

SOBER MUSIC

A publication of the

Intercounty Fellowship

of Alcoholics Anonymous

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The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Marin Counties). The Point's pages are open to participation by all AA members. Nothing published herein should be construed as a statement of AA, nor does publication constitute endorsement of AA as a whole, 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.

By Dan B. and Kyle H.

I was in my first band by the time I was thirteen. It was called *Nosferatu Pokol Chamber*. We were sick—and, now I know, we were literally sick. The singer, Jason, was twenty-one and he'd shoot drugs, asking me to tie him off, a bit of knowledge that'd come in handy later.

My alcoholism progressed as I jumped from band to band, relationship to relationship, repeating the same self-destructive behaviors and consequently losing focus of why I play music in the first place. Where music had provided me with a necessary escape in my youth (and - although I didn't know it then - a power greater than myself), it had

become a vehicle for my alcoholism in adulthood. Touring around the country, playing music became secondary to my consumption of drugs and alcohol.





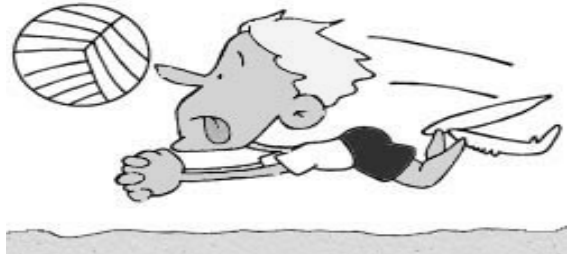
When I finally crawled into A.A. for help, I was willing - to a point. I still thought I could manage to go on tour in the midst of a Fourth Step and be fine. I had to repeat this pattern a couple times before it was defeated by the facts - that I could not run my own life and stay sober. Before I finally came back to A.A., I'd sold my musical equipment and records and was living with my Mom at 31 years of age. Either I was going to kill myself or surrender.

(Continued on page 6)

monthly calendar

Events, Highlights and Happenings

april 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <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)	3	4	5
6	7 <u>FIRST MON</u> Access Committee, Central Office; 5:30pm	8 <u>SECOND TUE</u> SF Bridging The Gap 1187 Franklin St., 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee, Central Office, 7pm Marin H&I, 1360 Lincoln, San Rafael, Bus. Meeting: 7:15 pm SF General Service 1187 Franklin St. Meeting: 8 pm	9 <u>SECOND WED</u> 12th Step Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Bridging the Gap 1411 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael, 7 pm	10 <u>SECOND THU</u> Trusted Servants Workshop Committee Central Office, 6:00 pm	11	12
13	14 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Committee Central Office, 7 pm	15 <u>THIRD TUE</u> Outreach Committee, Central Office; 6pm San Mateo General Service, St. Andrews Church, 7:30 pm	16 <u>THIRD WED</u> Website Committee, Central Office; 6:30pm	13	18	19 SF PI/CPC Speaker Workshop, 10am, Central Office Trusted Servants Workshop, 10am, Harbor Lights, 1275 Harrison St.
20 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Archives Committee, Central Office, 2 pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day Living Sober General Planning Meeting, Trinity Church, Bush & Gough, S.F., 5pm	21 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd, San Rafael, District Meeting: 8 pm	22 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club, 7:30 pm	23	24 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. SF Orientation: 7:15 pm Committee Meeting: 8 pm	25	26 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> General Service CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; Business Meeting: 12:30 pm
27	28	29	30			

From the Editor

Welcome to the April issue of *The Point*. Our efforts this month focus on creativity in sobriety and all the ways that we are talented and express that talent. Our cover article by two world famous Rock-n-Roll stars (April fool!!!) is truly wonderful (no kidding).

We also feature a book review. This may be a first for *The Point*. It is about the history of Gay and Lesbian meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and so is of special interest to the San Francisco Fellowship. The review was written by a member of the local fellowship, so we thought it appropriate to publish it.

You'll find several articles by members of and about one of San Francisco's dearest meetings, the *Artists and Writers* group. One A & W member describes his experience of *Drunks on Display*, the recent Talent Show, which

was a resounding success. This group is also the subject of our monthly feature, *Meet the Meeting*. The article, *Creativity in Sobriety*, was written by one their Secretaries.... To say the least, this must be the artists and writers edition of *The Point*!

One word of caution – watch out for the puzzle! It's tricky! This is April after all.

I'd also like to take some space to say adieu. After a little over two years as editor of *The Point*, it's time to walk my talk about the spirit of rotation and walk! It's been a pleasure serving on this committee, one of my favorite A.A. commitments of all time. I've loved writing for you under the *nom de plume* A Local Sot, and hope you've enjoyed my sometimes obscure attempts at humor and spirit. May you all be well in the here and now. - Li L.



Aries: March 21– April 20

by Madame Salami

Madame just finished another bottle of apple Martinelli's and has put away the tiara and noisemakers from another wild new year's celebration – the Spring Equinox on March 21. Yes, it's a new year for the Zodiac, and who better to lead the way than that fabulous young buck, Aries.

Everyone knows of your keen sense of adventure, deep ambition, strong impulses, contagious enthusiasm and love of freedom. You welcome new challenges like no other and are not easily diverted from your purpose. Be careful not to rush your way through,

however. Often our best lessons are learned on the journey getting there.

You can bet an Aries always knows which step he is on, and it's a good thing too. It's easy for Aries to be so caught up in himself, he can forget his primary purpose and make it hard for others to relate. Don't forget to look inside – we all know of your notoriously deficient capacity for self-reflection. Resentment, regret and self-pity are more than words, they deny you what is essential to your nature: straightforwardness.

Focus on your relations with others this month. We know you to be a frank, direct, candid, and generous friend, but even though you may be in touch with your own inner lamb, you can sometimes forget that others have sensitivities too. As Madame's grandmother often said, "Sometimes you get more flies with honey." Save your horns for the really important things—the Serenity Prayer can remind you what I am talking about!



the
Point

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New Meeting:

Sat 3:00pm Alamo Square HENRY'S MEN, 601 Steiner St./ Fell St. (Men, SD)

Meeting Changes:

Mon 6:00pm San Rafael MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS, 718 4th St./ Tamalpais (was 684 San Pedro Rd.)
 Mon 7:30pm San Rafael WOMEN WHO DRANK TOO MUCH, 718 4th St./ Tamalpais (was 684 San Pedro Rd.)
 Fri 7:00pm San Rafael HAPPY DESTINY, Church, 1411 Lincoln Ave. (was 684 San Pedro Rd.)
 Sat 7:00pm San Rafael YOUNG PEOPLE'S BYOB, Y.M.C.A., 1500 Los Gatos Rd. (was 684 San Pedro Rd.)

No Longer Meeting:

Tue 7:00am Ingleside TUESDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS, Church, 1345 Ocean Ave.
 Tue 6:00pm Financial FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT MEN, 235 Montgomery St./ Pine St.

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— FEBRUARY 2008

Below are the meetings whose Trusted Servants registered with Central Office during February 2008 — thirty in San Francisco and eleven in Marin. Thank you for registering!

