

the Point

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

from Chapter Five of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous

2012
12
December

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

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of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

December 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at Intergroup meetings Intergroup committee meetings or service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including ASL interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative formats, should contact Central Office at (415) 674-1821 no less than five business days prior to the event.</p> <div>     </div>			
2	3	4	5 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intergroup Meeting 1187 Franklin St. Orientation 6pm Meeting 7pm
9	10 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Committee Central Office 7pm	11 <u>SECOND TUE</u> <i>The Point</i> Committee Central Office 5:30pm SF Bridging the Gap 1111 O'Farrell St 7:30pm Marin H&I 1360 Lincoln San Rafael 6:15pm SF General Service 1111 O'Farrell St 8pm	12 <u>SECOND WED</u> Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club 6:30pm
16 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Archives Committee Central Office 2pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day	17 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office 6:30pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd San Rafael 8pm	18	19
23 <div></div> 30	24 <div></div> 31	25 Holiday Central Office Closed	26

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1
6	7	8
13 <u>SECOND THU</u> Fellowship Committee Central Office 7pm	14	15 <u>THIRD SAT</u> SF H&I Mission Fellowship 2900 24th St, SF Orientation 11am Business Meeting 12pm
20 <u>THIRD THU</u> Trusted Servants Workshop Committee Central Office 6pm	21	22 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> CNCA Meeting 320 N McDowell Petaluma, CA 12:30pm
27	28	29 



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Never talk down to an alcoholic from
any moral or spiritual hilltop;
simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools
for his inspection.
Offer him friendship and fellowship.
Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 95



Meeting Changes

New Meetings:

Mon	12:00pm	Novato	PRIMARY PURPOSE, 5400 Nave Dr / Bolling Dr (Big Book Study)
Tue	6:00pm	SoMa	TRICKS TO RECOVERY, 1349 Mission St / 9th St (Closed, Discussion)
Thu	6:30pm	Cathedral Hill	THE BROAD HIGHWAY, 1337 Sutter St / Van Ness (Closed, Discussion, Women's, 2hrs)
Thu	8:15pm	San Rafael	DIGNITARIES SYMPATHY, 1337 4th St / D St (Closed, Discussion w/ feedback, Men's)

Meeting Changes:

Sun	12:00pm	Mill Valley	TIBURON HAVEN Suspended until further notice, contact mauidriver@gmail.com for info.
Mon	8:00pm	Tiburon	MONDAY NIGHT STAG TIBURON, 240 Tiburon Blvd (Was called Marin Stag)
Thu	7:30pm	San Rafael	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY, 333 Ellen Dr (Was at 789 Hamilton Pkwy)

Holiday Changes:

Tue	7pm & 8pm	Cathedral Hill	TUESDAY DOWNTOWN, 1187 Franklin St / Geary (Temp move from 11/18 to 12/16)
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PLEASE NOTE: We occasionally receive reports that meetings listed in our schedule are missing or no longer active. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes not. **If you know *anything* about a meeting that has relocated or disbanded — even if only temporarily — please call Central Office immediately: (415) 674-1821.** This helps us direct newcomers, visitors and sober, local alcoholics alike to actual meetings and not to rooms that housed a meeting once upon a time. ***Thank you for contributing to the accuracy of our schedule!***

2012-2013 Mission Fellowship

Holiday Alcothons

at 2900 24th St.
San Francisco

Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25
Monday, December 31
Tuesday, January 1

Meetings @

10am-11:30am

12pm-1:30pm

2pm-3:30pm

4pm-5:30 pm *

6pm- 7:30 pm

8pm-9:30pm

**

*Christmas Day: 4pm
Potluck

**New Years Eve
Extra Meetings @
10 pm & midnight

PLEASE—

Let us know if your meeting is going to be cancelled due to holidays! We will note it on the online schedule as well as on our homepage—www.aasf.org.

Holidays can be a particularly difficult time; the last thing we want to do is have someone show up at a meeting that has been cancelled.

Call 415.674-1821 Monday—Friday from 10am to 6pm or email aa@aasf.org 24/7.

Your assistance is appreciated!!

