

the Point

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

from Chapter Five of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*

2017 **12**
December

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

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of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Joy Out of Chaos

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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

December 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>			
3 FIRST SUN Archives Committee Presentation <i>Early A.A. in San Quentin & Folsom Prisons</i> Mission Fellowship, 2900 24th St., San Francisco 4-6pm	4 FIRST MON Technology Committee Meeting Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 6pm	5	6 FIRST WED Intergroup Meeting First Unitarian Universalist Center 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco Orientation 6:15pm Meeting 7pm
10 SECOND SUN Golden Gate Young People in AA Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 12pm <i>(even months at Central Office; odd months at Marin Alano Club)</i>	11 SECOND MON SF Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco Speaker Workshop 6pm Business Meeting 7pm	12 SECOND TUE Marin H&I Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael Orientation 6:15pm Business Meeting 7:00pm SF General Service 1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco New GSR Orientation / Concept Study 6:30pm Business Meeting 7:30pm	13 SECOND WED Marin Bridging the Gap Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael Orientation 6pm Business Meeting 6:30pm
17 THIRD SUN Archives Committee Meeting Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 2pm <i>Business meeting followed by work day</i>	18 THIRD MON Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd., San Rafael Orientation / Concept Study 6:45pm Business Meeting 7:30pm SF Teleservice Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco Orientation 6pm	19	20
24	25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Central Office closed	26 FOURTH TUE Marin Teleservice Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael Orientation 7pm Business Meeting 7:30pm	27
31			

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 <u>FIRST SAT</u> Golden Gate Young People in AA <i>Discotheque a Go Go vol. II</i> Soul Night at Park Gym 1960 Harrison St. San Francisco 7pm to midnight
7	8	9 <u>SECOND SAT</u> The Point Committee Meeting Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco 12:30pm
14	15	16 <u>THIRD SAT</u> SF H&I 2900 24th St., San Francisco Orientation 11am <i>(odd months have a business meeting)</i> CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma 10am
21	22	23
28	29	30



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*"How privileged we are to
understand so well the divine
paradox that strength
rises from weakness."*

~ Bill W., 1944



Meeting Changes

New Meetings:

Mon	7:30pm	Inner Richmond	Stepping Stone , 255 10th Ave. / Clement St.
Mon	7:30pm	Pt. Reyes Station	Esperanza y Fe , Dance Palace, 503 B St. (Spanish; 90 minutos)
Fri	7:30pm	Pt. Reyes Station	Esperanza y Fe , Dance Palace, 503 B St. (Spanish; 90 minutos)

No Longer Meeting:

Tue	7:00pm	Laguna Honda	Open Door Recovery , 501 Laguna Honda Blvd. / Woodside
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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!**



Joe Y. — Tuesday Beginners
Sobriety Date: August 1995

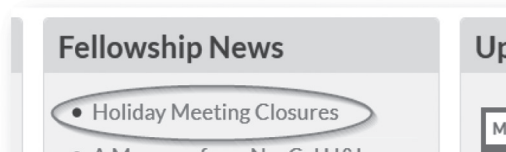
Christmas & New Years Alcothons @ Gratitude Center

1320 7th Avenue @ Irving
Food and non-alcoholic beverages welcome

Sunday, December 24 — 8:00am to 1:00am
Monday, December 25 — 6:00am to 11:00pm
Sunday, December 31 — 8:00am to 12:30am
Monday, January 1 — 6:00am to 11:00pm

Holiday Meeting Closures

Check them out !!



Visit aasf.org, go to Fellowship News on the Home page and click "Holiday Meeting Closures" for the latest updates.

If you hear of any other holiday changes, let us know at store@aasf.org.



Joy Out of Chaos

Knowing its full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos. Great, indeed are our blessings.

~Bill W.

Greg F.'s father invited acquaintances without family to his house for holiday dinner—almost like their own private Alkathon. On his first sober December, he repeated his dad's 12th Step work at a recovery house in Hollywood. Claire A. also found making coffee, sponsoring people, and writing can all help support 12th Step concepts in action.

Rick R. recalls when he didn't want anybody to know that he was checking out A.A. He was afraid he would be ridiculed and he wasn't sure it would work for him. Judy G. shows how we don't have to be "fixed" if we sit with the discomfort of life on life's terms.

An inventory is useful: "Even if our part is 1% and the other person's part is 99%, we take responsibility for our 1%, and then we are free." James M. sees Concept 12 as the final word on what our fellowship is about, "taking care that [A.A.] never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power."

Forrest P.'s review of *Rebel in the Rye* encourages readers to write the books they want to read, reminiscent of a Bay Area broadcaster who used to say, "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own." Michael W. remembers his sponsor's instructions in early recovery to get a service commitment, arrive early and go to any lengths to help others stay sober.

These directions work during holiday chaos, too. If we stay in the spirit of service to others without expecting anything in return, we receive peace and joy every time.

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. To contact *The Point* committee directly, write to 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:

Alan R.	Don L.	Laura B.
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David S.	Kurt P.	Mily T.
David J.	Kurt C.	Nancy N.
Dianne E.	Lance S.	Nicholas P.

(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!



My First Sober Christmas

I used to call in sick on Christmas Day

by Gregory F.

I love this time of year. I feel as if I'm smiling from deep within. It was so much better than my last drunken holiday when I missed my family's activities. I called in "sick" on Christmas Day. I told mom I was ill. This was not far from the truth. At 9:00 A.M. I was still in the bar from the night before. Good times—not!

My sobriety date is June 1, so my first round of sober holidays (starting with Thanksgiving) I had five to six months. I was excited as the season approached. The ads would start: TV, radio, billboards, and print. All was transformed to usher in this special time of year. The child came bursting forth.

Decorated lights twinkling, decorations, tree ornaments, mistletoe, holiday bells, holly and mistletoe. Heck, even the Salvation Army bell ringers appealed to me. I only remembered happy times of Christmas past. They burst forth vividly in my imagination. Alive with a myriad of colors as if on a large screen. Fortunately, I have no bad childhood memories associated with Christmas.

I can picture the room in my mind's eye

My dad was sober. He was also violent, angry, uncomfortable and suicidal. He did, however, have a lovely Holiday tradition. He an excellent A.A. member. He had to be. A.A. was the only thing that helped him. It kept him sober, alive and feeling useful. Dad's tradition was this: "If you have no family, or anywhere to go on Christmas Eve, you're

invited to my home for dinner, carols and Midnight Mass if you'd like."

He loved putting this on. He'd start preparing days in advance. There was much to be done and my parents and I collectively prepared our home. I did not quite grasp the kindness of this act. Now I understand it's typical of who we are as sober caring individuals. We show up for each other. The camaraderie and unconditional love was bountiful. I still recall people's faces. Eyes beaming, full of love and gratitude. All were equal at this banquet.

As I reflect to write this piece, it seems fitting my own first Christmas Eve was spent similarly. I took part in a tradition of a recovery house in Hollywood. Each Christmas Eve, we'd all caravan to an A.A. meeting in downtown Los Angeles and "Skid Row." Back then this is where you'd find many alcoholics on the streets.

We would attend an A.A. meeting. I can picture the room in my mind's eye. It was a storefront, bright God-awful light. There was food, coffee and sweets. I imagine for some, this was their meal. John Barleycorn brought us to our individual knees. God's grace and A.A. picked us up together to share this moment. We were not outsiders. We were them and they us.

After the meeting, we'd go back to the house. We gathered in the living room on couches, chairs, or on the floor. We'd all fit somehow. We would then hold a gratitude meeting on Christmas Eve. How special! The room's light came from the fire. The glow reminded me of Tinker Bell's radiance. Its dancing light shone upon our faces.

