

the Point

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

from Chapter Five of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*

2007
3
MARCH

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

THE FIRST WOMAN IN A.A. WAS A MANN!

by Kathleen C.

Marty Mann was the first woman in Alcoholics Anonymous. Daughter of a wealthy family, she lacked for nothing but fell far before landing in A.A., finding sobriety through her physician and the Big Book. She panicked at her first meeting, in the Brooklyn home of Lois and Bill Wilson. Instead of joining the meeting downstairs, she threw herself sobbing on the pile of coats in an upstairs bedroom where Lois comforted her.

"We're waiting for you below, and we want you." Trembling, Marty followed Lois downstairs. The group consisted of five or six men, much older than she, and a few of their wives. The men began firing questions at her, the most significant being: "When was your last drink?"

To her surprise she answered honestly, something she hadn't done even to her own doctor. Without missing a beat, she was talking openly and freely to all these strangers, as if they were her closest, most intimate friends.

"I could finish their sentences! They could finish my sentences! We talked each other's language! It was not a

room of strangers. These were my people. I had come home."

Bill became Marty's A.A. sponsor and later heard her Fifth Step. Marty and Lois also became close friends. Marty later said, "Lois did as much for me as any alcoholic."

Bill Wilson and Marty Mann both were visionary, charismatic, open-minded and entrepreneurial. One early member described her as "an attractive, intelligent young woman with tremendous charm . . . possessing a drive which Bill immediately spotted as equal to his own."

In 1940, Marty landed a job as fashion publicity director at Macy's. There she met Priscilla Peck. Marty "Twelfth-Stepped" Priscilla into A.A. around 1943. By then, they had fallen in love. They were together for nearly forty years, until Marty's death in 1980.

By the early 1940's, women in Akron A.A. had started a women's group and the first black group, founded in Cleveland, was centered around a woman, so there were two minorities involved. Women's meetings were safe

(Continued on page 6)

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1821 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94109-3528

San Francisco (415) 474-1821

Main (415) 499-0400

Fax (415) 674-1801

www.aasf.org

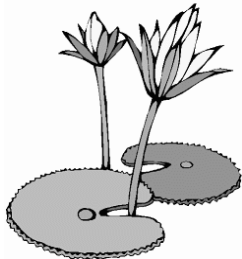

thepoint@aasf.org

The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Main 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, the Intercounty Fellowship Board, 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.

monthly calendar

march 2007

Events, Highlights and Happenings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <u>FIRST FRI</u> Trusted Servants Workshop Committee Central Office, 5:30 pm	3
4	5 <u>FIRST MON</u> Special Needs Committee, Central Office 5:30 pm Spirit of San Francisco Central Office 7:30 pm	6	7 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intercounty Fellowship Board Orientation 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm, 1187 Franklin St./ Geary, First Unitarian Church, S.F. (Feb., May, Aug., & Nov in Sausalito at 180 Harrison Ave., Sausalito, CA; Star of the Sea Church)	8 <u>SECOND THU</u> Website Committee Central Office, 6 pm	9	10 Sunshine Club Workshop, 10am, Central Office
11	12 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 7 pm	13 <u>SECOND TUE</u> SF Bridging The Gap 1187 Franklin St. at Geary, SF, 6:30 pm SF General Service 1187 Franklin St., SF Orientation: 7 pm Meeting: 8 pm Marin H&I 1360 Lincoln, San Rafael Orientation: 6:15 pm Bus. Meeting:	14 <u>SECOND WED</u> 12th Step Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Bridging the Gap 1411 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael, 7 pm	15	16	17
18 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Archives Committee, Central Office, 2 pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day	19 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd, San Rafael, District Meeting: 8 pm Central Office Closed— Presidents' Day	20 <u>THIRD TUE</u> Outreach Committee, Central Office: 6pm San Mateo General Service St. Andrews Church 15th & El Camino Real San Mateo, 7:30 pm	21 <u>THIRD WED</u> Literature Review Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm	22 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. SF Orientation: 7:15 pm Committee Meeting: 8 pm	23	24 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> General Service CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; Business Meeting: 12:30 pm
25 <u>FOURTH SUN</u> Living Sober Convention Committee, 1668 Bush, SF, 5:30 pm	26	27 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> Special Events Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club, 7:30 pm	28	29 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. SF Orientation: 7:15 pm Committee Meeting: 8 pm	30 	

From the Editor



Spring is almost upon us and, happily, we're celebrating our sobriety and looking forward to a glorious summer. This month, *The Point* features Women's Issues. A member of our committee writes on the first woman in A.A. for our cover article. The longer I stay sober, the more enamored I am of A.A. history and this piece will open your eyes to the added struggles that women alcoholics faced in the past and continue to face today. We also have "To Husbands", an article corresponding to the "To Wives" section of our book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This one will probably really open some (male?) eyes!

And, speaking of A.A. history, there's a short article on the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of our beloved Central Office in San Francisco. What a wonderful party that was! It



Imagine my surprise to learn that there are Pisces in A.A. I surely believed them to be all together in some bar, awash in denial, or possibly in Alanon. Yet my editor here at *The Point* insists that the Program is literally "swimming" with you water babies. You are ruled by Neptune—an astro-physical nanowave short of Pluto—so it stands to reason that you usually sit in the back row at meetings and rarely introduce yourselves. Your sensitivity

was a fantastic and moving experience that underscored the principle of Unity embodied in our Fellowship.

We also present our recurring articles on the step, tradition and concept corresponding to the month of the issue (in this the Third) and don't forget *Sober Scope* and *Dear Alky*, two of our more down-to-earth offerings. Keep those questions and comments coming for Dear Alky – she/he/it? would be less than nothing without you!

Also, this month, on March 10th, there will a meeting of The Sunshine Club at Central Office, a new service opportunity that brings meetings to those of our fellows who are home bound or in hospice or hospital. Contact Central Office for more information.

Be well all. Happy Spring!

—The Editor

PISCES: FEBRUARY 19— MARCH 20

and abstract thinking allow many of you to hold onto the slim hope that you merely have a thyroid problem and may not be alcoholic at all. Once you make it past the Second Step, however, your adaptable nature smoothes the way. You are so accommodating that your Fourth Step often includes other peoples' defects of character along with your own. Intimidated by your sponsors, you tend to follow the Steps and Traditions carefully. You make

the
Point

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very compassionate sponsors yourselves—though care must be taken that you not take a Scorpio or Aries under your wing those first few years of sobriety. There's nothing more pitiful than a relapsed Pisces who, upon the advice of a beguiling newcomer, has taken up Haiku poetry during Happy Hour at Tommy's Joint while guzzling Irish car bombs.





Meeting Changes:

Wed	7:00pm	Castro	CODE BLUE BIG BOOK Med. Center, 45 Castro St, North Tower Rm. B-2/3 (was Rm. B-1)
Fri	8:00pm	San Rafael	AS BILL SEES IT, Marin Alano Club, 1360 Lincoln (was Marin Sober Group)
Fri	8:30pm	Hayes Valley	FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL SF Alano Club, 1748 Market St. (was 8pm)
Sat	7:00pm	Castro	THEY DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE, Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St. (was 529 Clayton)

Please note: Meetings at 1329 7th Ave/ Irving, Monday to Friday at 9am, 11am and 1pm, will be relocating in the middle of March due to construction at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church where they meet. Weekend and Evening meetings should not be affected. Please call Central Office if you have or need more information: 415-674-1821.

Reported Missing:

Wed. 6:00pm Inner Richmond MARINERS Church, 4301 Geary Blvd./ 7th Ave., enter on 7th Ave.