From the Editor

We Stood At The Turning Point

by MEM

Our 2012 series on "How It Works" leaves us standing at the turning point. An anonymous friend writes about his journey forward from that point by a leap of faith which meant an end to a half-measured approach to life and finding fulfillment by constantly asking for his higher power's protection and care. He finds, as we all do, the calm, safety and security of living life on this spiritual path.

We sought permission from *Grapevine* to reprint an article on Tradition Twelve which we hope you find thought-provoking. The discussions of anonymity at meetings in my experience have certainly paralleled that of this author. May it help dispel some of the confusion which abounds on this topic. It's delicious serendipity here that Melanie, writing about the Young @ Heart meeting in Hayes Valley, mentions the A.A. logo on the door which lets you know you have found the right place.

The Pre-A.A. History installment this month discusses the influence of the Oxford Group on our founders,

which is also elaborated upon in Bob S's article on Step Twelve ("Carry This Message"). Bob has become a frequent contributor. In this issue, he also shares about his first Christmas experience in A.A. and how to avoid that awful fear of relapse which can ensnare the minds of newcomers and old-timers alike during the holidays.

If you were enthralled by our "dog fight" exchanges of a few years back, you will be pleased to see the topic revived in this month's "Help@aasf" feature, always a source of sage advice and great insight. Jamie is another one of our favorite contributors, and he shares about the "Varieties of Twelfth Step Experience" in one article and relates some memorable lines heard at meetings over the years in another.

We hope the holiday season is good for each of you, as a time for sharing warmth, food and love with friends and family. Whether traditional events are on your agenda or not, remember to spend some time with your A.A. fellows at your regular meeting, an Alcolthon, or Young @ Heart. Much love and gratitude to all.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

(This is a summary; for the full editorial policy, please go to www.aasf.org.)



Thank You Faithful FIVERS! Thank You

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

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David S.	Mary D.	Name
Denise H.	Mary L.	Here!
Dennis & Lucy O.	Maryellen O.	
Dianne E.	Mia M.	Or
Eric P.	Michael G.	Here!
Erin S.	Michael P.	
Evan K.	Michael Z.	Or
Fay K.	Michelle C.	Here!
Frederick D.	Mike M.	
Gregory G.	Molly G.	
Herman B.	Nancy W.	

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

Year of the Twelve: Tradition Twelve

An Anonymous Society, Not A Secret One

by David S.

Have you had the experience of looking for an AA meeting away from home?

In a strange city, or another country, you have directions from the local intergroup or an AA contact, but you still feel anxious – perhaps you won't find the meeting site. But you arrive and, seeing the AA sign hanging outside the community center or on the church door, your tension falls away. Whether you're in the Deep South or in Paris, warmth spreads through you. You are home. You are safe. You are not alone.

An AA sign was hanging on the gate of the church where I attended my first AA meeting. I remember well the discomfort the sight of the sign prompted in me. People would know. They would see me walking through the gate and identify me as a drunk. The stigma of alcoholism, the shame, and the fear of being exposed as an alcoholic – so acute in many of us when we are new to recovery – offers a compelling reason for the importance our society attaches to anonymity and why it is, in fact, exactly one-half our name.

Alcoholics Anonymous. The first word defines what we are. The second offers a clear message: if you come to us with your drinking problem, your identity as a member of our society will not be revealed by us to the general public. Our name recognizes the possibility that the still sick and suffering alcoholic will not seek our help unless there is assurance that his or her anonymity will be protected. We can't exist without alcoholics, and we can't be here for alcoholics unless, as a

society, we embrace the principle of anonymity.

Of course, the blue and gray metal disc at that first meeting I attended did not say "Alcoholics Anonymous," it simply offered the initials "AA." Some non-AAs know what those initials stand for, and many don't. Others have too much else on their minds to give it much attention. In any case, the sign reminds us that individuals can remain anonymous – and must in certain specific circumstances – but groups cannot be anonymous. Those who wish to attend an AA meeting must be able to find us.

Last month, at a neighborhood group I attend regularly, I made a motion that we hang the AA sign outside the center where we meet. My reason was simple: we may know we are there, but others, specially out-of-town visitors or those coming to the group for the first time, may not, even with the street address in hand. The discussion of the motion was lively. One group member said she would not attend if we hung such a sign because it would jeopardize her anonymity. The vote was close, but the motion passed.