San Francisco -

Acceptance Group Mon. 5:30pm; **As Bill Sees It** Tue. 12:10pm; **Beginner Big Book Step** Thu. 6:30pm; **Beginners Warm Up** Wed. 6pm; **Bernal Big Book** Sat. 5pm; **Big Book Study** Sun. 11:30am; **Friday Smokeless** Fri. 8pm; **Friendly Circle** Sun. 8:30pm; **Haight Street Blues** Tue. 6:15pm; **High Sobriety** Mon. 8pm; **Goodlands** Sun. 2pm; **Keep It Simple** Sat. 8:30pm; **Living Sober With HIV** Wed. 6pm; **Miracles (Way) Off 24th St.** Wed. 7:30pm; **Noon Smokeless** Sat. 12:15pm; **Rebound** Wed. 8:30pm; **Romper Room** Sat. 10am; **Sober Across The Board** Thu. 8:30am; **Sunset 9'ers** Fri. 9am; **Sunset 9'ers** Sun. 8am; **Sunset 11'ers** Thu. 11am; **Sunset 11'ers** Sat. 11am; **The Parent Trap 2** Wed. 4:30pm; **Wake Up Call** Sat. 10am; **Washington Square** Mon. 7pm; **Wits End Step Study** Tue. 8pm; **Work In Progress** Sat. 7pm; **Women's 10 Years Plus** Thu. 6:15pm; **Women's**

Marin -

Beginners Meeting Tue. 7pm; **Candlelight Meditation** Mon. 7:30pm; **Friday Night Book** Fri. 8:30pm; **Happy Destiny** Fri. 7pm; **Happy, Joyous & Free** Tue. 12pm; **Happy, Joyous & Free** Wed. 12pm; **Marin Stag (aka Monday Night Stag)** Mon. 8pm; **Monday Night Stag - 12 & 12** Mon. 6pm **Quitting Time** Wed. 5:30pm; **T. G. I. F.** Fri. 6pm; **'Tiburon'** Closed Tue. 8:30pm

CONTRIBUTIONS

to Central Office were made through March 15, 2008 honoring the following members:

ONGOING MEMORIALS

Daryl S., Ken M., Mary W.,
Pat T., Silas P.

ANNIVERSARIES

High Noon:
Johnny G. 10 years, Brett 9 years,
Jeff L. 3 years, Brittany B. 2 years,
Anonymous 2 years,
Douglas W. 1 year
Janice E. 1 year, Annia R. 1 year

COMING UP

mark your calendar

TIBURON HAVEN GROUP

Strawberry Rec Center Loft, 118
Strawberry Dr, Mill Valley

Meets 12noon on Sundays for its
Speaker Meeting

Special Speaker Sunday:

April 20, 2008

Linda P. from Hollywood, CA
Childcare Available -
Special 90 Minute Meeting!

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

250 Visitation Way, Community Center
(under library), Brisbane, Sunday, 11AM

04/06 Speaker: Charlie L.	From: Sinbar Group, S.F.
04/13 Speaker: Roberto S.	From: Group Geneva, S.F.
04/20 Speaker: Pete S.	From: Hi Noon, Daly City
04/27 Speaker: Tom B.	From: Golden Gate S., Pacifica

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center, SF, Tuesday 8PM

04/01 Speaker: Beverly C.	From: Federal Speaker Sunday
04/06 Speaker: Deborah	From: Friday All Groups
04/15 Speaker: Paul F.	From: Sutter Street Beginners
04/23 Speaker: Liam K.	From: Code Blue
04/30 Speaker: Don S.	From: S.F. Fellowship

FRIDAY NIGHT ALL GROUPS

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center, SF, 8:30 pm

04/04 Host Group: Tiburon Monday Stag	Speaker: Judi C.	From: Too Early
04/11 Host Group: Friendly Circle	Speaker: Stu S.	From: Trinity Fellowship
04/18 Host Group: Fireside Chat	Speaker: Jennifer R.	From: Mid-Morning Support
04/25 Host Group: Come and Get It	Speaker: Dennis C.	From: Serenity House Wednesday Noon

PLEASE —

Don't Forget
Secretaries &

Treasurers may Now
Register with Central
Office at our website:
www.aasf.org!

Receive *The Point*
every month during
your commitment and
share important
information with your
group!

SPEAKERS WANTED!!

Carry the AA message to schools, drunk driving
classes, community organizations, the medical com-
munity, and other professionals who work with alco-
hols.

(Requirement: two years of continuous sobriety in AA)

PI/CPC WORKSHOP

(Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional
Community)

Saturday, April 19, 2008 10:00am

Central Office-1821 Sacramento Street
(Between Van Ness and Franklin)

For further information, call the
Central Office: 674-1821



The Spirit of San Francisco PRESENTS DISCO BINGO Sunday, April 6, 2008

2:00pm AA SPEAKER MEETING
PATRICK O. from PLEASANTON
3:15pm - 4:15pm LUNCH
4:30pm - 6:30pm BINGO

THE JANET POMEROY CENTER
207 SKYLINE BLVD.
(Between the SF Zoo and Lake Merced)

TICKET INCLUDES LUNCH AND 8 BINGO GAMES
\$15.00 IN ADVANCE/\$20.00 AT THE DOOR
PURCHASE TICKETS ON LINE @ WWW.SPIRIT-SF.ORG UNTIL 4/5/2008
OR CALL 415-664-1533 FOR ADDITIONAL TICKET INFORMATION

The Spirit of San Francisco 16th Annual

AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation
and Spanish Speaking Marathon Meetings
October 10 - 12, 2008
Holiday Inn Golden Gateway ~ 1500 Van Ness

NEW VENUE FOR 2008
3RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008
12:00 NOON SHOTGUN AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO AT WWW.SPIRIT-SF.ORG



Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at meetings of IFB, COC, IFB committees and service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative format should contact the SF/Marin County Central Office (415) 674-1821 no less than five business days prior to the event.



(Sober Music: continued from page 1)

Upon coming back to A.A., I was willing to sacrifice all of my old ideas around my identity, who I thought I was, and what I should be doing. I was willing to do anything to learn how to live sober. I chose to go to rehab instead of going on tour in Europe, a life long dream of mine. This choice marked a turning point in my attitude toward the place of music in my life. *No longer did I need music as much as I needed not to drink.* And if my sobriety required the loss of playing music, so be it.

A couple months into my sobriety, I was walking through the Tenderloin and the desire to use gripped me. I had twenty dollars in my pocket, which at the time, insane as I was, seemed to justify a relapse. Fortunately, I had plans to attend High Noon, and on my way, walking from the Tenderloin, I said a prayer for

someone or something to help me because I felt so close to relapse.

I arrived at the meeting late, there were no seats, and I sat in the back on the floor, unable to hear anything and wallowing in self-pity. I left the meeting early without asking anyone to sponsor me. While smoking outside, this guy I'd thought of asking to be my sponsor approached me and asked if I needed a sponsor. I immediately said yes and we met right then and there and started reading the Big Book. He asked me if I was really ready to do this and I told him I'd prayed for help on the way there and he'd told me that he'd prayed to find a sponsee. We worked the steps and ended up starting a band together.

Learning that God does not make too hard of terms for those who seek him, music was one of the first gifts I was to receive in my sobriety. A year into the band I changed sponsors and my former sponsor and I continued

to play for another year. This was the first band in my life based around sobriety, a lack of expectations, and a shared desire to express gratitude to God for the gift of music in our lives. No longer was music a vehicle for self-obsession and destruction. It had become a source of love and unity between me and my fellows, and ultimately God.

I know that putting A.A. first in my life leads to an acceptance of things as they are. It's not merely that I need sobriety to play music. More importantly, without sobriety and the primacy of A.A. in my life, I wouldn't be able to give and receive the unconditional love of God - a love that generates some of the most sincere music I've ever made.

TP

The Trusted Servants Workshop Committee of the



Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous
serving San Francisco and Marin Counties

is pleased to present a

Secretary Workshop

Two knowledgeable group secretaries will share their experience, strength and hope.

Learn how to best serve your group and share your experience, too.

Where: Harbor Lights, 1275 Harrison St. near 9th St., SF
Muni buses 12, 27, 47 and 19 stop nearby

When: Saturday, April 19th, 2008 from 10 to 11:30 AM

Coffee and snacks will be provided.

For more information contact Central Office at 415-674-1821 or tsw@aaaf.org.

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Dear Alky...