Please Note: Central Office occasionally receives reports that meetings listed in our schedules are not there. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes not. The office relies primarily on information that is given to us by A.A. groups, but when a group disbands, informing the Central Office is a common omission. **If you know anything about a meeting that has disbanded**, please call the Central Office immediately: (415) 674-1821. **Thanks for your help in keeping the schedule accurate!**

RECENTLY REGISTERED TRUSTED SERVANTS JAN. 2007

Below are the meetings whose Trusted Servants registered with Central Office during January 2007 — thirty in San Francisco and four in Marin. Thank you for registering!

San Francisco

7AM Grab Bag Mon. 7am; **7AM Speaker Discussion** Thu. 7am; **Big Book Study** Sun. 11:30am; **Candlelight Meeting** Thu. 10pm; **Castro Discussion (Show of Shows)** Wed. 8pm; **End of Isolation** Thu. 6pm; **Fireside Chat Group** Tue. 8pm; **Friendly Circle Beginners** Sun. 7:15pm; **Friendship Group** Wed. 8pm; **Friday All Groups** Fri. 8:30pm; **Friday Morning 12 Steppers** Fri. 7am; **Join the Tribe** Tue. 7pm; **Lighten Up** Tue. 8:15pm; **Like a Prayer** Sun. 4pm; **Monday Men's Meeting** Mon. 8pm; **Newcomers** Tue. 8pm; **No Gurus Meditation** Sun. 7pm; **Principles Before Personalities** Sun. 7:30pm; **Queers, Crackpots & Fallen Women** Mon. 5:30pm; **Rose Garden Big Book** Thu. 12:05pm; **Saturday Night Regroup** Sat. 7:30pm; **Sunset 9'ers** Sat. 9 am; **Sunset 11'ers** Sat. 11am; **Sobriety & Beyond** Wed. 7pm; **Stepping Out** Sat. 6pm; **Sunset 11'ers** Mon. 11am; **Sunset 11'ers** Wed. 11am; **Sunset Group** Wed. 7:30pm; **Tuesday Sunset Nooners** Tue. 1pm; **Twelve Steps to Happiness** Fri. 7:30pm

Marin

Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm; **Hillside Candlelight** Fri. 8:30pm; **Noon Discussion** Thu. 12noon; **Women Who Drank Too Much** Mon. 7:30pm

CONTRIBUTIONS

to Central Office were made through February 15, 2007 honoring the following members:

ONGOING MEMORIALS

Bob C.

ANNIVERSARIES

Come & Get It!: Tim M.—7 years

8:30 AM Smokeless: Kevin O.—18 years

Novato Fellowship: Eileen M.—7 years

High Noon: Ted R.—22 years, Wikki—20 years, Josh—18 years, Nick—12 years, Donna C.—7 years, Bob P.—6 years, Dan H. & Jolie K.—5 years, Berne—4 years, Luis M. & David M.—3 years, Carmen & Luis—2 years, Greg, Tracy, Erik, Tom, Teddy, Jeff, Terry M. & Gilbert—1 year

Tiburon Closed: Dick F.—47 years

First Place: Neil M.—33 years

Gordon G.-H.—18 years

Utah: Jane Mc F.—46 years

COMING UP

mark your calendar

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH
250 Visitation Way, Community Center
under Library, Brisbane, Sunday, 11AM

03/04 Speaker: Joanna From: San Bruno
03/11 Speaker: Tom From: San Francisco
03/18 Speaker: Joy C. From: Daly City
03/25 Speaker: Don B. From: Daly City

7AM SPEAKER DISCUSSION

2118 Greenwich St. SF,
Marina Dock, Thursday, 7AM

03/01 Speaker: Bill H.
03/08 Speaker: Marilyn
03/15 Speaker: Ted R.
03/22 Speaker: Gael
03/29 Speaker: Phillip

San Francisco General Service Agenda Topics Workshop

9:30AM – 3:15 PM
Saturday, March 17, 2007
Heritage Hall, St. Mark's Square
1111 O'Farrell Street; San Francisco
Lunch provided

FRIDAY NIGHT ALL GROUPS

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center, San Francisco,
Fridays 8:30 pm

03/02 Host Group: Monday Beginners Speaker: Bill H.. From: Serenity House Stag
03/09 Host Group: Cocoanuts Speaker: Diane O. From: Cupertino Closed Women's
03/16 Host Group: Moving Toward Serenity Speaker: Leo M. From: Sonoma Th 11th Step
03/23 Host Group: Rule 62 Speaker: Don R.. From: Too Early
03/30 Host Group: H&I Committee Speaker: Evon D. From: Big Book Basics

The Spirit of San Francisco *Presents*

AA Speaker Meeting & Vaudeville Review and Talent Show

Sunday, April Fools Day, April 1, 2007

3:00 PM AA Speaker Meeting

With speaker Leslie K. From Modesto, CA

Dinner and Vaudeville Show to follow

Janet Pomeroy Center

207 Skyline Blvd. Near the San Francisco Zoo

Dinner & Show \$15 in advance, \$20 at door.

Information: (415)225-6339

www.spirit-sf.org

Would you like to list an Event or your
Group's Speakers in *The Point*? Submit them
to thepoint@aasf.org no later than the 10th of
the previous month



"The Sunshine Club" a new branch of the 12th Step Committee is holding a Workshop at Central Office

The Sunshine Club brings meetings to AA
members who can not get to regular meetings
due to temporary illness or injury.

Learn more about carrying the message
on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 10:00 AM.

One year of sobriety & attendance
at one Sunshine Club workshop requested

Marin Teleservice Spaghetti Feed



**Saturday,
March 10th**



Doors open at 5pm, Speaker Meeting starts at 7pm.

Location: Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church
410 Sycamore Ave. Mill Valley

\$7.00 Suggested donation
Please bring a desert to share

To HUSBANDS

by Anonymous

It's Big Book meeting night. The hour is drawing to a close. We have just finished reading "Working with Others" and sharing about it. As we stand in the circle saying the Our Father together, I catch my sponsor's eye. Amid the post-meeting hubbub and chatter we confer solemnly. "You know what comes next." I say. "Yeah, our favorite chapter." She replies. "Not!" I say. "So where shall we have dinner next week?" We make dinner plans in lieu of attending next week's meeting. Why? Because we can't stand "To Wives."

We know it is heresy to reject any of the Big Book but suspect we are not alone in disliking the admonitions (written by a woman but heavily edited by Bill W.) to the female family members of male alcoholics. "Try not to condemn your alcoholic husband no matter what he says or does." Treat the alcoholic gently, with kid gloves. Don't be angry at him, don't berate him for all

*Suck it up and do
the dang household
chores yourself.*

the crap he's done. "These family dissensions are very dangerous, especially to your husband. Often you must carry the burden of avoiding them or keeping them under control." Then even after he gets sober, don't complain if he spends every night of the week at meetings, leaving you to take care of the kids.

We both have alcoholics in our families, living and dead, and have seen how either we or our female relatives bore the brunt of the alcoholic's wreckage. The admonitions in this chapter spark a firestorm of resentments. After a few readings over the years, though, (sometimes we fail to anticipate accu-

rately and it sneaks up on us) for some unknown reason a ray of light shines through the clouds and realization dawns. We are the alcoholics. We are the ones who should be treated gently and not provoked or blamed. Hey, this is a good thing! So from now on, when I read, "To Wives," I think to myself, "To Husbands."