The following week, the sign was out on the door of the building. A warm feeling came over me as I sat through the meeting. It was as if a welcome light had been turned on and was shining in the dark for anyone who needed to find us. The group had made a clear and vitally important distinction between an anonymous society and a secret society, and had opted for the former. In doing so, we had taken one small step toward living more fully within the spirit of our Fifth Tradition: "Each group has



but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

As I took down the sign at the conclusion of the meeting, one group member confronted me. He was irate. He threatened to destroy the sign and beat me up if the sign was out there the following week. Although it was the group's conscience and not simply my personal whim, that did not mollify him. He wanted to be free to step outside and smoke without fearing his AA identity would be revealed. So far, the sign is still in one piece and so am I, although I have noticed that, in recent weeks, the sign is often turned backward by the end of the meeting.

The incident with the angry group member followed a dismal experience at my home group, where a discussion of the Twelfth Tradition seemed to focus on the variety of ways we can protect our personal anonymity. Very little was said about anonymity as the spiritual foundation of our society, or that the spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice – the sacrifice of our own individual drives for power and prestige for the good of the group, and the sacrifice of our time for the good of the group

(Continued on page 7)

My First Christmas Season

by Bob W.

The 1975 Christmas season was in the air and I was several months sober; my phone was ringing off the hook; a host of new A.A. friends were keeping my spirits alive and happy. I was going to meetings all around Los Angeles as often as possible. My spare time was spent hanging around the clubhouse at 26th and Broadway in Santa Monica. There I felt safe because the subject was generally focused on one subject: sobriety. Although my family was back in Indiana, I was seldom lonely and I seemed to be winning the battle against that first drink. The goose seemed to be hanging high! (A Bill W. saying.)

However, I hadn't experienced a sober holiday season for over 25 years and there existed that hidden

terror of the next drink. I seemed to be successful at pushing it away, like the boy in the Big Book who was whistling in the dark to keep up his spirits. The closer Christmas came, the harder I pushed away those terrifying thoughts. But, like a muscle, the harder I pushed, the stronger it got. The terror grew! Maybe I could get past Christmas, but what about New Year's Eve? I remembered the time I was so drunk in preparation that I passed out and missed the entire celebration. *Don't think about it! If I think it – I'll drink it!* The fear grew paramount.

I had a sponsor who told me to just work the Steps the way I felt best and the obsession would finally subside (not very good advice). I now realize that I was staying sober by surviving on the fellowship. I have

since learned a cliché: "Survival on the fellowship is untreated alcoholism." Although numerous meetings and the A.A. fellowship did, albeit barely, keep me dry throughout that terrifying season, the time soon came when I marched into a Hollywood bar, after a parade, and almost ordered a gin and tonic. Thank God I didn't! The next week, a new sponsor led me through the Twelve Step process and within a few months the obsession to drink was lifted and has never returned.

If I were asked to offer personal experience advice for someone's first sober Christmas holiday season, it would be to find a sponsor who can help them through the 12-Step process, pronto! The fellowship is good, but a vital spiritual experience is the ultimate solution.



(Continued from page 6)

and AA when called upon to do service. The direction of the discussion bothered me. In the words of a friend who happened to be present, group members seemed to be indulging in a kind of personal paranoia.

I remembered a visit to a doctor during my first year of sobriety. I was receiving physical therapy for a back injury. When I complained about the pain, the doctor said, "Don't be sicker than you are." His bracing words, in modified fashion, came back to me during the meeting: "Let's not be more important than we are." My membership in AA is probably more fascinating to me than it is to non-alcoholics.

The Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions

offer only two firm guidelines about personal anonymity. One, I must remain anonymous at the level of the media; two, I may disclose my membership in AA to family friends, etc., if I choose to, but I am not free to disclose your membership in AA. As Bill W. wrote in the January 1955 Grapevine article, "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous": "No AA need be anonymous to family, friends, or neighbors. Disclosure there is usually right and good.... But before the general public – press, radio, films, television, and the like – the revelation of full names and pictures is the point of peril.... Here the lid can and must stay down."

Our Big Book cautions us, as individual members, to guard against complacency in our personal recoveries. It would seem to me that groups also have to guard against a

kind of complacency. We have to give more than lip service to the Fifth Tradition.