Dear Alky:

I know we are supposed to work a program of rigorous honesty and practice our A.A. principles in all our affairs. With tax season coming up, I want your advice on how to approach filing my returns with this in mind. I have been told that there are several deductions I could claim that might or might not be legally allowed, but that the IRS almost never checks for these. Also, I earned some income “under the table” doing work for fellow A.A.ers. And there are so many ways the government misuses my tax dollars anyway, and so many rich people and corporations that pay no taxes, that it makes me sick! Besides, the bigger the refund I get, the more I can put in the basket at

meetings, which I think is a far better use of my money than some wasteful government boondoggle or a misguided war. Do I really have to be “rigorously honest” with the IRS?

Frustrated Filer

Dear Frustrated,;

The best advice Alky can give in the tax department is “CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL”. This would be one of those areas where outside help is really important. If a professional tax preparer tells you that the deductions you are considering “might not be legally allowed,” don’t take them! And if the preparer thinks they are O.K., then you can rely upon her expertise. And while you are in the preparer’s office, ask her about the under the table work. Perhaps you will fall below the threshold of having to report independent contractor work. Frankly, the

tax laws are not really Alky’s forte.

However, Alky sure knows a resentment when she sees one! My big concern with your question is not so much about rigorous honesty, but about the number of resentments that bubble up in a fairly short note. You are apparently angry about the way the government spends your taxes, angry about the rich, and angry about corporations paying no taxes. And your comment that if you didn’t have to pay taxes you would have more money to put in the A.A. collection smacks (just a little) of self-justification. Maybe it’s time to get writing. I’d recommend a nice, long Tenth Step on MONEY. Turn those feelings of anger, self-centeredness and the fear that lies beneath them into something more constructive than a questionable tax deduction - use them to motivate you in your spiritual program.

Alky 

“DRUNKS ON DISPLAY” TALENT BY THE DOZEN

by Pete R.

Sharing our God-given gifts is a profound expression of sober living, an antidote to isolation, and is proof that the Twelfth Step takes many forms. This was profoundly demonstrated at the “Drunks on Display” talent show, presented by the Artists & Writers group on Saturday night, March 1, 2008 at 1350 Waller. The place was packed wall-to-wall – members, family and performers – and what a show it was!

Including donations at the door, the raffle, and sale of homemade refreshments, the event took in nearly \$1,300. The entire effort was to help make sure the hand of A.A. is always available to anyone who reaches out for it.

Amazing but true: the performers did not audition, but were chosen by chance. Anyone in A.A. was welcome to toss his or her name into the hat.

Out of thirty candidates, twelve were randomly chosen and with some last minute substitutions, the show went on. The quality of talent attests to the gifts that are so widely scattered among the A.A. fellowship.

“Driver Doug,” the Master of Ceremonies, set a light, comfortable tone for the show. Doug handled the

(Continued on page 15)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The following is a list of names and email addresses for IFB Officers and for most of the IFB committees. If you are interested in doing service on a committee, or if you wish to receive more information about a committee, please email that committee at the address.

INTERGROUP OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Chuck K. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

Steve N. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Patrick M. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ken J. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

CENTRAL OFFICE COMMITTEE

Victor V. coc@aasf.org

12th STEP COMMITTEE

Shawn M. 12thstep@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

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ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

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SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Judi C. sfteservice@aasf.org

SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Paul P. picpc@aasf.org

CONVERSATIONS WITH LONGTIMERS

As Told to the Drunk Whisperer

From Gunslinger to Long-timer, Who Would've Guessed?

Barbara M. celebrated fifty years of continuous sobriety in January 2008. She got sober in 1958 in San Francisco at age twenty-seven. Her home group was the Surf Group for many years. Today, she especially enjoys reaching out to young people because when she came in the doors of A.A., there was skepticism that she could be a member due to her age.

Q. You were only twenty-seven, so they didn't think you could be an alcoholic?

A. Yes, because I had my home. I had my husband. And my children.

Q. Did you have doubts for yourself about being an alcoholic?

A. No, I didn't because in December of 1957 my dear husband said, "Shape up or ship out". We watched *The Days of Wine and Roses* on TV and he pointed out to me everything that I did. So I was happy to see that because I didn't know what I was,

quite frankly. (In 1958, TV's *Playhouse 90* produced this work with Cliff Robertson and Piper Laurie. The later movie version with Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick was made in 1962.)

Q. It was a relief to figure out that you were an alcoholic?

A. It was. So anyway, they gave me a hard time at the Surf Group. There was a lot of sobriety there and they just thought I was too young. And I guess it was about three months after I kept going to the meeting, the speaker did not show up. So they asked me to speak. And after they heard my story, (laughter) I was in like Flynn.

Q. What was it about your story that convinced them?

A. Well, blackouts in the latter stages, secret drinking and going to the bar and making a deal with the owner of the bar because my husband tied up all the money. I had a freezer full of wild ducks and I made a deal with the owner of the bar because he liked wild duck. So I

(Continued on page 14)

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 Alco-

holics 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 Central Office website—www.aasf.org.

MEET THE MEETING – ARTISTS AND WRITERS

by Bree L.

The beauty of the Artists and Writers meeting is its heart of the Haight location. Recovery is bursting from this meeting room's seams, where the speaker shares for about fifteen minutes followed by a discussion. Usually there are exemplary speakers surrounded by a core group with great recovery.

The meeting originally began in the late '80s at the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. A couple of years later they moved to their current home at All Saints Episcopal Church in a room across from their present meeting place. Hard as it is to believe, there were only seven to ten people attending when the meeting started. It was an intimate group of alcoholics who talked of recovery.

Peg, who has been coming to this meeting for almost seventeen years, says that she first came because one of the members had parties featuring the more talented members at his home. That, incidentally, was the beginning of the Artists and Writers' *Drunks on Display Talent Show*, which is now produced as a benefit for Central Office.

Peg calls the current meeting "grown up A.A." in that people tell the truth no matter what is happening in their lives. Honest shares abound and people do not tailor their talks to protect newcomers. Peg now fills in as secretary or greeter when asked. Barbara, another core member, has been attending this particular meeting for twenty years. She sees this meeting as truly representative of San Francisco with much diversity.

There are also a few longstanding couples who attend this meeting, such as Bob and Mary, who met for coffee at fellowship afterwards and have been married fifteen years.

One doesn't necessarily have to be an artist and/or writer to attend, although interspersed with those attending are some very talented people such as James who is an accomplished musician. He'll be playing his guitar for the *Drunks on Display* show this year. James has been a regular for almost sixteen years and now works in the recovery field.

Those who attend are representative of the ongoing changes in the neighborhood. In the beginning there were mostly hippies. They were followed by the biker crowd, including the Hell's Angels, in the '70s and '80s. Now there are more professionals and the median age has gotten younger which reflects the fact

that members are getting sober earlier in life. There is still a wide divergence of alcoholics, but that's what makes this meeting so attractive.

This is a very popular meeting, especially during the summer months. Parking is competitive. The word is that there is easier parking closer to Oak Street. It might make more sense to take public transportation. There are a number of buses that traverse Haight St. and environs. An early arrival is suggested if you want to have a seat. Attendance swells as visitors come to San Francisco. The days of intimate gatherings are now part of the Artists and Writers' history but the recovery continues as strong ever.

Meets Friday Night 6:30 at 1350 Waller at Masonic in the All Saints Episcopal Church.



Recent Deaths

John T.

We print the names of any members who have recently died when the names have been sent to us. Unlike the **Ongoing Memorials** section, which appears on Page 4, **Recent Deaths** is for information only. This one-time listing is not dependent upon a contribution in the name of the deceased.