Be nice to your alcoholic wife (sister, daughter, mother). Don't let her get too hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Don't criticize her if the house is a mess and there is no supper on the table and the kids are in dirty rags. Suck it up and do the dang household chores yourself. Then, if she gets sober in A.A., let her go to a meeting every night of the week with her A.A. girls and be happy she's sober. With this slight alteration in mind, I can even go to the Big Book meeting the nights we read "To Wives." Substitution, that's one of the tools of sobriety!



(*"The First Woman in AA," continued from page 1*) sanctuaries, much as they are today. Newly-sober women could share their experience, strength and hope, find sponsors and speak freely without worrying what the men in A.A. thought of them.

Marty wasn't shy about reminding early male A.A.'s about the special stigma suffered by the woman alcoholic and how it was a barrier to sobriety. Men in the 1930's and 40's were creatures of their culture, having the same prejudices and misconceptions as anyone else regarding women alcoholics. Dr. Bob was himself aghast at the prospect of women coming into the Akron group, although he eventually relented and became supportive. Some men objected to women joining their groups because they thought they looked

shabby and hung over. Marty was there to remind them, "Remember how *you* looked when you first came in?"

Many women members in early A.A. had been divorced or abandoned by husbands who wouldn't tolerate an alcoholic wife. They were vulnerable to inappropriate attention in meetings from men who were barely sober themselves. Many women had been sheltered by their families because of the same stigma and didn't suffer the obvious economic and social consequences of men alcoholics. A.A. men didn't realize at first how "skid row" for such a woman could be a horrible place right in her own home.

Lois Wilson and Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, were the most sympathetic to the women drunks and often worked with them, even taking them and their chil-

dren into their homes.

In addition to Twelfth Step work with individual women alcoholics, Marty set out to educate the world about alcoholism. The vehicle for this monumental accomplishment was the National Council on Alcoholism, which she founded, directed and represented for thirty-five years, until her death in 1980.

Marty wrote "Women Suffer Too," a chapter which first appeared in the Pioneers section of the Second Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. She also wrote a book, *Primer on Alcoholism*, first published in 1950. She spoke at A.A. conferences and roundups. Helen K., a Bay Area A.A. member sober since 1954, remembers Marty as an inspiring speaker. Today, women in A.A. participate fully at all levels. For that, we owe Marty Mann a debt of gratitude.



Dear Alky...



Questions and Answers
from one AA
to another

I read recently that San Francisco is not a very child-friendly city. That's the way I feel about SF A.A. I have a young son, 18 months old, and I often can't get a babysitter when I need a meeting, not that I could necessarily afford to hire someone. My husband is working and going to school at night, and trying to stay sober himself, so I can't really expect him to babysit. There are only two childcare meetings that I know of but they are in the Haight and nowhere near where I live. Plus they are in the middle of the day – how does that help mothers like me who are working, even if only part-time? I took my son to my home group a few times, but there were complaints about his walking around during the meeting and the group took a group conscience and decided that children would not be allowed at the meeting. A toddler can't be expected to sit still for an

hour. I see more people bring dogs into A.A. meetings than children. What is wrong with this picture? Don't parents of little kids need meetings too? When is A.A. in San Francisco going to do something to help people like me stay sober?

--Troubled Mom

Dear Mom,

Sounds like you are nursing a "justifiable" resentment. . . As indelicate as it might seem, Alky simply must point out to you that your child's behavior in the meeting, while perfectly normal for a toddler, was obviously disruptive to the other participants. The First Tradition puts the well-being of the group as a whole ahead of that of the individual alcoholic—A.A. simply can't be everything to everyone and some groups feel that such restrictions better serve their primary purpose. Other groups, however, are much more "loose" about what is considered disruptive.

While Alky recognizes that having a young child certainly makes getting to meetings

more difficult, there are options that you perhaps have not considered. If you have other sober friends with children, perhaps you could trade off watching one another's children so that each of you could make at least one meeting each week. Or you could ask a friend who doesn't have kids but enjoys spending time with them—Alky knows lots of such folks and they are usually honored to spend a couple of hours with a friend's child, especially when doing so will support your sobriety. You might also do as some other A.A. parents that I know, and host a meeting for other parents in your home each week, with the parents alternating who goes into another room to supervise the kids.

And by all means, keep looking for child-friendly meetings—or start one of your own! The Alano Club has a Saturday morning children-welcome meeting that you could certainly support. Remember, it's your sobriety—and therefore your responsibility to do the footwork, rather than simply asking what A.A. can do for you.

Good luck!

Alky



BULLETIN BOARD

General Service Representatives (GSRs) are getting group consciences on Agenda Topics for the 57th General Service Conference, such as consider the addition of the following, from The AA Service Manual "Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for the general service representatives to attend service functions" to the "Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet. Your GSR might also ask about

the Conference Workshop Topic "Spiritual Value of Our AA Dollars". One question is "Am I hesitant to ask other AA members to contribute, or to dig a little deeper, if they can? Why?" The theme of the 2007 conference is "Our 12th Step Responsibility-Are We Going to Any Length?" One discussion item around the theme is: Humility and Responsibility; Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill?

Remember the conscience is not a vote and is attained through loving discussion, Tradition Two and likely during sharing session(s) held independent of the business and recovery meetings. Someone, ideally the Alternate GSR will

take notes. Eventually all consciences makes their way to the conference in NY.

You can participate in the conference process by attending your group's Sharing Session(s) hosted by your GSR or attending the District 10 Agenda Topics Workshop on March 10th in San Rafael and you can contact your District Committee Member (DCM), before April 13. On April 14th and 15th the GSRs and DCMs will be in Ukiah delivering group consciences to the CNCA or California Northern Coastal Area Delegate who will then carry all that to the Conference in NY. Please join us and come be a part of.



The Three Legacies: Steps, Traditions and Concepts

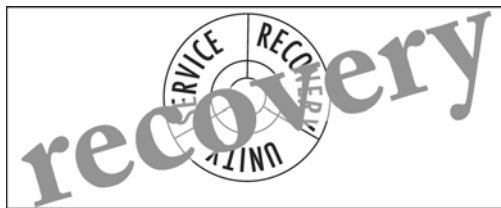
Almost everyone in A.A. who has been around for few days is aware of the Steps. We may not understand them at first or know how to apply them but we know what they are. A dawning of awareness usually comes a bit later for the Traditions. We are told that they are for the Group what the Steps are for the individual. Sometimes we may even glimpse the spiritual qualities embodied in the Traditions but usually we ignore them until a conflict arises in the Fellowship. We are then reminded of their importance.

The Twelve Concepts, on the other hand, are rarely discussed at the individual or group level. Yet they are an important part of A.A. heritage and as such should be understood, especially by those who seek to be of service to the Fellowship at large.

As Bill W. explained, "These Twelve Concepts therefore represent an attempt to put on paper the why of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the conclusions that we have drawn from it cannot be lost...

"Hence, a prime purpose of these Twelve Concepts is to hold the experience and lessons of the early days constantly before us. This should reduce the chance of hasty and unnecessary change."

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STEP THREE

by Li L.

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him"

So how does one practice Step Three when one's understanding of "God" is that he, she or it does not exist?

Herein lies an often insurmountable problem for those who come to A.A. with an understanding of reality that does not rely on traditional religions or beliefs.... and even some who do, like most Buddhists, who firmly deny the existence of a "creator God".

In an effort to reach out to those who may be struggling with this, let me share my experience of overcoming this qualm during eleven years of sobriety in A.A.