A modest proposal: if your group does not hang the AA sign outside its meeting place, make a motion that it do so. If your experience turns out to be like mine, the discussion that follows will be disturbing but enlightening, regardless of the outcome. It can be an opportunity to explore how our Traditions of anonymity apply to us as groups and as individuals, as well as how deeply we are committed, not only to our own personal recoveries, but how much our groups are committed to carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

David S., NY, NY.

Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine, Inc., Dec. 2006.





by Anonymous

This part of How it Works has a special meaning for me. The statement follows "Half measures availed us nothing" and precedes "Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery."

I want to first talk about my "half measures." My life was full of them. My first two years at my undergraduate university were an exercise in half measures. I was not engaged, not motivated, nor was I willing to do the work. Something changed during my last two years, and I became engaged, focused, and successful in my studies.

I went on to study at two different graduate schools and programs, each with the same result. I was only giving half measures (at most!) to my studies. Therefore, I dropped out of both graduate programs, wondering what had gone wrong. When I entered the workforce, the same thing happened. I was only giving half measures at my jobs. No wonder I got downsized, laid-off, or just quit.

With my history of half measures, how could I ask my higher power for protection and care with "complete" anything? I turned to the Webster's

We stood at the turning point. We asked his protection and care with complete abandon.

Dictionary for a definition of the word "abandon." The first of the five definitions is "to give up control or influence to another person or agent." Bingo! I did lots of things with complete abandon: spending money, eating, sex, and, of course, drinking. I was clearly capable of this behavior!

For me, the answer was that I needed to take a leap of faith. This was my "turning point." I had to put my faith into my higher power and trust that things will work out for me. This was both not easy and easy to do. Part of me wanted to have complete control over my life and my destiny. Another part of me was relieved that I did not have to manage my entire life and my desired outcomes for it. I could let my higher power have control over that.

This knowledge that I did not have to manage everything came in handy once I started working on the Twelve Steps. The Steps were an exercise in faith, humility, trust, and honesty. While working the Steps, I had to ask "his protection and care with complete abandon" many times. I needed that protection and care when I wrote my Fourth Step. I again needed that protection and care when I did my Fifth, Eighth, and

Ninth Steps. I survived those steps without the repercussions that I thought would befall me.

I can truthfully say that, for over two decades of continuous sobriety, my higher power has never let me down. My higher power has never given me too much or too little to handle. Even when I was faced with the death of a parent, I was able to summon the courage, that is based on my faith in "his protection," to step up and take charge of the estate and its complexities.

I now view the statement, "We stood at the turning point. We asked his protection and care with complete abandon," as a warm blanket that I can wrap around my shoulders and that can help me feel calm, safe, and secure.

AP



I would like to subscribe to *The Point*

\$12.00 for one year — 12 issues!!!

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: The Intercounty Fellowship of A.A.

MAIL CHECK TO: Central Office with this request for subscription to *The Point* — 1821 SACRAMENTO ST., SF CA 94109



Step Twelve

Carry This Message

by Bob S.

Step Twelve: “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

Bill Wilson first got the idea of helping others find sobriety shortly after his spiritual experience at Towns Hospital about the 14th of December, 1934. He wrote of the thought occurring to him while he lay in the hospital: “... that there were thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been so freely given me. Perhaps I could help some of them. They in turn might work with others?” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 14).

He immediately joined the Oxford Group where he learned the Five Cs: Confidence, Confession, Conviction, Conversion and Continuance; the latter of which provided that part of

the way I guarantee my own Continuance in the program is to pass it on to the next person.

Bill tried to help countless NY sots (mostly from the Calvary mission) during his first five months sober but they all got drunk. When he admitted to his wife, Lois, that he was a flop for fixing drunks, Lois reminded him that, at least, he stayed sober – and that wasn’t hay!

So when, in May of 1935, Bill found himself alone in Akron’s Mayflower Hotel with a profound terror of drinking, he used this tool to keep from that first drink, and that, as we know, constituted the beginning of A.A.