Wood crackled. We drank apple cider and eggnog. There was a strong cinnamon scent in the air with palpable love. Precious moments in time when each of us was present. Sober together, thus a success. Fighting for our lives—together.

We'd caravan to an A.A. meeting

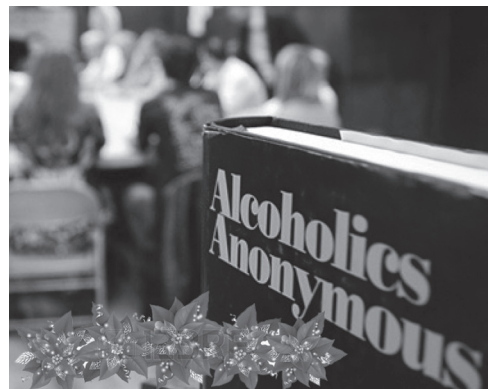
We'd all share. A beautiful evening. Life changing experience, fond memories forged.

To be together with my fellows, after having seen those less fortunate. Realizing how lucky I was. We were.

What a difference compared to those blurry God forsaken drunken holidays of my past. This was me experiencing my new life. A newborn finding incredible meaning in the simplest of ways.

As the Holiday Season approaches, I hope regardless of how or what you celebrate, that you feel the gratitude in your heart that I do in mine.

I am loved. I love. I am not alone, I'm a part of. We are all one. Happy Holidays!





Twelfth Step Support

*Right attitudes and action
= good living*

by Claire A.

I'm just going to take a moment to 'fess up that every time the basket comes around to me, it's a way for me to practice letting go of a character defect of mine: greed. I have enough money to put two dollars in the basket as it goes by and yet my miserly-self often balks.

You'd think it would be different, and maybe someday it will be. Goodness knows, other things about me have changed since I came in to A.A. When I first came in, my sponsor told me to get a coffee commitment, and sweep the floors at the end of the meetings. When I did that, I noticed that that simple job taught me a ton. I learned how shitty I was at working with others, following directions, and keeping it simple. I resented being told how to make the coffee, I didn't want to share the glory (!) of having made the coffee and I was sure there must be a better way to do it—one that all the other coffeemakers before me hadn't thought of. So, six months of making coffee wore a lot of my rough edges off. I learned to relax, listen, cooperate and not take every twitch personally.

After I worked the Steps, my sponsor told me to get a sponsee. It was another ego-deflating exercise. I was simultaneously sure that I knew everything, and aware that I knew nothing. My sponsees quickly taught me that I need to stay close to the program, and offer my Experience, Strength and Hope (ESH), and that's all—no advice, no judgement, no opinions. They showed me the importance of keeping it simple.

Somewhere along the way, I saw a copy of this newsletter, *The Point*, and loved the idea of writing for it. More ego deflation!—unbelievably—I am not becoming famous or rich by writing for *The Point*. At least, not in the traditional sense: occasionally a buddy of mine will say they got something out of an article I wrote, and then I feel rich and famous! Through writing down my ESH, I've been forced to see how I want to lie all the time (not big lies, but small omissions, half-truths). Writing for A.A. compels me to tell the truth, and in this forum, I feel that the truth is truly acceptable.

*I am responsible when
someone reaches out
for A.A.*

Then what is up with the two dollars, why the miserly attitude? I think perhaps it's a competitive thing—that I don't want to give more than others or that I want to give the most of anybody. I'm sure it's also that I don't see (because I don't go look) how the dollars help at A.A.'s Central Office or for the Hospital and Institution committee (H&I). I know the dollars help, but I don't see the concrete work of it.

*In this forum, I feel that the
truth is truly acceptable*

I guess maybe it has taken being assigned to writing this article that has made me really look at the connection between my basket contributions and Twelfth Step work.

I feel my contribution is tiny, and that can lead to "what's the point"? But, I have been lucky enough to serve as a treasurer for several different meetings, and to see how those contributions add up. In the same way that making the coffee helps, sponsoring people helps, writing for *The Point* helps, my contribution helps. At a bare minimum, it helps me. I am responsible. When someone reaches out for A.A., I want it to be there for them in the same way it was for me. Contributing to A.A. is one more estimable act that I do in A.A.

the
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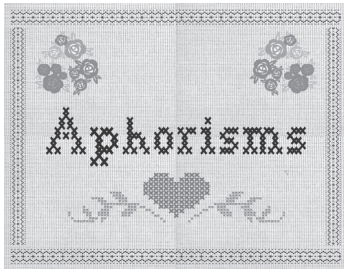
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Feet Firmly Planted

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- 7 Committee Corner **NEW!**
- 9 Die Was Cast at Six Years Old
- 12 Tradition 10

Cover illustration by Anonymous



I Don't Have to be Fixed

Gratitude leaves no room for negativity and self-doubt

by Judy G.

One of the most powerful things I have heard in program is, "We learn how to sit with the discomfort." It was one of those lightbulb moments of recovery, which will remain with me forever.

We drank to mask the discomfort, to feel like we belonged, to dull the pain of childhood trauma. As Lila R. says, "We drank to make life tolerable."

Somewhere along the way, our social lubricant stopped working for us, we hit our own personal bottom and we decided to get sober with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous. But what happens when we stop drinking? All those feelings we were trying to mask bubbled up right there onto the surface.

Stopping drinking is not the end of the journey; it is the beginning. After we admit that we are powerless over alcohol, we turn to a power greater than ourselves to help us get sober. Then we get to Step Four, the searching and fearless inventory of our character defects.

A.A. is the medicine for this disease

As it says in the big book, we are not saints. We all have character defects, but it is the process of looking at them, writing them down, sharing them with another human being that sets us apart, in my opinion, from people who are not in recovery. We are searching for a better way to live, in a healthy body, with emotional sobriety, and following a spiritual path of our own understanding.

So what do we do when we act, as the Buddhists say, in an unskilled manner? We follow the steps that have been laid out for us to follow. We take Step Ten, and promptly admit when we are wrong. We take Step Nine, and make amends for our misdeeds. Then we let it go.

In A.A., we learn to live in today; yesterday is history—gone. There is no point in dwelling on the mistakes we made. Once we have taken responsibility for our part, no matter how small, we can let it go and move on. Even if our part is 1% and the other person's part is 99%, we take responsibility for our 1%, and then we are free.



Another important concept of 12-Step recovery is acceptance; acceptance that we are not perfect; acceptance that we have the disease of alcoholism; acceptance that if we want to remain sober, both physically and emotionally, we have to keep coming to meetings.

We have a disease of the mind, body and spirit (notice which comes first) for which there is no cure. A.A. is the medicine for this disease. There may not be a cure, but we do learn over time that change is possible. We see people come through the doors of A.A. broken and desperate, and we see them transform before our eyes.

Acceptance that we are not perfect

We learn to stop lying to our friends and families, to show up at our jobs and become workers among workers. We learn to be right-sized emotionally—not too big, not too small. That is true humility.

We learn to live in gratitude. A grateful heart does not drink. If you fill up your brain with gratitude, there is no room for all the negativity and self-doubt. A fellow told me that when she first came into recovery, she told her sponsor she didn't have anything to be grateful for. Her sponsor said, "Do you have all your fingers and toes?"

Most importantly, we learn to sit with the discomfort. We are imperfect beings in an imperfect world (there's always something to drink over). Today we accept that we don't have to be fixed—we just have to talk about it. Get it up and out, and go do some service for another A.A. fellow. It's what keeps us sober.