The willingness to surrender and submit my ego and all of its harmful characteristics to a superior mode of being becomes obvious and compelling in the light of Step One. Even if the "God" mentioned in Step Three is conceived by me to be an idealized state of consciousness greater than the one I have so far experienced, well.... that works too! It is the principle of surrender that is important, the shedding of ego and the deflation of false pride. Becoming "right sized" as we say in A.A. Most religions today embrace this idea in some form or another. For instance, the word "Islam" means "to surrender or to submit".

OK, you may say, but how can I "turn my will and my life" over to the care of a principle if I don't believe in "God"? Well, just think... You do it every day already. If you participate at all in the financial system of the world (and

how can you not unless you live all by yourself in the middle of nowhere?) you have turned your life over to the principle of "money" which is a good example of something that ultimately exists in principle only. Every time you go to the grocery store you have turned your life over to "money"; to the fact that it will get you food and you will be able to live.

As long as I am willing to admit that my way doesn't work (as evidenced by the unmanageability demonstrated in Step One) I have in essence made a beginning, and that is all that is needed. There is a marvelous and almost miraculous quality of spiritual principles. My experience has been that even the slightest bit of effort, the smallest iota of willingness, or the most miniscule application of a suggestion by my sponsor or the Fellowship reaps huge spiritual rewards. "Fly efforts move elephants."

Let's try to remember that pride heads the list of the seven deadly sins and that, as the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions tells us, "the facts seem to be these: The more we become willing to depend upon a Higher Power, the more independent we actually are." (Pg.36)

By practicing Step Three we are in fact countering the poison of excessive pride and preparing the ground to be of service to others. We are preparing the way for a spiritual awakening.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The following is a list of the names and contact information for the IFB Officers and Chairpersons of most of the service committees. If you are interested in doing service on a committee or if you wish to receive more information about a committee, please contact these committee chairs.

INTERGROUP OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Scott N. sconjovi@gmail.com

VICE CHAIR

Chuck K. 415.637.7330

TREASURER

Danna P. 415.595.9141

RECORDING SECRETARY

Chris T. 415.261.2522

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

CENTRAL OFFICE COMMITTEE

David P. david@leadershipunleashed.com

12th STEP COMMITTEE

Victor V. 415.726.0518

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Bruce K. bruceken@aol.com

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Steve N. snolan12000@yahoo.com

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Anthony J. anthony@sobersots.org

THE POINT

Victor V. 415.726.0518

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chairperson Needed

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

Pene P. 415.200.6261

TRUSTED SERVANTS

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Monika H. monihar2002@yahoo.com

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Dan Z. 415.665.5166

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Judi C. sfteservice@aasf.org

SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Jill H. picpc@aasf.org



TRADITION THREE

by Morgan L.

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

Chief among the alcoholic's shortcomings are relationships with others. The Twelve Traditions assist the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in fostering right relations amongst each other and the world. To facilitate those right relations, Tradition Three states: *The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.* This inclusive philosophy ensures all individuals interested in joining AA are welcomed into the fold. This philosophy developed as alcoholics of varying backgrounds attempted to join the fellowship and founding members learned to open the fellowship to all.

In A.A.'s nascent years, requirements for membership were miles long and varied by group. Each meeting had its own set of “protective regulations” which admitted only select alcoholics. While the reasoning for A.A.'s selectiveness was twofold, the motive behind both reasons was the same; fear.

The first reason for early selectivity was because only a fraction of those joining remained sober. The palpable fear in the rooms was, “which one of us will be next to go out?”

The second more elusive reason A.A. was selective was to achieve a reputation as a respectable institution. Protective guidelines ensured only the most reputable white, Christian, male alcoholics became members. Such stringent requirements kept, “beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, fallen women”

and others who would tarnish A.A.'s reputation out of the fellowship.

The fears that spurned these stringent regulations were reviewed in A.A.'s second year of existence when a man of dubious character asked to join the fellowship. Ultimately, members set aside their fears and decided to walk in faith, allowing the man to join. Through his case and other early members it was decided that any individual with a desire to stop drinking could join Alcoholics Anonymous. When Tradition Three was published in the Grapevine, a set of questions accompanied the Tradition assisting individuals in determining how well they practiced Tradition Three. Questions included:

In my mind, do I prejudge some new A.A. members as losers?

Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my A.A. group?

Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

Do I let language, religion (or lack of it); race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

Our answers remind us that *the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.* When we wholeheartedly adopt this inclusive philosophy we ensure that anyone in joining us is welcomed into the fold.





Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. As a Faithful Fiver, your personal contribution can and will make our vital services possible. We'd like to thank the following members for joining:

Ami Joy Y.	Jeanne C.
Andy T.	Jeff B.
Barbara M.	Jim H.
Brian N.	Karen K.
Brian P.	Lisa M.
Bruce D.	Matt E.
Caroline A.	Michael W.
Catherine S.	Patti W.
Casey L.	Paul W.
David H.	Peg L.
David J.	Peggy M.
David P.	Pene P.
Dennis & Lucy O.	Ralph P.
Doug C.	Randall S.
Elizabeth S.	Rebekah D.
Frances L.	Rich G.
Giles H.	Richard S.
Greg W.	Robert K.
Herman B.	Sheila H.
Jane H.	Steve A.
Jane K.	Steve R.
Janet B.	Tim M.

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



CONCEPT III

by Scott N.

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society on its world affairs.

When I came to this fellowship a few short years ago, I could barely comprehend the Steps, the Traditions made no sense at all, and the Concepts might as well have been written in Latin. Since then, I have gained understanding and experience with all three of A.A.'s legacies. The perception that the Traditions and Concepts did not apply to me as an individual member of the fellowship changed with the help of a service sponsor.

The Concepts, located in *The A.A. Service Manual*, are written in language specifically discussing the General Service Conference, Trustees, A.A. World Service, and the Grapevine. They contain the spirit of our service legacy. Concept Three is a perfect example to me of how these principles can be put into practice not only at A.A. World Service, but at local General Service, Intergroup (IFB), and local meetings.

I was struck by the *Service Manual* reference to Tradition Two when talking about Concept Three. It is important to remember that the final authority at all times is the collective group conscience of the fellowship. When a group grants the 'Right of Decision' to a trusted servant, the group retains the authority to correct mistakes made by the trusted servant. Hopefully the group has chosen wisely and never has to assert itself. Each commitment in A.A. has certain requirements and these should be considered when electing

individuals to serve the group.

Let's look at the 'Right of Decision' from a service entity perspective—either local General Service or the IFB. When a group elects someone to represent them, they expect the individual to keep them informed of issues brought up at the monthly business meetings. They also expect their group's conscience to be carried to meetings and applied in topic discussions and voting when appropriate. There may be a vote at a business meeting that the group has discussed and given feedback to their representative to carry at the local level. If new information is presented at the business meeting, the trusted servant has the 'Right of Decision' to vote opposite the original group's conscience if the new information might have swayed the group's thinking. I have been at both IFB and General Service meetings when someone from the 'minority' opinion of a vote had something new to say that would affect our ability to live up to our primary purpose. When a revote was called, many of the servants exercised their 'Right of Decision' and changed their vote to help ensure the hand of A.A. is available for all who reach out.