Bill had been profoundly influenced by the Oxford Group, which was much more interested in saving entire nations than a few inebriants. So, in December of 1938 Big Book Manuscript, he wrote Step Twelve

thusly: “*Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*”

Wait! “... [T]o others, especially alcoholics?” Well, the editors a month later (January 1939), changed the wording as we have it today. In the minds of the editors, this wording was too much like the Oxford Group program. “Shoemaker, stick to thy last.” A.A. was not meant to be a one shoe fits all religion. There were plenty of *new religions* floating around in those days, so what chance would A.A. have had in such competition?

I hope this writing will provide a tad of researchable history about how the idea of carrying the A.A. message was developed.



No Profanity, Please

by Mark Z.

I got sober at 1010 Valencia in San Francisco in 1991. It was a wonderful place and a wonderful time. It was the first place that I felt I belonged. I was at a meeting not far from there this past Tuesday, that I felt very apart from.

The reason was the language used at that meeting. It wasn’t language of the heart, it was language from the gutter. When I got sober, my sponsor told me that I had to change

everything except my name. That included profanity. He told me that when you’re in a meeting, you might be the only example of a Big Book that a newcomer might experience. He also told me that meetings are held in God’s house.

While in that meeting, I thought of the old timers that I learned from 1010 Valencia, such as Frank B., Sy P., Mary H. and Roy S. What would they have done in that meeting? Let them rant and rave. The one word

that came to me was EGO. “Ego is not my amigo,” as one of them often said.

We don’t need to use cuss words in A.A. or outside of A.A.. When we get sober, we trust in God, clean house, and work with others. We need to change our attitudes as well. My attitude of patience and tolerance got me through that meeting. But it was one of the few times that I felt worse walking out after the meeting, than I felt walking in.





A sample of some recent messages that come in through our local Intergroup website; in response, Central Office volunteers try to provide information while also adhering to the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

Dear Help,

Is there a list of A.A. meetings that allow dogs? I know that all service dogs are allowed but just a dog cannot go to many meetings, as far as I can tell. Thanks!

Dog Lover

Dear DL,

I'm sorry but we don't have any such list. As you may know, it's a federal mandate that service dogs are permitted wherever they are needed by their owners.

As a dog lover myself I'm always personally happy whenever I see one; however, I certainly understand and endorse a no pets permitted policy at meetings that have made that decision. I often find myself paying more attention to a dog at a meeting than I do to the speaker – and that certainly does not fit into A.A.'s primary purpose, which is to carry the message. Also, many people are allergic to animals of all sorts and may have a severe reaction if there is an animal in the room. And, not least, but extremely important, some people are terrified of dogs. At one meeting a few years ago, I saw a woman go into a full-fledged anxiety

attack when a dog suddenly appeared from behind her.

As a solution to taking your dog to a meeting, perhaps you'd like to start a "Pets Accepted" meeting. All you need is a coffee pot and a meeting place.

e-Volunteer

Dear e-Volunteer,

Thank you so much. You make very good points. I am a fairly new dog owner so am just learning the best way to treat him and others. I am fairly new to the program so will wait on starting a new meeting but that is an excellent idea. I feel much better and will leave Sammy safely at home where he is very content.

Thanks a lot,

DL

Hi there!

I am a queer and transgender theater maker from Australia. I'm bringing my new show to San Francisco on [dates]. The show explores alcohol/addiction from a queer/trans perspective. "X" is a one-person show, using contemporary theatre with highly integrated stop motion animation and puppetry.

I'm writing to see if there's any way my new show can support the work you do; for example, hand out resources at my show; make my show one of your social outings; launch a resource at my show.

And to see if you'd be interested in supporting my show via getting the word out, e.g., do you have any newsletters, email lists, etc., that you could forward the information below to? I do realize it can be tricky to forward things along your networks because the A.A. model is based on anonymity. However, if you have a newsletter or other volunteer networks/chapter key contacts, I'd super appreciate your support.

Thanks!

Sunny

Dear Sunny,

Thanks so much for the information on your show and your kind offer. Actually, the problem is not so much one of anonymity, but with our Sixth Tradition that states that the A.A. group, as such, ought never endorse or lend the A.A. name to any outside enterprise. However, on a personal level, I'll be happy to pass on the information about your show to anyone I think might be interested. Your topic is certainly timely and important.