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.
Ann & Denise	John T.
Barbara M.	Judi C.
Brent H.	Karen K.
Brian H.	Lisa M.
Brian N.	Liz & Aiden D.
Bruce D.	Loran W.
Callista S.	Marty C.
Caroline A.	Mary F.
Casey L.	Matt S.
Catherine S.	Matt S.
Celia H.	Michael W.
David H.	Nancie G.
David J.	Pat P.
David P.	Paul W.
Dennis & Lucy O.	Peg L.
Donald Ray N.	Pene P.
Doug C.	Sheila H.
Elizabeth S.	Steve A.
Esther R.	Steve B.
Frances L.	Steve F.
Giles H.	Stu S.
Greg S.	Sylvia D.
Greg W.	Tim M.
Herman B.	Tom M.
Janet B.	

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!



THE HISTORY OF GAY PEOPLE IN A.A.: A REVIEW

by Anonymous

I was not a gay member of A.A. during the 1940s or 1960s, but Audrey Borden made me feel as though I had been. I couldn't put Borden's *The History of Gay People in AA: From the Beginning* down. My reading journey was educational, moving, and entertaining. Borden provides a concise yet comprehensive history.

Two statements in the preface speak volumes for the necessity of this book: "1.) Books about alcoholism rarely mention gay people. 2.) Books about gay people rarely mention alcoholism."

The first paragraph of Chapter One intrigued me: "Not so very long ago, it was against the law for homosexuals to gather in public. Books and plays portraying homosexuality... were ruled obscene and banned. But if you were gay, there was a place you could go...a bar. Most gay bars were windowless dives, where patrons endured inflated prices, police harassment, arrest, and assault by thugs..."

Then, *The History of Gay People in AA...* immersed me into early gay A.A. members' encounters. In a sense, it was ego-puncturing. Having gotten sober in the Castro in San Francisco, I've long considered myself somewhat of an expert regarding homosexual issues in A.A. How blind I have been! I had barely an iota of appreciation for the prejudice that confronted gay A.A. members in earlier years, let alone of blatant discrimination gay A.A.'ers still face today in many places. In

both gay and non-gay A.A., virtually all my A.A. experiences have been in a highly accepting "A.A. bubble". Sure, in concept, I'll retort, "A.A. is all love and tolerance, with no bigotry". But Borden's interviewees informed me that if I were "out" as a homosexual in A.A. in certain locales, I might amend that statement. In my virtual A.A. bubble, mostly in urban and gay-friendly areas, I never worry about someone beating me up in an A.A. parking lot because I am gay. Nor am I routinely exposed to homophobic, hateful remarks in A.A.

I also held misconceptions about gay alcoholics who banded together aside from the A.A. fellowship. Because of interviews in *The History of Gay People in AA...*, I now gratefully respect the motives of the gay alcoholics who founded such endeavors and, subsequently, official gay A.A. meetings. Today, I simply assume that I can find gay meetings in directories and schedules. A few decades ago, homosexuals with drinking problems might need to stumble upon an ad in a gay-friendly magazine to discover a safe place to go.

The History of Gay People in AA... provides an unparalleled history focused on gays and lesbians in A.A. Incidentally, I am an avid fan of A.A. literature, which I routinely peruse for gay topics. While I find various gay stories in A.A. pamphlets, *Grapevine* articles, the *Big Book*, etc., I conclude that *The History of Gay People in AA...* contributes uniquely to A.A. history; compiled

(Continued on page 18)

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

JANUARY

2008

Name	Jan 2008	Name	Jan 2008	Name	Jan 2008
Fellowship		6am Marina Dock Tu	25.00	Luke's Group W 8pm	60.00
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	28.00	6am Marina Dock W	24.46	Meeting Place Noon F 12pm	153.36
Contribution Box	118.59	7am As Bill Sees It Fri	54.84	Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	189.33
IFB	87.34	7am Grab Bag M 7am	34.66	Mission Terrace W 8pm	149.23
Spirit of San Francisco	168.00	7am Step Discussion Tu 7am	29.31	Monday Monday M 1215pm	88.80
Total Fellowship	401.93	Acceptance Group M 530pm	28.00	New Friday Big Book F 12pm	30.62
		Any Lengths Sat 930am	188.40	Newcomers Tu 8pm	258.07
Marin Group Contribution		As Bill Sees It Sat 8pm	210.82	No Whiners F 7pm	20.00
Blackie's Pasture Sa 830pm	165.57	As Bill Sees It Th 6pm	406.56	Noon Smokeless F 12pm	32.00
Closed Women Step Study Tu 330pm	106.80	As We Understood Him Mon. 7pm	12.68	One, Two, Three, Go! W 1pm	10.31
Crossroads Sun 12pm	316.00	Bernal New Day 7D	267.00	Pax West Th 12pm	501.33
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	126.50	Big Book Basics F 8pm	104.25	Progress Not Perfection Tu 830pm	103.14
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	47.97	Bookenders Mon 10am	126.00	Rebound W 830pm	144.00
Friday Night Book F 830pm	130.00	Castro Discussion (Show Of Shows) W 8pm	145.98	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	360.00
Hillside Candlelight F 830pm	57.00	Castro Monday Big Book M 830pm	60.00	Serenity House Sat 830pm	300.00
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am	97.70	Creative Alcoholics M 6pm	152.20	Sinbar Su 830pm	282.26
Island Group Th 8pm	159.50	Each Day a New Beginning F 7am	1,133.82	Sober & Centered F 7pm	139.70
Living in the Solution F 6pm	323.61	Each Day a New Beginning M 7am	130.05	Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	15.00
Marin City Groups 5D 630pm	350.00	Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am	540.07	Sobriety & Beyond W 7pm	201.91
Men Only Stag Sa 6pm	20.00	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	117.91	Step Sisters (S.F.) Th 630pm	19.80
Newcomers Step M 730pm	482.00	Embarcadero Group 5D 1210pm	81.50	Straight Jackets Th 9am	19.89
On Awakening 7D 530am	490.00	Excelsior Free for All Sa 8pm	50.00	Sunday Night 3rd Step Group 5pm	210.00
Primary Purpose W 830pm	33.00	Friday Smokeless F 830pm	35.75	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 8pm	309.06
Steps To The Solution W 715pm	65.00	Friendly Circle Beginners Su 715pm	176.44	Sunday Rap Sun 8pm	120.00
Sunday Express Sun 6pm	100.00	Gold Mine Group M 8pm	37.59	Sundown Steps Th 630pm	73.51
Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm	578.00	Golden Gate Seniors Tu 130pm	48.00	Sunset 11'ers M	80.00
The Barnyard Group Sa 4pm	93.82	Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm	50.65	Sunset 11'ers Th	40.00
The Fearless Searchers F 8pm	38.00	Happy Destiny Sa 630pm	26.01	Sunset 9'ers M	85.25
Tiburon Big Book Group W 730pm	112.50	High Noon 5D 1215pm	3.00	The Drive Thru W 1215pm	270.00
Tiburon Haven Sun 12pm	200.00	High Noon Monday 1215pm	177.40	Too Early Sat 8am	309.92
We, Us and Ours M 650pm	50.00	High Noon Saturday 1215pm	83.62	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	115.20
What's It All About F 12pm	150.00	High Noon Thursday 1215pm	350.00	Tuesday Women's Tu 630pm	121.80
Working Dogs W 1205pm	225.00	High Noon Tuesday 1215pm	99.00	Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm	72.00
Total Group Contribution	4,517.97	High Noon Wednesday 1215pm	47.09	West Portal W 830pm	44.40
Total Marin	4,517.97	High Steppers W 7pm	15.00	Wharfrats Th 815pm	71.42
		Home Group Sat 830pm	316.00	Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm	84.60
SF Group Contribution		Huntington Square W 630pm	300.00	YAHOO Step Sa 11am	99.62
6am Marina Dock M	11.00	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm	507.17	Total Group Contribution	11,618.62
6am Marina Dock Sa	169.00	Living Sober W 8pm	56.86	Total SF	11,618.62
				TOTAL	16,538.52