Concept Three is at work at the group level, too. When a group elects a coffee maker, the members do not need to meet when they run out of coffee to decide what brand or how much to

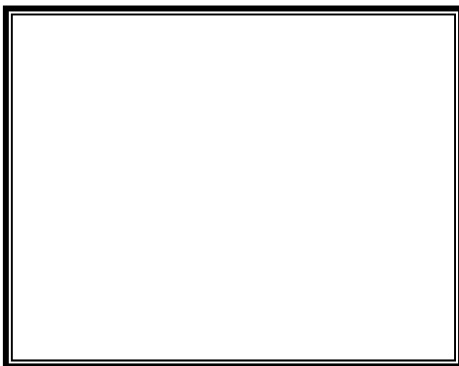
(Continued on page 11)

AN INSPIRED SUCCESS—60 YEARS AND COUNTING *by A Local Sot*

The Central Office 60th Anniversary Celebration on January 27th was a success not only in terms of putting on a darn good party – but also as a powerful inspiration to all who attended. It surely lived up to the ideal of the First Tradition – Personal recovery depends on A.A. unity. There was enough unity in that room to excite the most isolationist newcomer!

For me personally it was a significant milestone. During the planning stages of the event I had visited Central Office for a meeting of The Point Committee and noticed the Guest Sign-In Book from the 50th Anniversary Open-House. I immediately scanned through it and there it was – my signature from when I was newly sober and new to A.A. This in turn brought back a waterfall of memories and insured that I would not miss the 60th anniversary celebration no matter what.

And I am so glad I attended. The highlight of the evening, for me, was the Old Timer's Panel. What a marvel of experience, strength and hope that was! I even won a book in the raffle,



signed by all ten of these Elder Statesmen (and women) of our Society. I was most impressed, as I suppose is fitting, by Helen K., who at 54 years sober (and our eldest elder at least in terms of length of sobriety) reminded us that “The most important thing is not to pick up that first drink no matter what or you’re screwed!” This statement will be forever burned upon my mind. I went around to meetings the entire following week repeating what she said to all who would listen. Talk about keeping it simple!

Equally important, the Old Timers talked about the founding of A.A. in San Francisco and of course, the found-

ing of Central Office. We were told that our San Francisco Central Office, serving all of Northern California, was the first Central Office on the West Coast. We were also told that San Francisco was only the sixth city in the United States to form an active working group of Alcoholics Anonymous. What a treasure trove of information. CD's with the talks by the panel are available from Central Office. I'm sure going to get a copy. This is history that should not be lost. As someone once said, “You have to remember where you came from in order to know where you're going.”

After the panel, there was a meeting where previous Central Office Managers and Special Workers shared their experience. Then of course, came the usual A.A. sugar binge (euphemistically called a “dessert pot luck”) followed with fellowship. What a great night it was. I am forever grateful to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Intercounty Fellowship Board for putting this on. I plan on being around for the 70th!

tP

(Concept Three, continued from page 10)

buy. The trusted servant has the ‘Right of Decision’ to choose the brand or even to stock up on supplies if he finds a sale. Each individual servant in A.A. has the ability to fulfill a commitment without going to the group for approval so long as it is within the scope of their responsibility

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

DECEMBER

2006

Name	Dec. 2006	YTD	Name	Dec. 2006	YTD
Fellowship Group Contributions			Island Group Th 8pm		407
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	44	360	Just Can't Wait 'til 8 M 630pm		127
Contribution Box	62	670	Keepin' It Real Th 6pm		180
Deer Park Discovery Group		80	Living in the Solution F 6pm		493
Fellowship Group Contributions	184	184	Marin City Groups 5D 630pm		435
Gay & Lesbian Newcomers		22	Marin Newcomers M 830pm		332
Gay Newcomers Group		20	Mill Valley 7D 7am	263	2023
IFB	104	1010	Mill Valley Discussion W 830pm		23
Marin Teleservice		2465	Mill Valley Gay W 8pm	55	55
Men's Forum Tu		1000	Monday Blues M 630pm		695
SEC Anonymous Prom		117	Monday Night Stag (Tiburon) 8pm		1781
Spirit of San Francisco		3063	Monday Night Women's M 8pm		103
The Chosen Ones		40	Monday Nooners M 12pm		180
Traditions Workshop		120	More Will Be Revealed F 12pm		130
Unidentified Group	314	3944	Nativity Monday Night Big Book M 8pm		300
Total Fellowship	708	13095	Newcomers Step M 730pm	254	372
			Noon Tu 12pm		194
Marin Group Contributions			Noon Hope F 12pm		312
12 & 12 Study Sa 815am		173	North Marin Speaker Sun 12pm		270
7am Grab Bag M 7am		40	On Awakening 7D 530am	350	560
7am Urgent Care Group 7D 7am		400	Pathfinders Tu 12pm		68
A Vision for You (Fairfax) Su 730pm	100	270	Primary Purpose W 830pm		300
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am		2341	Quitting Time MWF 530pm		100
Awakenings	60	246	Refugee Th 12pm		30
Awareness/Acceptance M 1030am		360	Reveille 7D 7pm	200	700
Beginner's Help Th 8pm	100	160	Rise N Shine Sun 10am		373
Beginners & Closed Tu 7pm & 830pm		1280	San Geronimo Valley M 8pm	83	198
Beginners Tu 7pm		156	Saturday Night Sa 830pm		60
Beginners W 7pm		836	Saturday Serenity Sa 8pm		66
Blackie's Pasture Sa 830pm		709	Saturday Women's Speaker Sa 6pm	170	170
Bounce Back M 6pm		240	Serendipity Sa 11am		183
Caledonia Sun 8pm		531	Sisters In Sobriety Th 730pm (M)		150
Closed Women Step Study Tu 330pm		250	Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm		365
Creeside New Growth Sun 7pm		269	Spiritual Testost. Sun Men's Stag Su 830a		600
Crossroads Sun 12pm		1443	Sober & Serene F 7pm		600
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	222	390	Steps to Freedom M 730pm		390
Experience, Strength & Hope(Marin) Sa 6pm		183	Steps To The Solution W 715pm		115
Fairfax Friday Night F 830pm		191	Streetfighters Sa 9am		47
Freedom Finders F 830pm		830	Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm		250
Friday Night Book F 830pm		24	Sunday Express Sun 6pm		200
Girls Night Out W 815pm		11	Sunday Friendship Sun 7pm		120
Greenfield Newcomers Sun 7pm		152	Sunday Night Corte Madera Sun 8pm		1123
Gratitude M 2pm		20	Survivors M 12pm	250	388
Happy Destiny F 7pm		116	T. G. I'm Sober M 6pm		79
Happy Hour (Marin) Th 6pm		183	T.G.I.F. F 6pm		562
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm		200	T. G. I. Tuesday 6pm		141
Hillside Candlelight F 830pm		221	Terra Linda Group Th 830pm	464	1811
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am		314	Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm		351
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am		215	The Barnyard Group Sa 4pm		509

GROUP

CONTRIBUTIONS, CON'T...