Many Forms of Service

The gift that keeps on giving

by Michael W.

Over the years in recovery, I've been fortunate to be guided by the program and my sponsors to "do service." "Service" introduced a new concept to me; it is the act of doing something to help others and not expecting anything in return. Service is also deeply embedded in the A.A. Twelve Steps—especially Step 12—and in the Twelve Traditions. My understanding of service has greatly expanded across the years of recovery; service is the key to spiritual growth and joy.

Leave your ego at the door

When I started in A.A., my sponsor told me to get a service commitment, arrive early and go to any length to help others stay sober. My service experience started with "Tuesday Downtown." I arrived early as requested, then a nice person came over to me and said that I could make coffee, clean the ash trays (yes, smoking meetings were still around) and go help setup the chairs. I still remember thinking this exact sentence, "Excuse me, but I don't do coffee, clean up messes and set up chairs. Perhaps with my professional pedigree, I will consider being the secretary."

I began to think about my early recovery and how truly grateful I felt to be sober

Luckily, as I was told, "Leave your ego at the door," I shut my mouth and commenced on my new chores. As I was making coffee that night, I began to think about my early recovery and how truly grateful I felt to be sober on this particular Tuesday night. It had taken me two years to get the Second Step. Those two years were living hell and terror—there wasn't anything I wouldn't do to stay sober. After three months of service, I couldn't wait to get there; in fact, I looked forward to it all week. Tuesday Downtown speakers had long-term recovery, I began to see my ineptitude of humility and a pattern of my life focused around self-centeredness.



Recovery and Service are a journey; they are also an adventure. It is truly an honor to be of service in A.A., whether a greeter, coffee maker, Treasurer, Teleservice, H&I, Secretary, Literature, Chair and Sponsor. Frankly, just showing up at a meeting is service to others. But wait, service is so much more...

Service is deeply embedded in A.A.

Service can expand to include interaction with friends, family, colleagues, the community and society at large. With long-term sobriety, one might feel big rewards by helping with charities, nonprofits, schools and events. In fact, even small actions can be service. Helping someone cross the street; letting a car turn into your lane, offering to bring over food to a friend who is sick or taking care of a loved one.

Any action that is about helping others is service. And, if you act without expecting reciprocity, what you receive is joy and spiritual growth, every time.



SF Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)

The San Francisco PI/CPC Committee's primary function is to provide speakers, literature, and audio & video recordings requested by both A.A. and non-A.A. organizations.

Service Opportunity: PI/CPC Chair

Requirements: Two years sobriety and previous PI/CPC experience

Committee meets the 2nd Monday of the month: Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco

For more information, contact chair@aasf.org



Concept 12

What our Fellowship is about

by Jamie M.

A.A. is full of gems that we rarely take time to appreciate. Consider Concept 12: “The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action” (*Twelve Concepts for World Service*).

Many A.A. members never see the Concepts

In a sense, this is the final word on what our Fellowship is about. We start with Step One, where we admitted we were powerless over alcohol and our lives were unmanageable—in a sense, this is a very personal, solitary and inward thing. At least it was for me. Then we start on the journey of the Steps, and somewhere along the way we learn about the Traditions. Some say the Traditions are to the group as the Steps are to the individual. I’m not sure that’s the whole story; I feel that knowing and following the Traditions has helped me stay sober. By the time we start working the Concepts we are part of a greater whole, and intimately involved with the Fellowship. There is always room for new growth and depth in A.A.

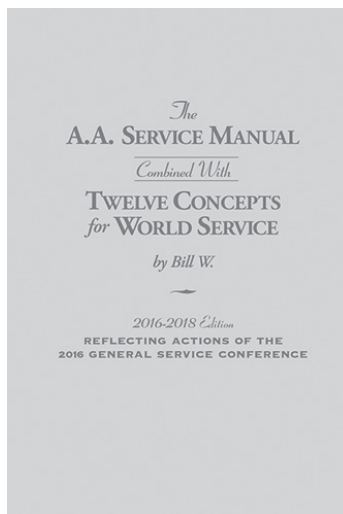
Many A.A. members never get exposed to the Concepts. I was blessed to participate in General Service for a number of years, and I encourage everyone to do this form of service. When we engage in General Service we get many unique opportunities to work on humility and service to others, and as the Twelfth Step suggests we “practice these principles in all our affairs.” General Service is a special arena in which we have an opportunity to practice in some ultimately very important affairs—the survival and continuity of A.A. worldwide. The Twelfth Concept is frequently considered to be divided into six warrantees. My favorite is the third one: “That it [the conference] place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others...” The Third Concept echoes our Second Tradition, “For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

When we look at the Twelfth Concept and its component parts, we feel echoes of all the steps and all the traditions. We are reminded of service, anonymity—even taking inventory and continuing to take inventory—and especially the First Tradition. While each member of A.A. may be “but a small part of a great whole,” we refuse to sacrifice even the smallest part—any individual member—for some idea of a “greater good” that doesn’t include every member. No action can ever be personally punitive (Warranty Five). No one in A.A. is ever in charge of anyone else, and A.A., as represented by some subset of the members, however representative it might be, cannot punish.

There’s no way to get kicked out of A.A.

I remember when, in early sobriety, I realized there was no provision for getting kicked out of A.A. I was filled with a kind of panic. My M.O. for getting out of things until then was to screw up and get fired, get “86’d,” or otherwise have other people make me go away. Our fellowship has explicitly stated that this cannot happen here. And for that, I am grateful. Happy Holidays, everyone.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.’s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.’s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.’s early history and experience (see https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf).



Anonymity is Spiritual

Do it quietly

by Rick R.

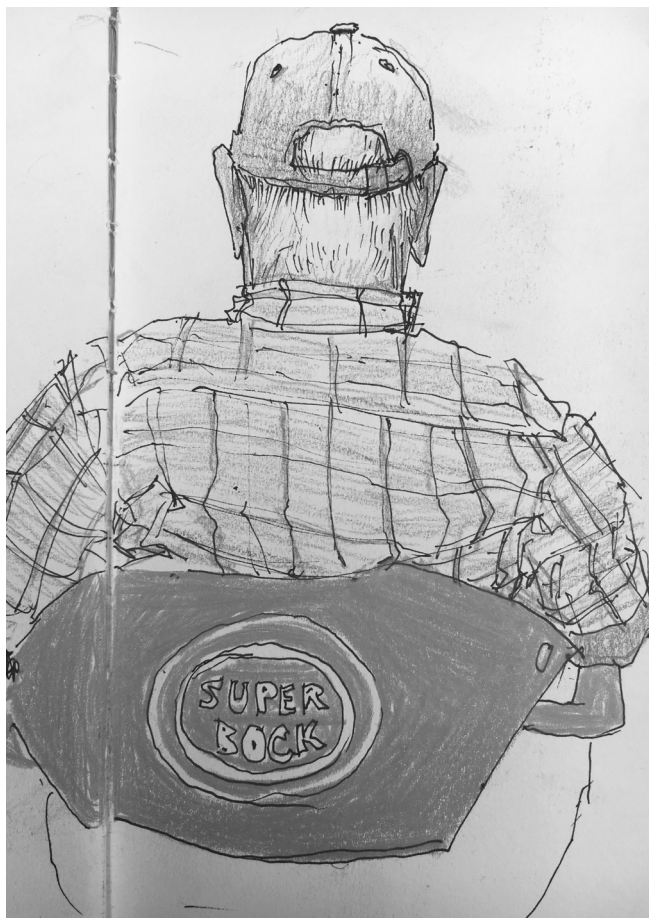
My family was riddled with alcoholic drinkers. Many of them were as bad as me. I recall the first month I got sober, still hanging out with them at our favorite watering hole drinking ginger ale. I would slip out every night at 8:00 P.M., go to the A.A. meeting at 8:30, then return at 10:30 without telling anyone. I didn't want anybody to know that I was checking out A.A. I didn't want to be ridiculed (I wasn't sure it was going to work for me). You might say I was protecting my anonymity at the time. After 30 days, I didn't care who knew because I believed I had found the answer.