GRATITUDE CONTRIBUTIONS

NOVEMBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008

Name	Amount	Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Marin Gratitude Month		Cocoanuts Su 9am	82.60	Reality Farm Th 830pm	60.00
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	418.00	Code Blue Wed. 7PM	62.00	Saturday Afternoon Meditation Sat 5pm	33.00
Candlelight Sun 830pm	36.38	Come N Get It F 630pm	134.87	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	110.50
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	194.76	Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am	76.50	Second Chance Th 215pm	26.84
Fairfax Friday Night F 830pm	53.85	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am	186.99	Sinbar Su 830pm	62.00
Friday Night Book F 830pm	148.35	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	120.11	Sober 5150's W 8pm	20.00
Gratitude Tu 8pm	60.75	Early Start F 6pm	297.50	Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	17.10
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am	113.00	Embarcadero Group 5D 1210pm	202.25	Sobriety & Beyond W 7pm	41.00
Island Group Th 8pm	38.00	Eureka Step Tu 6pm	148.65	Sp. Founded Prog. Of Action (SFPOA)Th	74.77
Larkspur Beginners W 7pm	117.45	Excelsior Free for All Sa 8pm	24.00	Staying Sober Th 615pm	40.00
Mill Valley Gay/Lesbian W 8pm	54.00	Faith, Hope & Charity F 12pm	14.26	Step Talk Su 830am	177.76
On Awakening 7D 530am	376.00	Federal Speaker Su 12pm	67.00	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm	64.50
Primary Purpose W 830pm	48.00	Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am	82.00	Stonestown M 8pm	142.50
Rise N Shine Sun 10am	67.13	Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am	72.00	Sunday Bookworms Sun 730pm	108.00
Saturday Serenity Sa 8pm	133.00	Friday All Groups F 830pm	59.19	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc Su 8pm	290.00
Terra Linda Group Th 830pm	141.00	Friday at Five F 5pm	26.50	Sunday Step Study	33.22
Three Step Group Sa 530pm	51.00	Friday Night Special F 830pm	15.00	Sundown W 7pm	93.00
Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu	232.44	Friday Night Women's Meeting F 630pm	5.50	Sunset 11'ers M	38.50
We, Us and Ours M 650pm	45.00	Friday Reflections	20.00	Sunset 11'ers M	37.00
Total Marin Gratitude Month	2,328.11	Friday Smokeless F 830pm	65.00	Sunset 11'ers Th	38.00
		Gold Mine Group M 8pm	60.00	Sunset 11'ers W	45.20
SF Gratitude Month		Goodlands Su 2pm	89.26	Sunset 9'ers F	76.00
10am Step Study M 10am	29.00	Haight Street Blues Tu 615pm	38.00	Sunset 9'ers M	73.73
10am Step Study M 10am	33.00	Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm	12.21	Sunset 9'ers Su	126.03
6am Marina Dock	692.91	Happy Hour F 630pm	52.00	Sunset 9'ers Th	87.60
6am Marina Dock Th	55.80	Happy Hour F 630pm	73.50	Sunset 9'ers Tu	48.27
7am As Bill Sees It Fri	88.60	Happy Hour (S.F.) Th 6pm	95.00	Sunset 9'ers W	61.00
7am Grab Bag M 7am	10.50	High Noon Friday 1215pm	165.87	Sunset Speaker Step Sun 730pm	77.93
7am Grab Bag M 7am	20.65	High Noon Monday 1215pm	120.23	Surf Tu 8pm	51.22
7am Living Sober W 7am	61.55	High Noon Saturday 1215pm	71.12	Sutter Street Beginners Sat 6pm	36.13
7AM Speaker Discussion/Marina Dock	31.00	High Noon Thursday 1215pm	185.32	The Drive Thru W 1215pm	99.18
7am Step Discussion Tu 7am	21.25	High Noon Tuesday 1215pm	151.08	The Parent Trap 2 Wed. 430pm	39.50
AA As You Like It Tu 530pm	35.35	High Noon Wednesday 1215pm	100.22	Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm	123.36
Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm	46.55	High Sobriety M 8pm	68.00	Too Early Sat 8am	336.65
After Work M 6PM	4.00	Hilldwellers M 8pm	54.00	Tuesday's Daily Reflections Tu 7am	36.00
Agnostics & Freethinkers Su 6pm	25.00	Home Group Sat 830pm	160.00	Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm	30.00
All Together Now Th 8pm	60.32	Huntington Square W 630pm	123.00	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	27.00
Alumni W 830pm	26.00	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm	60.85	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	43.20
Any Lengths Sat 930am	81.00	Keep It Simple Sat 830pm	100.45	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	32.00
Artists & Writers F 630pm	140.50	Lincoln Park Sat 830pm	68.00	Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	195.15
As Bill Sees It Th 830pm	37.48	Living Sober with HIV W 6pm	120.20	Walk of Shame W 8pm	33.92
As We Understood Him Mon. 7pm	16.68	Marina Discussion F 830pm	70.00	Washington Square M 7pm	105.00
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm	50.98	Meeting Place Noon F 12pm	49.00	Waterfront Sun 8pm	213.50
Beginner's Warmup W 6pm	36.07	Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	102.75	We Care Tu 12pm	56.75
Bernal Big Book Sat 5pm	47.00	Miracles Off 24th St W 730pm	48.00	West Portal W 830pm	53.45
Bernal New Day 7D	400.00	Monday Monday M 1215pm	34.85	Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm	25.00
Big Book Basics F 8pm	69.79	Moving Toward Serenity W 830pm	59.00	Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm	81.00
BYOL W 1pm	41.00	Newcomers Tu 8pm	87.17	Women's Kitchen Table Group Tu 630pm	51.26
Came to Believe 830am M 830am	18.00	No Gurus Meditation Su 7pm	21.00	Women's Promises F 7pm	79.68
Came to Believe 830am M 830am	26.00	No Reservation M 12pm	102.77	Work In Progress Sat 7pm	52.00
Castro Monday Big Book M 830pm	28.00	Park Presidio M 830pm	47.00	Total SF Gratitude Month	10,490.15
				TOTAL Gratitude Month	12,818.26

CREATIVITY IN SOBRIETY

by Doug R.

Well, what can I say about creativity in sobriety? The subject is as esoteric as art itself. So, first I suppose, I will describe my creativity as something that I get to re-open, re-explore and re-invent over and over again in sobriety, much like the reworking of a slab of clay. Just as we all are spiritual beings, and sobriety in A.A. a spiritual program, creativity is an act of the spirit. It is the spirit singing. It is the spirit dancing. It is the spirit building, painting, and decorating the world around it. It is, I believe, The Spirit describing the human experience. Sometimes it is done with joyful, bright expression and sometimes it is done with dark angst and desperation. But it IS done. It is beautiful and it is ugly. It is the light and the dark of human-ness. And it is necessary, I believe, that these things are created in the world. The arts allow others a glimpse into the many states of the spirit. Why else do museums hold great collections for us all to enjoy and for the future to observe and ponder? Why are some spirits moved to perform for us on

the city streets wearing nothing but dirty old rags?

Personally, I had to become reacquainted with my creativity after getting a foothold on my sobriety. For like many, I had mistakenly associated creativity with my drinking and drug use and used chemicals as an expression of the spirit instead of allowing the spirit its own stage. Upon finding "liberation" in alcohol, I ended up shut down and uninspired to do or be anything other than loaded. Creativity suffered there and all but died.