DECEMBER

2006

Name	Dec. 2006	YTD	Name	Dec. 2006	YTD
The Fearless Searchers F 8pm		186	Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm		276
There is a Solution Tu 6pm		270	Castro Discussion (Show Of Shows) W 8pm		711
Three Step Group Sa 530pm		500	Castro Monday Big Book M 8pm		78
Thurs. Night Speaker, MV		1277	Chips Ahoy Tu 12pm		88
Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 8pm		550	Cocoanuts Su 9am		440
Tiburon Haven Sun 12pm		960	Come N Get It F 630pm		77
We, Us and Ours M 650pm		190	Common Welfare Th 8pm		32
Wednesday Noon W 12pm		383	Courtside Tu 1215pm	203	438
What's It All About F 12pm		144	Coven M 7pm	34	34
Women's Big Book Tu 1030am		304	Cow Hollow Men's Group		241
Women's Step Study Group M 12pm		120	Creative Alcoholics M 6pm	150	161
Women For Women W 12pm		50	Crocker Park Sa 4pm		19
Women on Monday M 7pm		212	Design for Living Sat 8am		388
Working Dogs W 1205pm		550	Diamond Heights Tu 830pm		400
Total Marin Group Contributions	2571	37463	Each Day a New Beginning F 7am		1738
SF Group Contributions			Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am		682
515pm Smokeless F	140	272	Each Day a New Beginning M 7am		400
6am Marina Dock Sa		175	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am		676
7AM As Bill Sees It Fri		75	Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am		796
7am Grab Bag M 7am		110	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am		1021
7am Living Sober W 7am		37	Early Joyous & Free Th 7am		120
7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am		194	Easy Does It Tu 6pm		230
830am Smokeless Th		64	Early Start F 6pm		1318
830am Smokeless Tu		228	Embarcadero Group 5D 1210pm		1788
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm		163	Endless Summer F 830pm		26
A Vision for You (SF) Su 630pm	100	215	Epiphany Group Th 8pm		35
AA As You Like It Tu 530pm		59	Eureka Step Tu 6pm		113
AA Step Study Su 6pm		542	Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm		828
Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm	75	282	Excelsior Free for All Sa 8pm		29
Afro American F 8pm		163	Experience, Strength & Hope W 715pm		66
Alamo Square Su 7pm	33	33	Federal Speaker Su 12pm		428
All Together Now Th 8pm	17	778	Fell Street Step Su 8pm		62
Amazing Grace M 7pm		50	Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am		100
Any Lengths Sat 930am	255	1592	Fireside Chat Sa 9pm		180
Artists & Writers F 630pm		380	Fireside Chat Th 8pm		213
As Bill CCs It Sun 8am		81	Fireside Chat Tu 8pm		81
As Bill Sees It Sat 8pm	220	256	First Place	9	9
As Bill Sees It Tu 1210pm		134	Founders' Group Sa 5pm		28
As Bill Sees It Th 830pm		680	Four Forty Niners F 8pm		225
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm		141	Friday All Groups F 830pm	377	3423
Beginner Big Book Step Th 630pm		25	Friday Knights Th 730am		50
Beginner's Warmup W 6pm	107	107	Friday Lunchtime Step F 12pm		320
Be Still AA Su 11am		121	Friday Night Women's Meeting F 730pm		23
Beach Meeting\Meditation Sa 930am		92	Friday Night Special F 8pm		14
Beginners' Step Study Sat 630pm		86	Friday Smokeless F 830pm		47
Bernal Big Book Sat 5pm		797	Friendly Circle Su 830pm		968
Bernal New Day 7D	200	1100	Gold Mine Group M 8pm	196	791
Big Book Basics F 8pm		661	Golden Gate Seniors Tu 130pm	80	80
Big Book Study Su 1130am		431	Goodlands Su 2pm		89
Birthday Party Sharing Our Sob. Sat 7pm		136	Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm		104
Blue Book Special Su 11am		37	Happy Destiny Sa 630pm		87
Boys Night Out Tu 730pm		21	Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm		597
			High Noon Friday 1215pm		700

GROUP

CONTRIBUTIONS, CON'T...

DECEMBER

2006

<i>Name</i>	<i>Dec. 2006</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Dec. 2006</i>	<i>YTD</i>
High Noon Monday 1215pm	255	1152	Pax West Th 12pm		184
High Noon Saturday 1215pm	51	336	Pure & Simple Su 6pm		35
High Noon Thursday 1215pm		689	Reality Farm Th 830pm	167	167
High Noon Tuesday 1215pm		702	Rebound W 830pm		381
High Noon Wednesday 1215pm	60	417	Red Road Healing Circle Th 6pm		102
High Sobriety M 8pm	193	597	Rose Garden Big Book Th 1205pm		25
High Steppers W 7pm		136	Rule 62 W 10pm		469
Hilldwellers M 8pm		509	Saturday Afternoon Meditation Sat 5pm		160
Home Group Sat 830pm		392	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm		842
Home Step Group		104	Saturday Matinee 2pm		60
Hoodlum Haven F 8pm		760	Saturday Night Regroup Sat 730pm		631
Hot Java F 12am		90	Seacliff Th 830pm		152
How It Works Sat 2pm		150	Serenity House		500
Huntington Square W 630pm		1043	Serenity Seekers M 730pm		1682
Ingleside Beginners Su 5pm		23	Sesame Step Tu 730pm		778
Join the Tribe Tu 7pm		462	SFPOA Th 7pm	443	653
Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm		122	Sinbar Su 830pm		118
Just Alkies F 7pm		42	Sisters Circle Su 6pm	96	878
Keep Coming Back Sa 11am		1770	Sisters In Sobriety M 7pm (SF)	20	45
Keep It Simple Sat 830pm		434	Sober & Centered F 7pm		255
Last Call Su 10pm		183	Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	40	250
Light Steppers Su 7pm		220	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am		318
Like A Prayer Su 4pm		153	Sought to Improve Th 730pm		97
Lincoln Park Sat 830pm		220	Step Talk Su 830am	90	1342
Live and Let Live Su 8pm		91	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm		112
Living Sober W 8pm	53	262	Stepping Out Sat 6pm		149
Living Sober with HIV W 6pm		512	Stepping Stone Step Study M 7pm		375
Luke's Group W 8pm		167	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm		181
Lunch Bunch Th 12pm		120	Stonestown M 8pm		151
Lush Lounge Sa 2pm	126	457	Straight Jackets Th 9am	32	262
Marina Discussion F 830pm		1685	Sunday Bookworms Sun 730pm		120
Meeting Place Noon F 12pm	90	316	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag Su 1030am		1234
Meeting Place Noon W 12pm	35	35	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 730pm	131	1499
Men's Gentle Touch M 7pm		394	Sunday Rap Sun 8pm		81
Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am		1090	Sundown Steps Th 630pm	36	298
Midnight Meditation Sat 12am		125	Sundown W 7pm		503
Miracles Off 24th St W 730pm		328	Sunrise Sunset Women's Step Th 545pm		109
Mission Fellowship		260	Sunset 11'ers F		50
Mission Terrace W 8pm		223	Sunset 11'ers M		55
Monday Beginners M 8pm		925	Sunset 11'ers Su		160
Monday Monday M 1215pm		349	Sunset 11'ers Tu		87
New Friday Big Book F 12pm		19	Sunset 11'ers W		20
New Highs W 130pm		71	Sunset 9'ers F	191	651
New Hope Big Book M 630pm		95	Sunset 9'ers M		222
New Life W 7pm	599	727	Sunset 9'ers Sa		381
Newcomers Tu 8pm		97	Sunset 9'ers Su		234
Newcomers Group Tu 7pm		265	Sunset 9'ers Th		126
No Gurus Meditation Su 7pm	127	257	Sunset 9'ers Tu		214
No Reservation M 12pm	60	180	Sunset 9'ers W		196
One Liners Th 830pm	478	1559	Sunset Sobriety Th 730pm		278
Parkside Th 830pm		228	Sunset Speaker Step Sun 730pm		431
Park Presidio M 830pm		273	Surf Tu 8pm		325
Pax West M 12pm		1026	Sutter Street Beginners Sat 6pm		546

GROUP

DECEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS, CON'T...