I didn't want to be ridiculed

Soon I wanted to shout it from the rooftops and try to sober up everyone around me. You know how that turned out. I dragged each of my five brothers to meetings. They each learned just enough to be able to rationalize exactly why they were not alcoholics, and they ridiculed me anyway. Two later died of alcohol-related illness. A third committed suicide.

I began to respect the principle of anonymity. Of the rest of my immediate family, only one sister saw something in me that she liked. She got sober in the program and hasn't had a drink in over 45 years.

Newer members often complain about someone breaking their anonymity, or the ones that want to shout it from the rooftops, like my former self. That is one of the symptoms of alcoholism: We are failed idealists that need atten-



tion. Yet as we get more experience we learn the true value of the spirit of anonymity. We can always come up with some noble reason for tooting our own horn and dress it up in the altruistic motive of sacrificing one's own anonymity to save someone's life. That can sometimes destroy our chances of being a good example. I have been witness to that.

Tradition 11 exemplifies the need for personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. We could extrapolate and add much of the social media of today. No one should try to

be a representative of A.A. in case that person relapses, which often happens. Tradition 12 talks of anonymity as "the spiritual foundation of all of our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." There is a difference in the spirit of the law and the letter of the law. We who have been diligent with the program have been highly influenced by the spirit of what the founders introduced us to: the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. They all point to unselfishness of the spirit. I have yet to find a prayer or principle in the two books that we use as reference guides of a material nature or of selfish motives. The things I do as the result of practicing the prin-

ciples of the program should be done unselfishly and *without fanfare*.

I wanted to shout it from the rooftops

As long as I needed the attention that I was seeking while looking for every "photo op," I was still only following the letter of the law. When I came to understand the spirit of anonymity I was able to rein in my ego and my selfish motives. I try to be a good role model and do it quietly. It seems to work better that way.

If God Spoke to A.A.

He might have said...

by Anonymous

“Into your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted the Power beyond your estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or diplomats, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests and ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics, which I entrust to you. Use it unselfishly; it carries with it a grave responsibility. No day can be too long, no demands upon your time can be too urgent, no case too pitiable, no task too hard, no effort too great.

I shall not exact of you beyond your capabilities

Use this healing Power with tolerance, for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common, ridicule will be your lot—your motives will be misjudged. Success will not always attend your efforts in the work with other alcoholics. Be prepared for adversity, for what people call adversity are the rungs you must use to ascend the ladder toward spiritual perfection. I shall not exact of you beyond your capabilities.

You were not selected because of your exceptional talents. Be careful always if

success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority, that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of My Gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the Power would be entrusted to the physician and scientist. If I had wanted eloquent orators, there would have been many anxious for the assignment—for talk is the easiest used of all the talents, with which I have endowed humankind. If I wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better qualified than you who would have been available.

No, you were carefully chosen because you have been available. You were selected because you have been outcasts of the world, as your long experience as a drunkard has made you (or should make) humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere. Keep ever in mind the admission that you made on the day of your profession of A.A.—namely, that you are powerless, and that it was

only your willingness to turn your life and will over to My keeping, that relief came to you.

Think not, that because you have been dry one year or two years, or ten years, that it is the result of your unaided efforts. The help, which has been keeping you “normal,” will keep you so—just as long as you live the program that I have mapped out for you.

Be humbly alert to the cries of distress...from the lonely hearts of alcoholics

Beware of the pride that comes from growth, the power of numbers and invidious comparisons between yourselves, or your organization with other organizations whose success depends on numbers, money and position. These material things are not part of your creed. The success of material organizations comes from pooling of joint assets—yours from

the union of mutual liabilities. The appeal for membership in more materialistic organizations is the boastful recital of their accomplishments; yours is on the humble admission of weakness

The wealth of material organizations, when they take an inventory, is measured by what they have left; yours, when you take moral inventory, by what you have given.”





Rebel in the Rye

Express what's in your heart

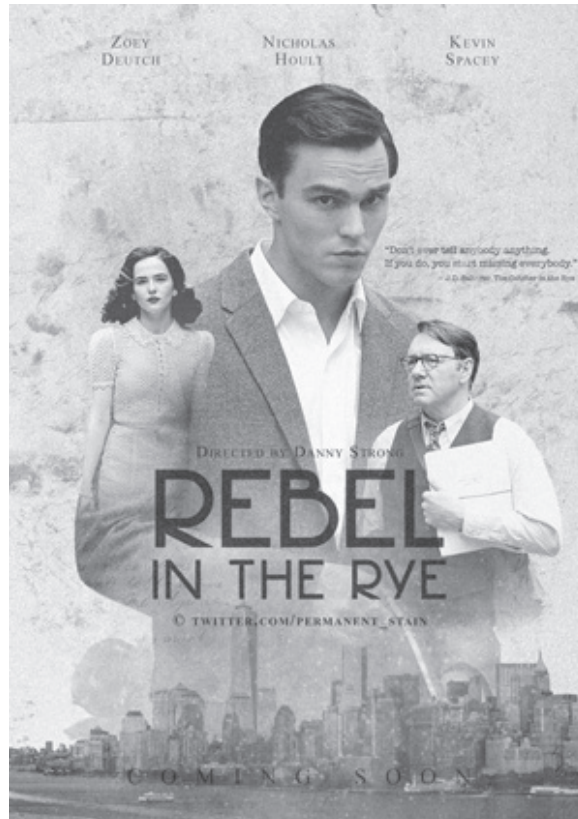
by Forrest P.

This film opens in a men's mental ward in the European hospital where Salinger committed himself after World War II. All are smoking. Our protagonist is trying to write. He stares at a blank page and grips a worn-down Ticonderoga Number 2 pencil.

Salinger tells the story of his younger self. He takes a Columbia writing course taught by Whit Burnett, who encourages him. Whit "gets" Salinger. He sees the young man's potential to become a great writer. Salinger listens to what Whit says about learning to be a writer versus actually being one. Why do you want to write, Mr. Salinger? "Because I'm angry, and when I write I feel like I'm doing something about my anger, and what bothers me." Do you write to show off your talent, or express what's in your heart? Whit tells Salinger to give his character Holden Caulfield an entire book (which became *The Catcher in the Rye*). When Salinger is drafted, Whit challenges him to stay alive and continue to write while on active duty.

Imagine what you would want to read

Regardless of whether this film is fact or fiction, I enjoyed it as both an avid movie lover and fledgling writer. I love films which take place in the 1930's where sets themselves are characters. The abundance of natural, beautifully-finished wood is so luxurious it beckons one to gaze at it as if it's a Picasso. Wood, and fashion



and colors, oh my! Soft feminine styles for women. Hair and makeup impeccable with gloves and high heels. Men's masculinity with clean cut, All-American looks, billowing over in blue-collar laborer clothes or fitted shirts, hats and sports coats. The film uses blue tints which seem to separate dark from light and joy from pain.