Best of luck and thanks for contacting us

e-Volunteer

Dear e-Volunteer,

Thanks very much.

Sunny

Pre A.A. History: Oxford Group Teachings

He was a free man!

An installment of excerpts from the Pre-A.A. History booklet by Bob S.

Bill learned many enduring principles from the Oxford Group Meetings during the early months of 1935. Many of these became entwined in the Twelve-Step program he was to write several years later. I think it is important to realize that the original name of this movement was The First Century Christian Fellowship. It was started by Reverend Frank Buchman, in 1908. The name changed to the Oxford Group in 1931, then to Moral Rearmament in 1938. Dr. Bob generally referred to this movement by its original name, "The First Century Christian Fellowship." Today, it is called Initiatives of Change and is based in Caux, Switzerland.

This non-denominational fellowship was light on theology, but stressed four absolute moral standards: Honesty, Unselfishness, Love and Purity. Their Four Principles were Confession, Restitution, God Guidance and Conversion. Bill placed these principles surreptitiously in the Big Book, but with little reference to their Oxford Group origins.

They also practiced what they called "Automatic Writing." Following a

period of meditation and prayer they would write down what came to their mind. Oxford Group writer A.J. Russell wrote a daily devotion book titled "God Calling," spawned from this procedure. Even today, some A.A. members still make use of this process.

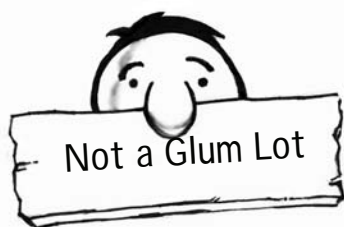
It is rather amazing that Bill, who was just weeks distant from a life-long agnostic bent, would so suddenly and energetically carry the Christian message to drunks all over the place. What a complete transformation! He later would state that this was one-half spirituality and one-half desire to be number one. He would drag drunks home day and night and it would be up to poor Lois to feed them. She was working at Loeser's Department store for \$18 a week (\$275 in today's money, which is less than our current poverty level). Many of Bill's friends were less than impressed by his newfound zeal, especially the Oxford Groupers who were more interested in saving entire countries than a handful of drunkards. Bill was not considered "maximum." Yet Bill was not dissuaded. Wasn't it about time to check out his old Wall Street haunts? What about his ruined reputation? Who could possibly be impressed by yet another 'on the wagon' episode?



**Loeser's Department Store ,
Brooklyn, NY**



**Initiatives of Change
Conference Center,
Caux, Switzerland**



On New Year's Eve, Judy stood up in the local pub and announced it was time to get ready. "At the stroke of midnight," she said, "I want everybody to be standing

next to the one person who has made your life worth living."

The bartender was nearly crushed to death.

Varieties of Twelfth Step Experience

by Jamie M.

There are many varieties of the Twelfth Step experience. Let me relate a couple from my experience. You may have heard it said that “just showing up” is a form of Twelfth-Stepping. Here are two examples that happened where I was the recipient of the “just showing up” effect.

In the latter days of my drinking, I used to go to Sunday brunch at a place that had a server who was very self-contained and serene. I wondered how she could keep her cool in the hustle and bustle of serving all us hung-over patrons.



When I went to my very first A.A. meeting, there she was. I associated her demeanor with the benefits of the program. Later, when I knew her better, she confessed that she hated the job and didn't feel serene at all, but I didn't know that at the time!

In the early days of my sobriety, there were all these “die-hard” A.A. members who reported going to seven, eight, nine meetings a week. This seemed pretty extreme to me, right up until the day when I was feeling completely crazy and went to a meeting I'd never been to before, and there was one of those die-hard people. The familiar face was infinitely comforting.

Did you ever feel, when you were new, that “those A.A. people seemed a little *too* happy, perhaps verging on the crazy cult level of being interested in you? Not pestering a newcomer can be a way of helping them to feel at ease. I went up to a newcomer after a meeting and attempted to engage him, but he was clearly uncomfortable with me. I said something vaguely welcoming and left him alone, going off to the group's usual after meeting coffee spot. Ten minutes later, in walks the newcomer with someone else from the group, and they were talking a mile a minute! As a member of that same group, I can remember any number of instances of going out to coffee with newcomers and simply being kind, making small talk, and letting them know they really were welcome. At that point, you can just show them that sobriety means having a normal, sane life without

drinking and without being obsessed either with drinking or with not drinking. Finding a sponsor or figuring out what your higher power is or getting a service commitment comes later.