Then comes the blessing of sobriety and with it comes life. Without the familiar alcohol I felt naked, vulnerable and afraid. Living in that fear, I was not creating at all. I had to get out of that fear and back into feeling the love of the Spirit in order to re-explore, re-invent and most of all to enjoy my creativity. I like to allow whatever is happening at that moment to occur. That is truly being in the moment. When paint splatters or strings ring out, keeping perfect time is being completely in the now.

Later, if I choose to, I can reflect on it. I don't always like it. I'll tear up drawings if I don't like them. I make mistakes. Some things sound awful. So what? I am not pressured to be good at it. I do challenge myself, but I am not hung up on the outcome of it.

As with most aspects of my life in sobriety, I don't really sweat stuff anymore. I don't feel the need to be important or even liked. I can now just enjoy the creative process for being an expression of spirit. I do not care about your opinions on it. This is just a moment in time where I am creating my own happiness. It is with contentment that I can do these things today. These are happy moments for me. (Maybe not so for my neighbors who have to listen to it.) But I am enjoying these tiny times in life today. Creativity has bloomed in sobriety as sobriety has healed and nurtured me back to health mentally, physically and spiritually. Writing, drawing, singing, playing music, or dancing around the room are all extensions of those things. Find something you love and enjoy it but by all means, *easy does it.*



THE BIG BOOK "COMES ALIVE" SEMINAR

9- WEEK STUDY OF THE BIG BOOK OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

You will need to bring high-liters, Big Book, 12x12, and your alcoholic selves to:

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MONDAYS 7-9 P.M.

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Meets every Thursday from 7 p.m.- 8 p.m. @ 510 7th street in San Francisco

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37th Annual Hospital & Institution Conference

Carrying the Message

April 25-27, 2008

**Sheraton Gateway Hotel
600 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA**

***This conference is not funded in any way through
Pink Can contributions.***

**8pm Friday Speaker: Dan Dan L., San Jose, CA
7:30pm Saturday Speaker: Wallace B., Sanford, North Carolina
11am Sunday Speaker: Anita L.T., El Sobrante, CA**

1:30pm Saturday: A.A. and H&I History

10pm Saturday: Dance following the Raffle Drawing!

\$10 Registration/ More info at www.norcalhandi.org

Trusted Servant Registration Drive!

Don't forget that Trusted Servants, Group Secretaries & Treasurers may register with Central Office directly online at www.aasf.org.

Since January 2008 when this feature was implemented over 100 Trusted Servants have registered with Central Office through our website!

**We appreciate this
support very much!**

(Conversations: continued from page 8)

would take a wild duck down there, whatever he wanted, a widgeon, a teal, then he would let me drink as long as I wanted to. Payola! So even without any money, I always found a way to get drinks. So I would just plan the drunk when Harry went to work teaching school. I would drink and then sober up by three o'clock when he'd get home. So it was really restrictive drinking. Nobody knew I drank. I didn't drink when I went to occasions; I was very secretive.

In August, 1954 I accidentally shot Harry. I was in a blackout and I loaded the pistol and my intentions were to commit suicide. I don't know how I got the bullets or I got them in the gun. Never loaded a pistol... knew nothing about it. So I had the gun cocked and he came home unexpectedly or I lost track of the

time and we wrestled with the gun because he didn't want me to blow my brains out. The gun accidentally went off and went through his hand and landed in his thigh. Fortunately, it didn't do any serious damage but the police had to be called and the ambulance. So I went to jail and Harry went to surgery.

Q. How long were you in jail?

A. Just overnight. But I was a big shot in the jail because I committed the biggest sin. All these girls in the drunk tank made a big thing about it. They had to put me in another room. It was creating too much chaos in the jail. I was up for a felony. Two weeks later, my case was before the judge, and she asked Harry if he wanted to press charges and he said no.

Q. So was the obsession lifted when you decided to quit?

A. Yes. I never thought about taking a drink ever again. Because I knew I was in the right place. I really loved the people and the program. My late husband mentioned one night, "Why do you have to go to all these meetings, now that you're sober? I really don't like you going to all these meetings." And my statement was, "Do you want me drunk or do you want me sober?" So he never said anything again. I went to meetings religiously for years. Laid a good strong, solid foundation in A.A. That's important so that when the trials and tribulations come in life you're not going to go and take a drink. Losing my husband was the toughest one (tears) but I didn't take a drink.

TP

(Drunks on Display: continued from page 7)
inevitable live-show snafus like a seasoned pro, with grace and aplomb.

Songwriter Erstine led off the show in fine form with a classy tune from his CD of last year. His performance was confident and polished, featuring his superb singing voice and great guitar work.

Next up was Lisa, on guitar and accompanied by Chris, also on guitar. Her bouncy and fun original tune got frequent chuckles. Lisa's sweet, airy voice, accented by the twin guitars with Chris' swinging leads, really brightened up the room.

In the A.A. spirit of honesty, poet Mark began with funny and heartfelt anecdotes of life as a writer and drunk. His poem was moving and beautifully written, and was met with cheers of appreciation.

Longtime Artists & Writers regular James on guitar, with lead guitarist Jason, followed with two of James' funky and fabulous original songs. James' big, bluesy voice was surprisingly supple, and on guitar, Jason just flat-out wailed.

Michael and Steve took us uptown for a trip to the theater with a hilarious one-act play. As doctor and hypochondriac patient, the lively and perfectly played scene revealed alcoholic character flaws galore, and drew roaring laughs from start to finish.

On solo saxophone, Brian cut loose on "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in a beautiful, elegantly crafted rendition. Brian's virtuoso playing brought to mind a misty film noir late-night waterfront scene. Fabulous.

*"The entire evening,
as well as the months
of planning, was a
thorough expression
of loving service. "*

Comedian Marcus turned in an amazing set, effortlessly spontaneous and full of polished and hilarious bits of wisdom. His keen eye for the mind of the alcoholic was right on the money.

Photographer Irene was the only visual artist of the evening, and her thoughts on the creative process enhanced her captivating photographs. Her vision was a real feast for the eyes.

Singer and guitarist Leslie wowed the room with a soulful and stirring take on the Gershwin classic, "Summertime." Leslie's rich, expressive voice and hypnotic guitar groove built a beautiful and mesmerizing interpretation.

The second comedian was Mike M., an outstanding professional comic and actor who truly rocked the room. Mike's charismatic energy, outrageous writing talent and raucous performance kept the crowd in stitches.

This writer was part of the final act described by another reviewer as "a catchy original R&B tune using Big Book-inspired lyrics, with Jason's dazzling fretwork on lead guitar, Greg holding court on rhythm & lead guitar, and songwriter Pete soaring on mind-blowing vocals and blues harp riffs."

The strategy of having an irresistible bright-eyed kid selling raffle tickets worked like a charm, with the charismatic Nicolas (son of raffle coordinator Bryan) selling tickets by the hundreds earlier in the evening. All over the room, people had streamers of tickets flowing out of their fists. At intermission, Brian, Nicolas, and Driver Doug awarded the donated prizes that included gift certificates galore for a wide range of services, and items like CD's, cookware, and T-shirts.

The entire evening, as well as the months of planning, was a thorough expression of loving service. Grateful thanks to those who made the evening such a resounding success: you know who you are.

It was a phenomenal group effort, an inexpressible collaboration of individuals working together for unity and celebration. When we give of ourselves, we align with the spirit of creation, and that vibrant, bursting energy overflowed the hall that night.

The Artists & Writers group meets every Friday night at 6:30 PM at 1350 Waller St.



WRITE TO THE POINT!

The Point Committee values
your input. You may
write to us at:
Central Office
1821 Sacramento
Street, San Francisco, CA
94109

or e-mail us at:
thepoint@aasf.org.

IFB MEETING SUMMARY — MARCH '08

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.

Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group	
Alejandro D.	Living Sober With HIV	P	Jackie B.	Sisters Circle	P	Patty M.	Huntington Square	A
Allyn J.	Fireside Chat	P	Jaime G.	Sesame Step	A	Pete R.	Artist and Writers	P
Andy D.	Gratitude Group	P	John G.	Each Day A New Beginning	A**	Peter G.	Sunday Night Castro	P
Andy T.	Waterfront	P	Judy S.	Diamond Heights Group	A**	Peter M.	Special Worker	P
Anil K.	Tiburon Monday Men's Stag	P	Julio B.	Blue Book Special	P	Rebecca D.	Valencia Smokefree	P
Armando R.	Home Group	A**	Karen A.	West Portal	P	Rich D.	Eureka Step	A***
Barbara H.	All Together Now	P	Karin K.	24 Hour Plan	P	Richard C.	Surf Group	A***
Brad P.	Code Blue	P	Kate E.	7AM Attitude Adjustment	P	Richard R.	We Care	P
Brent H.	Bookenders	A	Ken J.	High Sobriety	P	Rick K.	Join the Tribe	P
Bruce K.	Sunset Speaker Step	P	Ken M.	Sober Across the Board	A	Ron M.	Live & Let Live	A**
Carol E.	Happy Hour	A**	Larry B.	Castro Discussion	P	Sam S.	Early Start	P
Christopher R.	7AM Mill Valley Log Cabin	A	Lydia B.	Walk Of Shame	P	Scott N.	Sunset 11'ers Sat	P
Chuck K.	IFB Chair	A	Matthew D.	Too Early	P	Shawn M.	Regroup	A**
Dana R.	Saturday Sunset 9'ers	P	Matt T.	Sunday Night Friendship	A	Steve N.	Terra Linda Group	P
David A.	Goldmine Group	P	Maury P.	Central Office Manager	P	Stu S.	Tuesday Newcomers	P
David D.	Keep It Simple	P	Michael B.	One Liners	P	Tedra M.	Come N Get It	P
Derek D.	Reality Farm	P	Michael L.	Attitude Adjustment (Alt)	A	Thomas H.	Any Lengths	A**
Edward H.	High Noon (Tuesday)	P	Michael M.	As Bill Sees It (Emb)	P	Tom K.	High Noon (Monday)	P
Elizabeth B.	Sober 5150's	P	Michael P.	Sunset 9'ers Su 8am	P	Tracy F.	Keep Coming Back	P
Erica R.	Miracles On 24th St	A	Nathan M.	Saturday Easy Does It	A**	Tracy G.	Wit's End	P
Faye K.	Queers, Crackpots & Fallen							
Faye K.	Women	P	Nicholas L.	Some Are Sicker Than...	P	Victor V.	Creative Alcoholics	A**
Gilbert G.	Ten Years After	P	Olive G.	Steppin Up	P	Virginia M.	Women Who Drank	P
Greg W.	High Noon (Thursday)	P	Patrick M.	Treasurer	P			

P = Present; A = Absent; R = Resigned; X = Alternate. The * above indicates an absence; more than one indicates the number of consecutive absences. A Board member who has three consecutive absences from IFB meetings is no longer a member of the Board, as stated in the Bylaws.

New IFB Reps

Present	Group
Derek A.	Wharf Rats
Patricia W.	Any Lengths - Alt
Del C.	Men's Testosterone - Corte Madera
Joan T.	They Stopped In Time
Jeff G.	High Noon (Saturday)
Rich H.	Mid- Morning Support
Meghan K.	Serenity Seekers

Anniversaries

Rich H.	32 years	Derek D.	9 years
Maury P.	19 years	Steve N.	6 years
Tracy G.	12 years	Jeff G.	2 years

Visitors

Lazlo H.

Liaisons Present

Karen S.	District 06
Ray M.	District 05
Casey L.	Marin Teleservice

Following in an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business and service opportunities discussed at the March 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.

IFB Reports

Chair's Report: Steve N. gave Chuck K's report.. He reminded the Reps to avail themselves of the pamphlet on the group process. Chuck also thanked the Reps for their emails and phone calls regarding various issues.

Treasurer's Report: Patrick M. Gave the report. For the month of January and

YTD. The favorable result in January was due to higher contributions. Total expenses for the month of January were \$403 higher than budget. The higher expenses were due primarily to higher Employee Expenses for temporary workers filling in for the Central Office Mgr. while she is on maternity leave. There were various expense categories that were

(Continued on page 17)

(Minutes: continued from page 16)

under budget in January and helped offset the Payroll and Repairs & Maintenance costs. OVERALL RATING: GOOD.

There was a formula error in the 2006 budget that the IFB approved in their December meeting. Total Professional Fees were understated by \$3,000. The budget contingency was reduced to offset the error. The budgeted Net Income remains the same (\$0).

Central Office Manager's Report: Peter M. gave the report in Maury's absence. February 2008 Meeting Schedules are available at CO. Schedules are not produced on a regular time schedule, but production is based on how quickly the current inventory is depleted. The March 2008 issue of The Point was mailed out without problems. There has been consistent interest in the Sunshine Club. Reps were asked to remind their groups that this service is available and also needs volunteers. The Website Committee has redesigned the Events page to include a new Calendar section and is working with the Service Committees to provide a page for each committee that describes the committee's function and schedule. They have also been working with the PI/CPC Committee to input PI Volunteer information into the CO Database to facilitate communication between the committee and its volunteers. We have had over 65 Trusted Servants register online! Please continue to remind your groups of this new feature, and to register with CO.

Central Office Committee Report: The COC report was given by Steve N. The highlights from the February 2008 monthly meeting included reviewing the CO Mgr's and Treasurer's reports, reviewed the progress of the COC's action items, discussed the agenda topics for GSR and their relation to our CO, and discussed the first Fellowship Committee for Founders' Day.

Committee Reports: Anyone wanting more information on service opportunities may contact Central Office.

12th Step Committee: NR.

Access Committee: Virginia M. reported that the presentation by a Public Accommodation Compliance Officer with the SF Human Rights Commission has been postponed, but will be rescheduled for the near future. The committee will be

having a two-hour planning retreat with an ALOHA theme on Monday, April 7, 2008 from 5:30-7:30 at Central Office. All are welcome to attend.

Archives Committee: Bruce K. gave the report. The committee's focus is on the preservation of AA history and historical items in the Bay Area.

Orientation Committee: Steve N. gave the report for Patty M. The committee's focus is on introducing new IFB Reps to the actions and responsibilities of the IFB.

Trusted Servants Workshop Committee: Steve N. gave the report for Patty M. The committee put together a sample Secretary's handout – based on the selection of pamphlets and excerpts from the "Guide to Group Service". It is being given out at the Trusted Servants Workshops. Patty's term as chair of this committee will end in June. Anyone interested in the position should contact her or the COC.

Website Committee: Michael P. gave the report. The committee continues to work on the content of the current website, adding updates.

Outreach Committee: NR

Fellowship Committee: Jackie gave the report. The new committee has been formed and has met to organize and assist with the plans and production of Founders' Day, Unity Day and the IFB Volunteers' Holiday Party.

Special Committee Reports:

Teleservice: Dana R. gave the report. The monthly business meeting and regular volunteer orientation were held on February 18th.

PI/CPC: Bruce K. reported that one DUI class and two school classes were held. The next speaker workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th, 10:00am at Central Office.

IFB Liason Reports:

General Service, SF: Karen S. reported that the 58th General Service Conference will be April 27th – May 3rd.

General Service, Marin: NR

Teleservice, Marin: Casey L. introduced himself as the new liason.

PI/CPC, Marin: NR

Bridging the Gap: NR

H&I: Del C. introduced himself as the new Marin liason.

Spirit of San Francisco: NR. It was announced that the committee is sponsoring a bingo night in April.

Living Sober: Alejandro D. reported on upcoming fund-raising events, including the upcoming Spring Fling and Alcoholic Idol.