Salinger is a loner who is close to his mother, with a sister he could care less about and a father who misunderstands him. His thoughts are loud, occupy most of his time, and must get out onto paper. I can relate to needing to turn my ideas into stories. I'm fortunate because I've always had stories to share. Recently I've been going through storage and found tons

of inventory writing. It dawned on me: Of course I write—I've been doing it more than half my life. Before the inventories, I used self-reflection and examination to become a better me. My inventories and darkness have become my gold.

The more I write, the easier it becomes to weave experiences into story. I enjoy it tremendously and others seem to enjoy reading it. It's just a hobby for me, but who knows what can happen? Anything is possible, just like I was told by older, wiser folks when I was a newcomer. Here I am simply staying sober one day at a time and doing the work from the inside out.

Turn your voice into a narrative

I want my writing to be truthful (to me as the writer). Writing is the time I have the most peace.

If you would also like to tell your story I have some suggestions. Be "in the service" of the story. Your voice makes the story unique, but keep the ego out of writing to connect to the reader. Don't over explain. If distractions keep you from writing, remove the distractions. My conclusions:

- Nothing is more sacred than our stories.
- Fiction can be "truer" than reality.
- Writers learn to deal with rejection.
- Imagine the book *you* as the writer would want to read, and go write it.

Intergroup Meeting Summary: November 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	Quitting Time	San Francisco Groups	Cow Hollow Young People	Sometimes Slowly
Inverness Sunday Serenity	Rise N Shine	Beginners Warmup	Each Day a New Beginning	Sunset 9'ers
Men's Two Plus	Mill Valley LGBTQ All Are Welcome	Blue Book Special	Girls Gone Mild	Sunset Speaker Step
Mill Valley 7am	Thursday Night Chip	Castro Discussion	Join the Tribe	Too Early
Monday Blues	Women's Big Book	Cocktail Hour	Lunch with Bill	Valencia Smokefree
Monday Night Stag Tiburon		Cocoonuts	Reality Farm	Waterfront
On Awakening		Come 'n Get It!	Serenity Seekers	

This is an unofficial summary of the November 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.

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, November 1, 2017 at 101 Donahue Street in Marin City.

The meeting was started with a call to order and the Serenity Prayer. Baskets for rent and dinner were passed. The October 2017 minutes and the November 2017 agenda were approved.

Standing Reports

Board Chair, Liz M. The CNCA 2030 bid is pending and we need to get 4000 volunteers committed. Unity Day was successful. The Quarterly Committee Meeting was held where committees are assessing their budgets

and working with Alix. Remember: November is Gratitude Month. A.A. Resources: GSO website, archives, Grapevine subscription (\$50/year)

Treasurer, Alix F. September overall rating is Excellent. Total revenue was under budget. Total operating expenses were over budget, continuing a trend over the past few months. Unrestricted cash is over 3 months of operating expenses. Group and individual contributions for September were both under budget. Our budget is partially built around Gratitude Month, so it's important that we hit our goals for November.

Central Office Manager, Maury P. Have some open phone shifts at Central Office. Central Office will be closed for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. If your meeting is going to be affected by the holidays or if your meeting is going to host a fellowship event for the holidays, please let Central Office know ASAP so they can update the website/The Buzz/The Point and let Teleservice folks know. Used literature was delivered to Sonoma Central Office for fire relief. Reiterated Treasurer's report and acknowledged YTD we're still in a good spot. H&I previously had an excess of funds and now they are in a negative cash flow, so we are spreading the word to continue passing the pink can at meetings.

Intergroup Committee/Activity Reports

The Point, Jane B. Need new committee members, particularly folks with editing skills and needs a new secretary to take minutes at monthly meeting. Meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 12:30pm.

Fellowship, Michael P. Mark your calendars for June 9, 2018 for Founders Day. Do we think folks would attend a "fancy" dinner similar to the Annual Bill's Dinner put on by the New York Intergroup? Creation of new Outreach committee that acts as an umbrella for SOS, Sunshine Club, Trusted Servants, Fellowship and Orientation committees.

Technology, James O. (not in attendance) Many IG reps acknowledged that they shared the idea of electronic contributions with their groups.

Archives – Kim S. (not in attendance) Next history meeting is planned for December 2017. Committee meets 3rd Sunday of the month.

Liaison Reports

Marin General Service, District 10, Jacqueline P. Saturday, November 4, is General Service Assembly in Petaluma. October District Meeting got through several topics on how to reach folks in A.A. Next meeting is Monday, October 20 in San Rafael.

Individual Contributions

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

IN MEMORIUM

Bob C. — Hildwellers, Marin PI/CPC

Joe Y. — Tuesday Beginners

ANNIVERSARIES

Shirley K. — 49 years

Marin Intergroup 2020, Pat Did surveys at Unity Day and showed heavily in favor of researching the idea of a Marin Intergroup in 2020 and having a way to sell literature in Marin rather than just in San Francisco. Anyone with experience at an A.A. bookstore can be of help to the Marin group as they look to start selling literature before 2020. Contact Pat if you're interested in being added to the email list. There is some concern about the accuracy of the unofficial Marin Intergroup website. There were several ideas on how this group can continue and improve their research.

Marin Teleservice, Adam Adam is the new liaison for Marin Teleservice. They are about to refresh the contact list. Anyone interested can talk to Adam or attend the monthly meeting. Remind Teleservice reps to attend the monthly meeting.

Marin H&I, Karen G. There were 10 new members at last month's meeting. Facing financial issues and concerned about H&I reps not attending the monthly meetings. Looking for a secretary and more new reps.

IGR Reports

Alison Shared that her house burned down in August in San Francisco, so she was thinking about going up to meetings in Sonoma/Napa/other affected areas to share her experience, strength and hope.

Looking for other folks who can share their experience, strength and hope after dealing with a fire.

Dustin He asked about the Marin Intergroup website. It was confirmed that only one person maintains that site and it is not an official Intergroup website.

Discussion items

Review how to get items on Intergroup agenda and the voting procedures. Excerpt from NAATW presentation on voting procedures and clarity on Robert's Rules of Order. Next month we will re-visit this topic with a mock voting item. We will go through a motion made, decision on voting method, vote, minority opinion, census if anybody wants to change vote. November is Gratitude Month. There are open coordinator positions for SF PI/CPC.

What's On Your Mind

Alan shared that even though we are always looking for more participation across San Francisco and Marin, we're still getting more participation than we used to.

Adjourn with Responsibility Statement

Next Intergroup Meeting:

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 7pm at 1187 Franklin Street in 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

Liz M. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

John R. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Alix F. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Carolyn R. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Kim S. archives@aasf.org

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Michael P. fellowship@aasf.org

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Greg M. orientation@aasf.org

SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

[open] picpc@aasf.org

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Layne Z. sfteleservice@aasf.org

