	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$200	Phone Book Listings	\$93	\$93	\$279	\$279
Access Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75	Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sunshine Club	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25	Training	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Archives Committee	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$30	Bad Checks	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Committees - Other	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$90	Miscellaneous Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Committees	\$0	\$160	\$0	\$420	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$21,013</b>	<b>\$21,329</b>	<b>\$66,422</b>	<b>\$68,841</b>
Intergroup Sponsored Events	\$23	\$400	\$7,502	\$7,000	<b>Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$3,872)</b>	<b>(\$3,148)</b>	<b>\$13,083</b>	<b>\$6,670</b>
Professional Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>\$44</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$128</b>	<b>\$135</b>
Postage	\$200	\$55	\$296	\$310	<b>Depreciation/Amortization Expense</b>	<b>(\$348)</b>	<b>(\$348)</b>	<b>(\$1,044)</b>	<b>(\$1,044)</b>
Rent - Office	\$4,458	\$4,459	\$13,375	\$13,375	<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$4,176)</b>	<b>(\$3,451)</b>	<b>\$12,167</b>	<b>\$5,761</b>

## Treasurer's Report

For March 2017, Total Revenue was \$17,141, under budget by \$1,040. Total Operating Expense for March was \$21,013, under budget by \$316. The result is a Net Operating Deficit of \$3,872. Net Surplus year to date is \$12,167, over budget by \$6,406.

Group Contributions for March were \$9,991, under budget by \$3,009. Individual Contributions were \$5,405, over budget by \$1,705.

Total Unrestricted Cash for March 2017 was \$79,528, an increase of \$648 from February 2017. Unrestricted Cash is over three months of operating expenses.

The rating for March 2017 is "Excellent."

**OVERALL RATING: Excellent**

### Intergroup Finance Rating System

Every month we rate our monthly finances as "Excellent," "Good," "Fair" or "Poor." Generally speaking, here are the definitions of those terms:

**EXCELLENT:** We exceeded our budget. Our income was greater than our expenses for the month and we have more than two months' worth of operating expenses in unrestricted cash balances. Operating expenses are roughly \$22K/month, so we'd have over \$44K in unrestricted cash balances for the month.

**GOOD:** We are meeting our budget. Our income for the month, or for the YTD, was slightly greater than our expenses and we'd have approximately 1.5 - 2 months of

operating expenses in unrestricted cash balances.

**FAIR:** We are not meeting our budget. Our expenses were greater than our income for the month and for the YTD - and our unrestricted cash balance would be somewhere between 1 and 1.5x our operating expenses.

**POOR:** We are not meeting our budget and our unrestricted cash balances fell below one month of operating expenses. The last time we were "poor" was in September 2016.

# March 2017 Balance Sheet

	31-Mar-17	28-Feb-17	\$ Change	31-Mar-16	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets					
Cash					
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 79,528	\$ 78,880	\$ 648	\$ 41,634	\$ 37,894
Restricted Cash	\$ 125,232	\$ 125,232	\$ -	\$ 131,823	\$ (6,591)
Total Cash	\$ 204,760	\$ 204,112	\$ 648	\$ 173,457	\$ 31,303
Accounts Receivable	\$ (800)	\$ 16	\$ (816)	\$ 85	\$ (885)
Inventory - Bookstore	\$ 21,030	\$ 24,171	\$ (3,141)	\$ 17,631	\$ 3,399
Total Current Assets	\$ 224,990	\$ 228,299	\$ (3,309)	\$ 191,173	\$ 33,817
Fixed Assets	\$ 13,994	\$ 14,342	\$ (348)	\$ 16,557	\$ (2,563)
Deposits	\$ 6,698	\$ 6,698	\$ -	\$ 6,698	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 245,682</b>	<b>\$ 249,339</b>	<b>\$ (3,657)</b>	<b>\$ 214,428</b>	<b>\$ 31,254</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,708	\$ (1,708)
Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 4,589	\$ 4,060	\$ 529	\$ 4,261	\$ 328
Sales Tax Payable	\$ 550	\$ 561	\$ (11)	\$ 795	\$ (245)
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 5,139	\$ 4,620	\$ 519	\$ 6,764	\$ (1,625)
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,139	\$ 4,620	\$ 519	\$ 6,764	\$ (1,625)
Net Assets					
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 228,376	\$ 228,376	\$ -	\$ 199,894	\$ 28,482
Net Surplus/(Deficit), YTD	\$ 12,167	\$ 16,343	\$ (4,176)	\$ 7,770	\$ 4,397
Total Net Assets	\$ 240,543	\$ 244,719	\$ (4,176)	\$ 207,664	\$ 32,879
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 245,682</b>	<b>\$ 249,339</b>	<b>\$ (3,657)</b>	<b>\$ 214,428</b>	<b>\$ 31,254</b>



## Thank You Faithful FIVERS! Thank You

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members Who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

(Continued from Page 5)

Pam K.	Roseanna H.	Teddy W.
Pat P.	Ryan D.	Theresa M.
Patrick S.	Scott C.	Theresa M.
Patrick R.	Sean B.	Thomas H.
Paul K.	Sean C.	Thomas M.
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If you would like to become a Faithful Fiver, please download a pledge form from our website. You will receive a complimentary subscription to **The Point**. And remember, individual contributions are 100% tax deductible!



The Birthday Plan has been an A.A. tradition since 1955. Contributions to express gratitude for sobriety can be made in any amount. Some send a dollar per year; others, a penny a day. We would like to list in *The Point* your first name and last initial with number of years sober.



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# June 2017

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