Presentation from Access Committee: Postponed.

Group Rep Reports: Pete R. from Artists & Writers reported that they recently hosted a talent show which will donate its proceeds to Central Office. Karen A. from West Portal Group reported that her group requested that she ask the IFB Reps to return to their groups and discuss the issue of anonymity.

The 7th Tradition was observed. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken J, Secretary

TP

The next IFB meeting is on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2008 at 1187 Franklin Street in San Francisco at 7:00 p.m. Orientation starts at 6:00 p.m. and is required for all new members.

If your group does not have an elected Intergroup Representative, also known as an IFB Rep., please join us to see if it is a service position for you.

The IFB is the policy-making group for your Central Office and a good resource for questions or problems related to groups in San Francisco and Marin. It serves as the Board of Directors for the Central Office, a legal requirement for any California non-profit corporation.



(Book Review: continued from page 10)

like nothing else. Also, it depicts A.A. at it finest and its worst; which is how history *ought* to be relayed.

In some ways, *The History of Gay People in AA* was written just in the nick of time. Many whom Borden interviewed are in their 80's. In other ways, it is too late. Nobody can interview Barry L. who passed away soon after giving the 1985 talk quoted in this book, which includes the gay origins of Tradition Three.

Like sexism and racism, A.A. has no opinion on outside issues regarding heterosexism. However, A.A. does not exist in a social vacuum. A.A. is a microcosm of society, mirroring our culture's sundry virtues and vices. Women needed their own meetings, partially because men dominated them. A.A. groups excluded racial minorities, despite Bill W's attempts to include them (*Pass It On*, AAWS 1984). *The History of Gay People in AA...* explains how Bill W. told Barry L. that gay A.A. meetings "might be the best thing that ever came down the pike in A.A." Later, in 1947, when

three gay men in Boston barely commenced to describe their "special problem" to Bill, Bill knew what the problem was "like that." Like with other minorities subject to discrimination in A.A., Bill was clearly ahead of his time regarding homosexuals.

The History of Gay People in AA... taught me how far A.A. has progressed. It provided me a vision of twelve step programs around the world with absolute acceptance. It allowed me compassion for people I meet who might have a tougher A.A. life than I. In my mind, *The History*

of Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous: From the Beginning is already a classic.

Note: Neither San Francisco/Marin Central Office nor Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole has any opinion about the content of this book nor in any way endorses or has any financial interest in this book. The Point presents this review simply as a service to the many interested members of the fellowship. All expressed opinions are those of the author.



Cunning, Baffling, Puzzleful...and Foolish

This word search puzzle contains twelve words from the Fourth Step, Tradition and Concept. Words may appear forward, backward, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

G	G	N	R	E	A	S	O	N	A	B	L	E	C	V	O	T	I	A	G	I	G	B
N	N	N	U	F	E	A	R	L	E	A	W	H	O	L	E	T	E	O	N	N	R	E
I	I	N	I	I	V	L	F	E	G	A	E	L	F	E	L	L	O	O	I	O	E	G
H	T	A	V	T	E	O	B	E	S	N	O	E	O	E	O	L	O	H	H	G	S	N
C	O	R	E	O	C	L	T	A	A	P	I	L	L	H	A	G	C	T	C	N	P	I
R	V	O	C	S	T	E	B	I	N	R	O	T	W	B	V	R	P	N	R	I	O	M
A	I	L	O	H	W	I	F	I	N	O	L	N	C	S	A	O	L	E	A	T	N	P
E	V	O	T	I	N	G	N	F	S	G	S	E	S	E	S	E	N	T	E	E	O	S
S	W	H	O	L	E	P	L	G	A	N	T	A	S	I	F	A	O	I	S	V	I	U
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	E	S	B	F	R	S	G	S	B	N
N	M	O	R	U	L	A	R	O	M	T	N	P	U	R	S	L	A	C	A	G	L	I
O	G	N	I	T	O	V	A	S	E	V	L	E	S	R	U	O	E	M	H	E	E	U
I	A	U	T	O	N	O	M	O	U	S	A	F	F	E	C	T	I	N	G	I	R	L
T	E	M	E	T	T	E	R	S	W	H	O	L	E	W	R	R	G	A	N	E	N	L
A	L	G	N	I	T	C	E	F	F	A	E	R	R	H	O	S	U	F	T	S	A	G
P	B	I	P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	E	R	F	S	G	U	M
I	A	O	E	L	B	A	N	O	S	A	E	R	T	L	O	H	W	E	O	N	T	G
C	N	O	I	T	A	P	I	C	I	T	R	A	P	E	L	T	L	C	T	I	O	N
I	O	M	S	U	O	M	O	N	O	T	U	A	R	S	R	R	L	T	A	T	N	I
T	S	O	T	F	L	O	U	R	S	E	L	V	E	S	A	E	A	I	E	C	A	N
R	A	R	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E	E	M	R	L	N	T	E	M	M
A	E	A	O	T	A	E	L	O	H	W	A	F	F	E	C	T	G	G	T	F	O	E
P	R	L	M	A	P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	F	A	F	U	L
P	R	S	N	N	S	S	T	O	N	A	S	A	R	G	A	B	U	O	M	A	S	L

Western Roundup Living Sober

Grand Hyatt Hotel,
Union Square
July 4 - 6, 2008

Living Sober is an Annual
Conference hosted by Clean and
Sober A.A. Members of the Gay,
Lesbian, Bisexual, and
Transgendered Community with
Al-Anon Family Group
Participation.

Everyone is Welcome!

Go to www.livingsober.org
for more information!

Financial Statement

January 2008

	Jan 08	YTD
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Contributions from Groups		
Group Contributions	16,535.52	16,535.52
Honors	3.00	3.00
Total Contributions from Groups	16,538.52	16,538.52
Contributions from Individuals		
Individual - Unrestricted	1,160.00	1,160.00
Faithful Fiver	250.00	250.00
Honorary Contributions	3,838.00	3,838.00
Total Contributions from Individuals	5,248.00	5,248.00
Gratitude Month		
Gratitude Month - Groups	1,854.65	1,854.65
Total Gratitude Month	1,854.65	1,854.65
Sales - Bookstore	9,533.96	9,533.96
Newsletter Subscript.	55.30	55.30
Total Income	33,230.43	33,230.43
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Books Sold	5,344.40	5,344.40
Credit Card Processing Fees	223.12	223.12
Total COGS	5,567.52	5,567.52
Gross Profit	27,662.91	27,662.91
Expense		
Special Events Expense	13.00	13.00
Employee Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	10,184.59	10,184.59
Employer Tax Expenses	1,573.84	1,573.84
Health Benefits	1,211.22	1,211.22
Total Employee Expenses	12,969.65	12,969.65
Bank Charges	20.00	20.00
Postage		
Bulk Mail	250.00	250.00
Total Postage	250.00	250.00
Rent - Office	4,146.58	4,146.58
Rent - Other	150.00	150.00
Insurance	1,824.00	1,824.00
Internet Expense	54.99	54.99
Shipping	27.18	27.18
Repair & Maintenance	1,265.79	1,265.79
Security System	33.50	33.50
Telephone	293.42	293.42
Phone Book Listings	81.50	81.50
Bad Checks	63.86	63.86
Miscellaneous Expense	175.40	175.40
Total Expense	21,368.87	21,368.87

	Jan 08	YTD
Net Ordinary Income	6,294.04	6,294.04
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest Income	50.60	50.60
Total Other Income	50.60	50.60
Other Expense		
Depreciation Expense	75.67	75.67
Amortization Expense	45.91	45.91
Total Other Expense	121.58	121.58
Net Other Income	-70.98	-70.98
Net Income	\$6,223.06	\$6,223.06

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