On another occasion, a newcomer walked into a meeting a few minutes early and I casually engaged him in small talk. It was during one of those times when there were celebrity rehab stories going around and I jokingly said to him, “You're getting sober at just the right time. It's really hip to quit drinking these days.” I was just being my usual irreverent self, but after he'd been sober for awhile, he came to me and said, “You really had me pegged the minute I came in. I desperately wanted to be cool, and you made me think that joining A.A. was it!”

Of course, I don't know how many newcomers I may have driven away by saying dumb stuff. But I feel that as long as you sincerely try to be there for the newcomer, that's what is important. One of the most memorable things that ever happened to me when I was new was at my second A.A. meeting. A guy put out his hand to me and told me to keep coming back. Why was this so memorable? Because I could tell that even though he was clearly uncomfortable putting himself out, he felt it was important that he do so. That he was willing to make himself uncomfortable in order to make me a bit more comfortable was unforgettable.

Meet **THE MEETING**

by Melanie L.

At the beginning of this year, while answering phones at Central Office, I received a call from the Age Song Retirement Community. They had a few residents who are in Alcoholics Anonymous and were having a hard time getting to meetings. They wanted to know if someone could help them start a meeting at their facility. At first I thought this would be a call to forward to H&I but, after further discussion, realized they wanted to host an open meeting that any A.A. member could attend – both as a service to the community and their residents. Because I live in the neighborhood I decided to take on this service myself. We set up a meeting with four residents, a couple of administrators and myself to work out the details. After a productive

*I can easily envision
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my A.A.*

meeting we decided to make it a Saturday morning Big Book meeting, at least for the present, until we had some more members and could hold a business meeting.

To tell you the truth, the reason I was really interested in helping with this meeting was selfish. I'm not getting any younger and one of the fears I am working on is that of getting older and not being able to get to meetings. As a single childless woman, I can easily envision myself alone in a senior center without my A.A. When I

Young @ Heart

think of this it makes me sad. A.A. is a huge part of my life and is my family. The idea of not having my A.A. community and no longer being able to talk to newcomers or be of service scares me. H&I is wonderful, but it is not the same as a regular meeting with all the varieties of people that we are so blessed to have in A.A.

At present we have anywhere from four to ten people attending the Young at Heart meeting. The inter-generational exchange before, during and after the meeting is a joy. It's important to learn from and be present for those who came before us, and also to be present for those seniors trying to get sober (talk about feeling different).

I know there is a comfort level we get from attending meetings with those we feel are like ourselves. But, there is so much to learn from those we perceive as different.

If I am lucky enough to live a long life, many of my friends my own age will move on in one way or another. I will need younger people to support me in my sobriety as I age and who will let me support them.

Young @ Heart is in a beautiful space that was previously a coffee shop. We have our own entrance on Hayes Street, which you can find by seeing the familiar A.A. triangle in a circle logo. We always have coffee and cookies. Also we are in the heart of Hayes Valley and it is a great place to catch a meeting and then go out to brunch.

Come and join us sometime and check out other meetings that are held with seniors.

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. at 601-611
Laguna Street (at Hayes) Age Song /
Hayes Valley Care in San Francisco.

TP



Intergroup meeting summary – November 2012

The following groups (and *service entities*) have registered Intergroup Representatives who attended the last Intergroup meeting. If your meeting was not represented, consider electing an Intergroup Representative (IGR) and /or an alternate so your meeting is effectively represented .

A Is For Alcohol	Design For Living	High Noon Mon	On Awakening Group	Sunday Rap	What It's Like Now
Artists & Writers	Each Day A New Beginning	Keep Coming Back	Saturday Beginners	Ten Years After	
Blue Book Special	Embarcadero Group	Live & Let Live	Saturday Weekend Warrior	Thursday Night Speaker	
Came To Believe	Friday Morning 12 Steppers	Living Sober With HIV	Say Hey Group	Thursday Thumpers	
Come 'n Get It!	Girls Night Out	Miracles (Way) Off 24th St.	Step Talk	Too Early	
Day At A Time	Haight Street Blues	Monday Night Stag Tiburon	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc	Valencia Smokefree	

This is an unofficial summary of the November 2012 Intergroup meeting provided for convenience; it is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes and full committee and financial reports see "Intergroup" on our website www.aasf.org.