SUNSHINE CLUB COMMITTEE

Carole P. sunshine@aasf.org

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

James O. tech@aasf.org

THE POINT COMMITTEE

Jane B. thepoint@aasf.org

aa group contributions

Fellowship Contributions			Oct. 17	YTD	Marin Group Contributions			Oct. 17	YTD	Marin Group Contributions			Oct. 17	YTD
Contribution Box	\$24.74	\$411.69	Marin Teleservice	\$600.00	\$3,800.00	Wednesday Sundowners W 6pm		\$769.00						
DeerPark Discovery Group		\$86.50	Marin Young People F 830pm		\$247.50	What's It All About F 12pm		\$34.10						
GGYPAA	\$23.00	\$109.06	Men's 2 Plus M 7pm		\$239.91	Wholly Together 11th Step Meditation W 7p		\$122.50						
Intercounty Fellowship of A.A.		\$42.00	Mill Valley 7D 7am		\$600.00	Why It Works Sun 6pm		\$114.50						
Intergroup		\$422.00	Mill Valley Discussion W 830pm	\$166.38	\$196.87	Women's 12 x 12 Fri 1030am		\$100.00						
Northern California H and I Committee		\$4,481.11	Monday Night Stag Tiburon		\$1,500.00	Women's Big Book Tu 1030am		\$551.54						
Sobriety By The Bay		\$2,170.00	Monday Night Women's M 8pm		\$246.44	Women's Lunch Bunch F 12pm		\$493.00						
I Am Responsible		\$100.00	Monday Nooners M 12pm	\$265.34	\$1,640.95	Women's Meeting Su 430pm		\$220.00						
Fellowship Total	\$47.74	\$7,822.36	Morning After Sa 10am		\$775.00	Working Dogs W 12pm		\$660.78						
			Morning Attitude Adjustment M-F 7am Sa 8		\$538.53									
Marin Group Contributions	Oct. 17	YTD	Noon Hope		\$137.00	Marin Total	\$6,536.50	\$48,302.35						
12 & 12 Study Sa 815am		\$182.00	Noon Reville Su 12pm		\$49.00	San Francisco Group Contributions	Oct. 17	YTD						
7AM Group 7D 7am		\$582.00	Noon Tu 12pm		\$25.00	11th Step Power Power Power		\$154.70						
7am Urgent Care Group 7D 7am		\$50.00	North Marin Speaker Sun 12pm		\$759.23	20+ Sun 445pm (unlisted)		\$162.96						
A Vision for You (Fairfax) Su 730pm		\$304.70	Not a Glum Lot Group F 8pm		\$84.00	515 Smokeless M 515pm		\$114.00						
AA By The Bay Tue 730pm		\$110.00	Novato Fellowship Group		\$113.83	6am Dry Dock 7D		\$131.40						
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	\$632.29	\$3,963.00	Novato Spirit Discussion F 2pm		\$15.00	6am Dry Dock Fri		\$81.00						
Awakenings Sat 830a		\$83.90	On Awakening 7D 530am	\$350.00	\$2,100.00	6am Dry Dock Sa		\$69.00						
Back to Basics Su 930am	\$120.00	\$363.00	Pathfinders Tu 12pm		\$300.00	6am Dry Dock Su		\$164.00						
Beginner's Help Th 8pm		\$25.00	Quitting Time M-F 530pm	\$669.72	\$3,465.83	6am Dry Dock Th		\$250.00						
Big Book Study & Meditation M 7p		\$142.80	Reveille 7D 7am		\$601.78	6am Dry Dock Tu		\$197.00						
Blue Book Special Su 11am		\$20.10	Rise N Shine Su 10am		\$900.00	6am Dry Dock W		\$200.00						
Candlelight Sun 830pm	\$502.95	\$502.95	San Anselmo Fireside Meeting Sun 8pm		\$83.30	A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm		\$422.05						
Closed Women's Step Study Tu 330pm		\$226.95	San Geronimo Valley Book Study F 8pm		\$250.00	A New Start F 830pm		\$970.43						
Corte Madera Saturday Candlelight 8pm		\$709.14	San Geronimo Valley M 8pm	\$32.00	\$122.00	AAAs You Like It Tu 530pm		\$354.96						
Cover to Cover W 730pm		\$294.50	Saturday Women's Speaker Sa 6pm		\$278.22	Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm		\$488.40						
Crossroads Sun 12pm	\$141.20	\$1,098.14	Serendipity Sa 11am		\$212.65	Agnostics & Freethinkers Su 630pm		\$423.00						
Day at a Time 7D 630am	\$600.00	\$1,100.00	Sisters In Sobriety Th 730pm (Marin)		\$53.66	All Together Now Th 8pm		\$40.01						
Experience, Strength & Hope(Marin) Sa 6pm		\$60.00	Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm	\$200.00	\$450.51	Amazing Grace M 7pm		\$60.00						
Freedom Finders F 830pm		\$320.50	Sober Sisters W 12pm		\$101.00	Artists & Writers F 630pm		\$865.46						
Friday Night Book F 830pm	\$574.11	\$574.11	Spiritual Testosterone Stag Su 830a		\$695.00	As Bill Sees It Th 6pm		\$707.62						
Glum Not! Su 9am		\$200.00	Step 11 Gong Meditation Thu 530pm		\$150.15	As Bill Sees It Th 830pm		\$134.71						
Gratitude Tu 8pm		\$400.00	Steps to Freedom M 730pm		\$94.00	Ass in a Bag Th 830pm		\$368.03						
Happy Destiny F 7pm		\$200.00	Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm		\$494.50	Back to Basics W 8pm		\$277.87						
Happy Hour (Marin) Th 6pm		\$60.00	Sunday Express Su 6pm		\$206.21	Be Still AA Su 12pm		\$891.57						
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm		\$869.05	Sunday Friendship Su 6pm		\$417.00	Beginners Speaker Discussion F 7pm	\$65.03	\$209.17						
High & Dry W 12pm		\$62.00	T.G.I. Tuesday 6pm		\$60.00	Beginners' Step Study Sat 7pm		\$15.00						
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am		\$605.43	Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm		\$975.38	Beginners Warm Up W 6pm		\$88.10						
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am		\$313.20	The Barnyard Group Sa 4pm	\$77.10	\$311.74	Bernal Big Book Sat 5pm		\$529.46						
It's All About The Book	\$400.00	\$400.00	There is a Solution Tu 6pm		\$70.50	Bernal New Day 7D	\$179.56	\$2,064.34						
Just Can't Wait 'til 8 M 630pm		\$180.00	Three Step Group Sa 530pm		\$603.28	Big Book Basics F 8pm	\$43.69	\$719.99						
Keep Coming Back Sa 10am		\$433.80	Thursday Night Speaker 830pm		\$1,192.75	Big Book Beginners F 105pm		\$100.00						
Keep It Simple Sister Thu 7pm		\$160.00	Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu 7pm & 830pm		\$188.28	Big Book Study Su 1130am		\$317.90						
Larkspur Beginners F 7pm	\$128.00	\$128.00	Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm		\$322.47	Blue Book Special Su 11am	\$34.94	\$308.75						
Larkspur Haven Su 12p		\$231.00	Tuesday Beginners' Meeting	\$219.66	\$1,100.81	Buena Vista Breakfast Su 12pm		\$60.00						
Larkspur Step W 830pm		\$222.28	Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm		\$259.00	By the Book Sa 10am		\$36.00						
Last Stop Men's Step Study W 6pm	\$500.00	\$500.00	Tuesday Big Book Tu 830pm		\$50.00	Came to Believe Su 8am		\$468.56						
Living Sober Ladies Thu 10am		\$312.00	Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 830pm		\$793.10	Came to Park Sat 7pm		\$835.00						
Living Sober M 6pm		\$35.00	We, Us and Ours M 650pm	\$107.75	\$456.00	Castro Monday Big Book M 830pm		\$299.35						
Los Ranchitos W 830pm	\$50.00	\$100.00	Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm		\$60.00	Castro Steps & Traditions W 8pm		\$91.50						
Marin City Groups 6D 630pm	\$200.00	\$400.00	Wednesday Night Candlelight (Marin) W 8pm		\$325.00	Coit's Quitters		\$300.00						