2006

Name	Dec. 2006	YTD	Name	Dec. 2006	YTD
Ten Years After Su 6pm	390	1736	Walk of Shame W 8pm		120
The 24 Hour Plan M 7am		113	Washington Square M 7pm		96
The Drive Thru W 1215pm	138	1115	Waterfront Sun 8pm		1157
The Parent Trap M 1230pm	332	605	We Care Tu 12pm	62	546
The Pepper Group F 12pm	60	132	Wednesday Women's Big Book W 615pm	90	270
They Don't Know Who We Are Sat 7pm		180	West Portal W 915pm		181
They Stopped In Time M 8pm		351	Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm		107
Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm	122	728	Women Living Sober Sa 1030am		80
Too Early Sat 8am		312	Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm	95	437
Transrecovery F 630pm		9	Women's Kitchen Table Group Tu 630pm	17	547
Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm		132	Women's Promises F 7pm		79
Tuesday's Daily Reflections Tu 7am		547	Work In Progress Sat 7pm		198
Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	216	1037	YAHOO Step Sa 11am		35
Unconditional Surrender F 10am		31	Total SF Group Contributions	7091	85823
Valencia Smokefree F 6pm		742	TOTAL	10,370	136,381

Grapevine Price Increase

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2007

In late January we received notice that the AA Grapevine, Inc. increased the price on some of its items. The notice included the following statement:

"As you are aware, the Grapevine is totally self-supporting and does not receive group contributions. Therefore, due to increases in our fixed costs, we have to increase some of the prices on our Grapevine items in order to cover operating expenses."

We will update our prices to reflect the increase on March 1st. The items affected by the increase are listed in **bold** print and *italicized* in the table on the right.

GRAPEVINE PRICES	CURRENT PRICE	AS OF MARCH 1, 2007	GRAPEVINE PRICES	CURRENT PRICE	AS OF MARCH 1, 2007
EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY	9.55	9.55	I AM RESPONSIBLE: THE HAND OF AA	9.55	9.55
AA AROUND THE WORLD	5.95	9.55	BEST OF GRAPEVINE VOL II	9.55	11.95
BEST OF THE GRAPEVINE I CD	12	12	BEST OF GRAPEVINE VOL III	9.55	11.95
BEST OF THE GRAPEVINE, VOL. 2 CD	12	12	LANGUAGE OF THE HEART	12	14.35
BEST OF THE GRAPEVINE, VOL. 3 CD	12	12	LANGUAGE OF THE HEART SOFTCOVER	10.75	13.15
BEST OF BILL HARDCOVER	8.35	8.35	NOT FOR NEWCOMERS ONLY (CD)	12	12
BEST OF BILL LARGE PRINT	5.95	7.15	PARTNERS ON THE JOURNEY (CD)	12	12
BEST OF BILL SOFTCOVER	5.95	5.95	PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUALITY (CD)	12	12
GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE	1.75	2.4	SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS	9.55	10.75
HOME GROUP: HEARTBEAT OF AA	5.95	8.35	THANK YOU FOR SHARING	9.55	10.75
BEST OF GRAPEVINE VOL I	9.55	11.95	TRADITIONS CHECKLIST	0.12	0.12

If you are interested in supporting the AA Grapevine, you might consider subscribing to the magazine. An annual subscription is \$18. An online version is available as well access to their digital

archives. More information is available at Central Office or on the AA Grapevine's website: www.aagrapevine.org



IFB MEETING SUMMARY — JANUARY 2007

The IFB is the Board of Directors for our local AA Central Office (San Francisco and Marin Counties)

The following groups have registered Intergroup Representatives. Those marked “P” attended the most recent IFB meeting. If your group was not represented, consider electing an Intergroup Representative (IFB) and /or an alternate so your group’s voice is heard.

Following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business and service opportunities discussed at the February 2007 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and it is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes, contact the Central Office.

During this meeting of the IFB, the group participated in a group inventory, which was facilitated by Nancy Haynes, Past Delegate for CNCA, Area 06. The following items were discussed during a brief session of the regular IFB meeting which preceded the group inventory.

IFB Reports:

Chair’s Report: Scott N. gave the report.

Scott asked the IFB to make only necessary announcements to save time for the inventory.

The Central Office 60th Anniversary Party was fantastic. Scott thanked all those who worked so hard to put on such a great event.

Scott made the following reports from The Point:

We are recruiting for the treasurer position that Danna is vacating at the end of June.

The Point is seeking a volunteer to do the layout in MS Publisher.

There is a Trusted Servants Workshop on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 10am. Featured positions include secretary, treasurer, and literature person.

The 12th Step Committee is launching the Sunshine Club, which will bring meetings to those who are hospitalized or homebound. There is a workshop on March 10, 2007 for anyone interested.

Central Office Manager’s Report: Maury gave her report. She thanked everyone

(Continued on page 17)

(IFB Summary, continued from page 16)

who helped make the 60th Anniversary Celebration such a huge success.

Treasurer's Report: Danna gave the report: The Net Income for December of \$7,081 was less than the budgeted net Income of \$11,365 by (\$4,383). Unrestricted cash as of December 31, 2007 totaled \$53,912 and is sufficient to pay for budgeted expenses for three months.

Regular Committee Reports:

Special Events Committee: Brian H. gave

the report. He announced that due to a new job, he must resign from the IFB and thus as Chair of the SEC.

Trusted Servant Workshop Committee: Monika gave the report. She announced a write up in the Marina Dock Newsletter, which spoke highly of the Trusted Servant Workshops. She said that they are also considering making it mandatory for members to attend one of the workshops before accepting a position.

Website Committee Report: Dan Z. gave the report. The issue of IFB members' full

names and emails appearing on Google searches has been addressed and resolved. Google was notified.

Special Needs Committee: Pene gave the report. She thanked Laura for last month's demonstration of the assistive listening devices the IFB purchased. Pene also asked the IFB to poll their home groups to see if they are available and able to host ASL signers.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris T., IFB Recording Secretary

GRATITUDE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Dec. Grat. Mo.	Name	Dec. Grat. Mo.	Name	Dec. Grat. Mo.
Marin Gratitude Month		Each Day a New Beginning M 7am	119	Sisters Circle Su 6pm	72
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	98	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am	111	Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	14
Experience, Strength & Hope(Marin) Sa 6pm	50	Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am	89	Sought to Improve Th 730pm	29
Happy Hour (Marin) Th 6pm	50	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	131	Step Talk Su 830am	150
Mill Valley 7D 7am	1385	End of Isolation Th 6pm	38	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm	28
Newcomers Step M 730pm	190	Federal Speaker Su 12pm	44	Stepping Out Sat 6pm	34
On Awakening 7D 530am	381	Friday All Groups F 830pm	40	Stonestown M 8pm	75
Terra Linda Group Th 830pm	144	Friday at Five F 5pm	31	Straight Jackets Th 9am	18
Thurs. Night Speaker, MV	127	Friday Night Women's Meeting F 730pm	21	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 730pm	100
Total Marin Gratitude Month	2424	Gold Mine Group M 8pm	18	Sundown Steps Th 630pm	26
SF Gratitude Month		Happy Destiny Sa 630pm	14	Sundown W 7pm	62
330 Smokeless W	21	Happy Hour (S.F.) F 630pm	48	Sunset 11'ers M	46
515pm Smokeless W	52	Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm	72	Sunset 11'ers W	60
6am Marina Dock	846	High Noon Friday 1215pm	115	Sunset 9'ers M	66
7am Grab Bag M 7am	38	High Noon Monday 1215pm	100	Sunset 9'ers Su	127
7am Step Discussion Tu 7am	32	High Noon Saturday 1215pm	52	Sunset 9'ers Th	95
830am Smokeless Sa 830am	19	High Noon Wednesday 1215pm	100	Sunset 9'ers Tu	59
AA Step Study Su 6pm	44	High Steppers W 7pm	30	Sunset 9'ers W	48
Alumni W 830pm	25	Keep It Simple Sat 830pm	54	Sunset Speaker Step Sun 730pm	64
Any Lengths Sat 930am	269	Living Sober W 8pm	69	Sutter Street Beginners Sat 6pm	71
Artists & Writers F 630pm	172	Lush Lounge Sa 2pm	25	Ten Years After Su 6pm	115
As Bill Sees It M 1210pm	44	Marina Discussion F 830pm	80	The Drive Thru W 1215pm	232
As Bill Sees It Sat 11am	25	Meeting Place Noon F 12pm	24	The Parent Trap M 1230pm	42
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm	62	Men's Gentle Touch M 7pm	69	Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm	104
Beginner's Warmup W 6pm	94	Midnight Meditation Sat 12am	18	Tuesday's Daily Reflections Tu 7am	36
Big Book Basics F 8pm	54	Monday Monday M 1215pm	24	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	118
Big Book Study Su 1130am	46	Monday Noon Daily Reflections M 12pm	36	Waterfront Sun 8pm	122
Blue Book Special Su 11am	54	New Friday Big Book F 12pm	70	We Are Living Sober Su 2pm	10
Castro Discussion (Show Of Shows) W 8pm	180	New Hope Big Book M 630pm	37	We Care Tu 12pm	50
Come N Get It F 630pm	50	New Life W 7pm	58	Wednesday Women's Big Book W 615pm	27
Common Welfare Th 8pm	56	No Reservation M 12pm	107	West Portal W 830pm	49
Creative Alcoholics M 6pm	66	Pure & Simple Su 6pm	32	Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm	46
Design for Living Sat 8am	88	Reality Farm Th 830pm	118	Total SF Gratitude Month	6831
Diamond Heights Tu 830pm	51	Sesame Step Tu 730pm	159		
		Sinbar Su 830pm	97	TOTAL	9255

F. A. I. T. H.—FINDING ANSWERS IN THE HEART

by Callista S

Having faith conjures up an old idea of believing something that may not really be true, rather like an action to make myself feel better by pretending. My old ideas about faith were formed and poisoned by an early blooming addiction to alcohol. It was my thirteen year-old attempt to resolve the emotional pain of rejection.

In recovery, I hear it said that “Faith without works is dead.” If I simply believe something but don’t take action, then I am in fear, not faith. Faith allows me to do the next right thing even though I can’t see the outcome.

“Callista, you are like someone who is standing in a cold room talking to an empty fireplace saying, ‘If you give me a little heat I’ll give you a little wood.’” This was my sponsor in early sobriety when I was balking about following her suggestions. She said I suffered from “analysis paralysis.”

Faith is demonstrated every time we drive somewhere at night. Of course, in the dark we can’t see but a number of feet in front of the car at any one time but we know that if we stay on the road we can actually see well enough to make it safely to our destination.

I can’t think my way into any solution. Taking action without using some knowledge, sense and wisdom can make for a lot of racket and splashing around, without getting anywhere or producing anything. God gave us brains to use. We can use them gratefully. My thinking is one of an alcoholic mind-set which instinctually operates on old ideas, fearful or negative

expectations, and other less-than-sane guiding forces that are not often on the right footing. I get a better result when I gather new information - open

*You are like someone
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saying, ‘If you give me
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you a little wood.’*

up, get honest with someone else, ask for feedback and review my thought process, plans, and actual behavior.

When problem solving I discover what I intellectually know and when I review my options, I realize that there are still so many things that I can not

know. My mind cannot go beyond it’s ego by using intellectual thinking alone.

I have discovered faith and guidance beyond my intellectual limitations by sitting quietly and clearing my mind of all that I “know” and asking for direction. When I am open, and as clear as I can be of my own expectations, then answers come. Maybe not immediately ... but the inspiration for an answer does come because suddenly I am able to see answers in front of me in a new way. The “solution” can even dawn on me gradually over the course of a few days or weeks. Lending myself to the heart leads me to access greater wisdom from my Higher Power and I am using my brain as God intended. There is always some indication or confirmation of a direction that I should take or even the pure inspiration of a new thought. This comes when I pause and turn within to listen to the expanse,



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 San Francisco and Marin counties.

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 is a brief summary of the editorial policy of *The Point*.) For the Long Form, please go to the web site for San Francisco and Marin A.A. – www.aasf.org.

financial statement

december 2006

	<u>Dec 06</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 06</u>		<u>Dec 06</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 06</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			Total Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Income			Postage		
Contributions from Groups			Bulk Mail	360.00	1,160.00
Group Contributions	10,369.50	136,381.06	Postage - Other	0.00	553.02
Total Contributions from Groups	10,369.50	136,381.06	Total Postage	360.00	1,713.02
Contributions from Individuals			ASL Expense	225.00	675.00
Individual - Unrestricted	240.00	9,144.75	Rent - Office	3,987.10	46,311.70
Faithful Fiver	265.00	6,247.00	Rent - Other	0.00	750.00
Honorary Contributions	366.00	2,314.15	IFB Literature	0.00	121.34
Total Contributions from Individuals	871.00	17,705.90	PI/CPC	0.00	89.40
Gratitude Month			Filing/Fees	0.00	380.00
Gratitude Month - Groups	9,255.24	13,831.46	Insurance	0.00	1,826.00
Gratitude Month - Individual	550.00	1,675.00	Internet Expense	74.99	1,073.94
Total Gratitude Month	9,805.24	15,506.46	Office Supplies	473.45	3,443.87
Sales - Bookstore	6,996.91	103,233.86	Shipping	-78.75	131.03
Special Event Income	0.00	2,974.14	Equipment Lease	0.00	7,218.15
Newsletter Subscript.	33.18	541.02	Repair & Maintenance	188.00	2,731.79
Total Income	28,075.83	276,342.44	Security System	33.50	467.00
Cost of Goods Sold			Special Events	-332.70	1,456.52
Cost of Books Sold	4,016.59	66,173.90	Telephone	242.06	2,721.51
Credit Card Processing Fees	291.73	2,105.18	Phone Book Listings	76.50	841.50
Total COGS	4,308.32	68,279.08	Utilities	129.35	2,403.53
Gross Profit	23,767.51	208,063.36	Travel	0.00	1,031.02
Expense			Training	0.00	305.00
Employee Expenses			Bad Checks	0.00	0.00
Wages & Salaries	8,560.00	96,327.89	Miscellaneous Expense	-202.00	-202.00
Employer Tax Expenses	705.11	8,595.99	Total Expense	16,493.61	196,171.06
Health Benefits	952.00	10,825.00	Net Ordinary Income	7,273.90	11,892.30
Workers Comp Ins.	0.00	1,968.61	Other Income/Expense		
Total Employee Expenses	10,217.11	117,717.49	Other Income		
Professional Fees			Interest Income	377.35	4,060.37
Accounting	1,100.00	2,400.00	Total Other Income	377.35	4,060.37
Computer Consulting	0.00	600.25	Other Expense		
Outside Services	0.00	294.00	Depreciation Expense	513.16	3,189.87
Professional Fees - Other	0.00	-330.00	Amortization Expense	159.22	2,785.80
Total Professional Fees	1,100.00	2,964.25	Total Other Expense	672.38	5,975.67
Bank Charges			Net Other Income	-295.03	-1,915.30
Credit Card Clearing	0.00	0.00			
Bank Charges - Other	0.00	0.00	Net Income	6,978.87	9,977.00

MARCH 2007

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