aa *group contributions*

San Francisco Group Contributions	Oct. 17	YTD	San Francisco Group Contributions	Oct. 17	YTD	San Francisco Group Contributions	Oct. 17	YTD
Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm		\$3,087.71	Mission Fellowship		\$88.69	Sundown W 7pm		\$792.02
Design For Living - Big Book Th 730am		\$181.80	Monday Beginners M 8pm		\$864.18	Sunrise Sunset Women's Step Th 6pm		\$690.00
Design for Living Sat 8am		\$760.46	Monday Men's Stag (SF) M 8pm		\$338.30	Sunset 11'ers Sa		\$316.73
Dignitaries Sympathy W 815pm		\$180.00	Monday Monday M 1215pm		\$99.92	Sunset 11'ers Su		\$520.00
Each Day a New Beginning F 7am	\$778.81	\$3,148.95	Monday Night Madness M 6pm		\$202.10	Sunset 11'ers Th		\$85.50
Each Day a New Beginning M 7am		\$556.50	New Friday Big Book F 12pm		\$125.00	Sunset 11'ers Tu		\$93.00
Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am	\$175.13	\$884.80	Noon Smokeless Th 12pm		\$125.00	Sunset 11'ers W		\$10.00
Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am		\$623.11	Noon Smokeless W 12pm		\$132.00	Sunset 9'ers Th		\$50.00
Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am	\$408.45	\$1,532.23	O.A.D.W. Mon 7pm		\$87.66	Sunset Speaker Step Su 730pm		\$579.80
Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	\$467.40	\$1,826.25	Ocean of Sobriety W 830p		\$369.00	Surf Tu 8pm		\$1,346.85
Early Start F 6pm		\$1,990.24	One, Two, Three, Go! W 1pm		\$20.00	Ten Years After Su 6pm		\$833.58
Embarcadero Group 5D 1210pm		\$240.00	Panhandle Th 830pm		\$117.00	The 4th Dimension Sa 630pm		\$124.68
Epiphany Group Th 7pm	\$226.00	\$479.00	Park Presidio M 830pm		\$106.50	The Drive Thru W 1215pm		\$1,298.68
Eureka Step Tu 6pm		\$238.09	Parkside Th 8pm		\$633.00	The Dry Dock Fellowship		\$207.89
Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm		\$1,557.63	Pax West Group 5D		\$4,327.09	The Leaky Cauldron Su 930am		\$555.60
Excelsior "Scent" Free For All Sa 5pm	\$60.00	\$270.00	Pocket Aces Sun 7pm		\$101.28	The Parent Trap 2 W 4pm		\$149.00
Experience, Strength & Hope Sat 9am		\$508.98	Potrero Hill 12 x 12 M 630pm		\$118.68	They Don't Know Who We Are Sat 7pm		\$107.72
Extreme Makeover M 730pm		\$162.98	Progress Not Perfection Tu 830pm		\$272.00	Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm		\$512.70
Federal Speaker Su 12pm	\$140.05	\$474.22	Raising the Bottom W 8pm		\$93.60	Too Early Sa 8am		\$602.98
Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am		\$425.35	Rebound W 830pm		\$122.34	Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm		\$140.50
Fireside Chat Group Sa 9pm		\$200.00	Rigorous Honesty Th 1205pm	\$72.00	\$391.91	Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm		\$252.44
Friday Night Women's Meeting F 630pm		\$139.00	Room to Grow F 8pm		\$80.00	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm		\$294.79
Friday Smokeless F 8pm		\$204.11	Saturday Afternoon Meditation Sa 5pm		\$346.80	Tuesday Night Lasses Step Study		\$376.20
Friendly Circle Beginners Su 715p		\$882.00	Saturday Beginners Sat 6pm		\$1,070.66	Tuesday Women's Tu 630pm		\$73.00
Gold Mine Group M 8pm		\$766.65	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm		\$795.45	Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm		\$60.00
Grouch and the Brainstorm Thu 630pm		\$126.00	Saturday Night Regroup Sa 730pm		\$500.00	Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	\$115.00	\$309.04
Grupo Central Th 10am		\$22.50	Say Hey Group T-F 6pm		\$430.48	Wake Up On 3rd St Group	\$124.20	\$1,220.40
Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm		\$417.69	Serenity House	\$150.00	\$1,500.00	Walk of Shame W 830pm		\$262.80
Happy Hour F 630pm		\$100.00	Serenity Now Tue 830p		\$192.00	We Care Tu 12pm	\$72.00	\$422.32
Henry Ohloff House		\$99.45	Serenity Seekers M 730pm		\$2,742.66	Wednesday Noon Step Study 12p		\$120.00
High Noon Friday 1215pm		\$294.56	Sex and Love in Sobriety M 3pm	\$66.78	\$277.73	Wednesday Noon Steps W 12pm	\$60.00	\$247.00
High Noon Saturday 1215pm		\$369.79	Shamrocks & Serenity M 730pm		\$1,071.73	Weekend Update Su 615pm		\$153.15
High Noon Thursday 1215pm		\$431.60	Sinbar Su 8pm	\$298.26	\$498.03	Weekend Worker Sat 7am		\$240.00
High Noon Wednesday 1215pm		\$431.60	Sisters Circle Su 6pm		\$353.40	West Portal W 8pm		\$807.10
High Sobriety M 8pm		\$202.81	Sober Saturday Sa 830am	\$139.20	\$647.20	Wharf Rats Th 815pm		\$383.00
Huntington Square W 630pm		\$217.43	Sobriety & Beyond W 730pm	\$214.75	\$214.75	What It's Like Now M 6pm		\$165.00
If You Work It - Thu 630pm		\$79.83	Sobriety & Miracles S&M Group Sa 5pm		\$267.60	Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm		\$91.00
It Takes A Village Sa 6pm	\$170.78	\$342.78	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am		\$1,988.74	Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm		\$934.07
Join the Tribe Tu 7pm		\$310.00	Speaker Discussion F 1pm		\$30.00	Women's Came to Believe Sa 10am	\$154.25	\$582.82
Keep Coming Back Sa 10am	\$227.45	\$833.74	Spiritual Awakenings Step Study M 730pm		\$75.00	Women's Kitchen Table Tu 630pm		\$69.60
Let It Be Now F 6pm		\$84.00	St. Francis Lutheran Church		-\$185.40	Women's Meeting There is a Solution W 6pm	\$246.69	\$555.97
Like A Prayer Su 4pm		\$108.59	Step Talk Su 830am		\$233.00	Women's Promises F 7pm		\$461.68
Lincoln Park Sat 830pm	\$81.50	\$382.73	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm		\$331.20	Work In Progress Sa 7pm		\$882.40
Living Sober W 8pm		\$29.91	Stepping Stone Step Study M 730pm		\$42.66	YAHOO Step Sa 1130am		\$479.92
Living Sober with HIV W 6pm		\$137.31	Stonestown M 8pm		\$150.00	San Francisco Total	\$5,288.72	\$87,206.89
Lush Lounge Sa 2pm		\$29.25	Sunday Bookworms Su 730pm		\$222.29	YTD	\$11,872.96	\$143,331.60
Meditation, Prayer & Share Tue 730pm		\$129.00	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag Su 930am		\$632.40			
Meeting Place Noon F 12pm		\$606.88	Sunday Night 3rd Step Group 5pm		\$548.22			
Mellow Mission Sunrise M 7am		\$164.00	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 730pm		\$1,723.34			
Men's Gentle Touch M 7pm		\$220.20	Sunday Rap Su 8pm		\$292.68			
Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	\$196.80	\$671.09	Sunday Silence Su 730pm	\$320.00	\$804.00			

Revenue and Expense Statement: September 2017

	TOTAL					TOTAL			
	Sept 2017	Budget	Jan - Sept 17	Budget		Sept 2017	Budget	Jan - Sept 17	Budget
Revenue									
Contributions from Groups	\$ 9,346	\$ 11,000	\$ 131,861	\$ 125,500	Rent - Office	\$ 4,458	\$ 4,458	\$ 40,124	\$ 40,124
Contributions from Individuals	\$ 2,221	\$ 4,000	\$ 35,087	\$ 34,000	Rent - Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 995	\$ 945
Gratitude Month	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,057	\$ 4,000	Filing/Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 476	\$ 500
Intergroup Event Revenue	\$ -	\$ 120	\$ 12,114	\$ 8,500	Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,485	\$ 2,500
Other Revenue	\$ 35	\$ 47	\$ 1,175	\$ 375	Internet Expense	\$ 117	\$ 150	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,350
					IT Services	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 1,400
Sales - Bookstore	\$ 8,240	\$ 7,328	\$ 70,037	\$ 65,952	IT Hardware	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 300
Cost of Bookstore Sales	\$ (7,033)	\$ (5,994)	\$ (56,815)	\$ (53,946)	IT Software	\$ 31	\$ 15	\$ 207	\$ 740
Gross Margin - Bookstore	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,334	\$ 13,222	\$ 12,006	Office Supplies	\$ 90	\$ 120	\$ 1,922	\$ 1,080
					Paper Purchased	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ 939	\$ 1,125
Total Revenue	\$ 12,808	\$ 16,501	\$ 197,516	\$ 184,381	Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
					Equipment Lease	\$ 407	\$ 408	\$ 4,073	\$ 3,672
Expense					Repair & Maintenance	\$ 436	\$ 340	\$ 3,589	\$ 2,460
Employee Expenses	\$ 14,325	\$ 14,722	\$ 118,627	\$ 124,292	Security System	\$ 144	\$ 100	\$ 426	\$ 900
					Payroll Expenses	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 65	\$ 90
Committees					Telephone	\$ 138	\$ 200	\$ 1,544	\$ 1,800
PI/CPC	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 255	\$ 550	Phone Book Listings	\$ 93	\$ 93	\$ 837	\$ 837
Access Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	Travel	\$ 1,367	\$ -	\$ 1,367	\$ -
Sunshine Club	\$ 52	\$ -	\$ 52	\$ 75	Training	\$ 420	\$ 200	\$ 489	\$ 400
Archives Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97	\$ 30	Bad Checks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Committees - Other	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ 270	Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Committees	\$ 52	\$ 180	\$ 404	\$ 1,225	Total Expense	\$ 22,138	\$ 21,476	\$ 190,839	\$ 199,915
					Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (9,330)	\$ (4,975)	\$ 6,676	\$ (15,534)
Intergroup Sponsored Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,527	\$ 11,800	Interest Income	\$ 43	\$ 45	\$ 389	\$ 405
					Depreciation/Amortization Expense	\$ (348)	\$ (348)	\$ (3,132)	\$ (3,132)
Professional Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,663	\$ 1,500	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (9,635)	\$ (5,278)	\$ 3,933	\$ (18,261)
Postage	\$ 49	\$ 55	\$ 607	\$ 875					

Treasurer's Report: September 2017

For September 2017, Total Revenue was \$12,808, under budget by \$3,693. This was mainly due to group contributions and individual contributions being under budget by \$1,654 and \$1,180, respectively. Total Operating Expense for September was \$22,138, over budget by \$662. The result is a Net Operating Deficit of \$9,635. Net Surplus year to date is \$3,933 over budget by \$22,254.

Group Contributions for September were \$9,346, under budget by \$1,165. Individual Contributions were \$2,221, under budget by \$1,780.

Total Unrestricted Cash for September 2017 was \$69,299, a decrease of \$9,726 from August 2017. Unrestricted Cash is over three months of operating expenses.

The rating for September 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. The Intergroup rating has been "excellent" since December 2016.

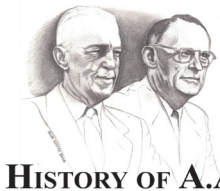
GOOD: We are meeting our budget. Our income for the month, or for the YTD, was slightly greater than our expenses and we'd have approximately 1.5 – 2 months of operating expenses in unrestricted cash balances.

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.

Balance Sheet: September 2017

	30-Sep-17	31-Aug-17	\$ Change	30-Sep-16	\$ Change
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash					
Unrestricted Cash	\$69,299	\$79,025	(\$9,726)	\$32,271	\$37,028
Restricted Cash	\$125,232	\$125,232	\$0	\$131,778	(\$6,546)
Total Cash	\$194,531	\$204,257	(\$9,726)	\$164,049	\$30,482
Accounts Receivable	(\$736)	\$177	(\$913)	\$7	(\$743)
Inventory - Bookstore	\$24,131	\$23,025	\$1,106	\$28,854	(\$4,723)
Total Current Assets	\$217,926	\$227,459	(\$9,533)	\$192,910	\$25,016
Fixed Assets					
Deposits	\$11,906	\$12,254	(\$348)	\$16,224	(\$4,318)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$236,530	\$246,411	(\$9,881)	\$215,832	\$20,698
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$862	\$1,018	(\$156)	\$0	\$862
Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$2,782	\$2,679	\$103	\$4,007	(\$1,225)
Sales Tax Payable	\$577	\$771	(\$194)	\$659	(\$82)
Total Current Liabilities	\$4,221	\$4,467	(\$246)	\$4,666	(\$445)
Total Liabilities	\$4,221	\$4,467	(\$246)	\$4,666	(\$445)
Net Assets					
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$228,376	\$228,376	\$0	\$199,894	\$28,482
Net Surplus/(Deficit), YTD	\$3,933	\$13,568	(\$9,635)	\$12,475	(\$8,542)
Total Net Assets	\$232,309	\$241,944	(\$9,635)	\$212,369	\$19,940
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$236,530	\$246,411	(\$9,881)	\$217,035	\$19,495



HISTORY OF A.A.

Sometimes Quickly He was a secret drinker

by Bob S.

Ebby T. was in deep trouble! He had been arrested for running his car into the side of a lady's house in Manchester, Vermont (and had the nerve to ask her to bring him some coffee). She instead called the constable. He faced six months in either prison or the asylum.

Bill W. made the touchdown

Though not religious, Ebby prayed in desperation: "I really mean this, I want to quit this drinking." He then had a sudden release that lasted two years, enough time for him to carry a sobriety message to Bill W. Clarence S., founder of Cleveland A.A., noted: "Bill W. made

the touchdown, but it was Ebby who handed him the ball." Bill W. was about three days sober at Towns Hospital when he "became willing to have my new found Friend take them away, root and branch." This process became Step Seven when he wrote the Big Book four years later.

Ebby handed him the ball

He never drank again. At Calvary Mission, he helped other drunken sots find sobriety. Dr. Bob, arriving home from a drunken spree, admitted he was a secret drinker and became willing to go to any lengths. Although his obsession to drink hung on for over two years, he never drank again. This sequence of events allowed A.A. to start when it did.



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:

(Continued from Page 5)

Norine T.	Robert W.	Steve F.
Pam K.	Ron H.	Steven G.
Pat P.	Roseanna H.	Susan C.
Patrick S.	Ryan D.	Suzanne C.
Patrick R.	Sara H.	Teddy W.
Paul K.	Scott C.	Theresa M.
Peggy H.	Sean B.	Theresa M.
Penelope P.	Sean C.	Thomas H.
Penelope C. &	Sean M.	Thomas M.
Robert S. Jr.	Sean R.	Tom S.
Peter F.	Sheila H.	Tom P.
Phyllis S.	Stephen S.	Tomas L.
Rachel G.	Stephen S.	Tony R.
Randall S.	Steve A.	Tripp Mc.

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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