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

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

The meeting was held on Wed, November 7, 2012 at 101 Donohue St, Marin City, CA.

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

Officer Reports

Board Chair Report, Margaret J: We're increasing the number of IGR reps, but not enough. Keep working on outreach. Overall goals progress will pick up after the end of year housekeeping is done, including budget, tax return, physical inventory at Central Office. November round table will be a discussion about gratitude for service.

Treasurer Report, Michelle C: Tax return approved by the Board of Directors and is in the process of being submitted. Annual budget will be discussed at the next Board meeting and then the next Intergroup meeting. October has been a good month. Much better than last year. Summary, P&L and Balance sheet distributed and online.

Central Office Manager Report, Maury P.: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, November 17th, 6:30-8:30, First Unitarian Universalist Church. Intergroup is the host. The Board brings entrees and IGRs bring side dishes and desserts. Invitation to this event has been extended to the H&I committee and two general districts (the SF and Marin committees, not GSRs). October is a better month financially because of two large donations. Over \$5,000 from Western Roundup Living Sober who were catching up on distributions for the past few years. \$1046 came in from Artists & Writers annual talent show, Drunks on Display. Let's kick off gratitude month by thinking about creative ideas like these types of fundraisers to increase fellowship, community and contributions to central office. Paul C. passed away. Maury can provide more info on request. Regarding The Grapevine, the people running it have really turned it around. There are cards about the different ways to subscribe. Please bring those to your groups for literature tables. Recent info about helping New York and New Jersey after Superstorm Sandy. General Service Office has let everyone know that they should wait for things to settle and see what the local groups need. Members of the local group will most likely rebuild the community. Money that we contribute to GSO helps those people indirectly, but can't be specifically earmarked for particular purposes. At Unity Day, for the first time we're having an Intergroup workshop. Margaret is leading it. 2pm-2:50. Make sure to come, especially if you were on the IFB so you can help clarify the difference between that and Intergroup.

Intergroup Committee Reports

Access Committee, Steve F, Acting Chair: Meeting coming up. We have one

member so far – Danny. Please pass the word to others that we need people.

Archives Committee, Michael P: 3rd Sunday of the month, 2-4pm. Will have a small display and table at Unity Day. GS may have archives too. Bruce – The plaque on 51 Potomac has been replaced and can be seen now.

Fellowship Committee, Michael P: Next meeting is a month from this Thursday.

Intergroup Orientation, Carolyn R: First Wed of the month, 6pm - orientation

SF PI/CPC, Rich G: Last month, delivered PI presentations to five DUI classes, three city college classes and two shifts of people showed up at Homeless Connect. Thanks to Bruce's persistence we were able to get a table last minute, but next time we need to register in advance.

Young people needed!!! Early 20s, late teens, really, really need them. Got request to talk to SF public high schools and need younger people to do this so kids can relate.

Need Media Coordinator to form relationships with editors, TV, radio, keep PSAs on TV.

SF Teleservice, Carolyn R: Have a few openings, mostly as back up or holiday fill-ins. Orientation at Unity day, 11-11:50 in the Fireside conference room.

The Point Committee, Charley D: Still have just 3.5 committee members. Need more folks. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Central Office at 6:30pm. Been discussing with folks on the Web committee opportunity to helping people subscribe to The Point online.

Trusted Servant Committee, Michael P: The goal is to get the word out about the traditions. We hold workshops for secre-

Individual Contributions

to Central Office were made through November 15, 2012
honoring the following members:

ANNIVERSARIES

Phil L. — 18 Years

Jill H. — 24 Years

Shirley K. — 44 years

taries and treasurers. Workshop about business meetings is happening at 11am at Unity Day.

Website Committee, Becca M: Progress being made, design in progress. Exploring opportunity for better online book sales

Liaison Reports

SF General Service, District 6, Mike B,: Holding 2 year elections, all positions turn over in December and new DCMC, taking effect in January.

New Business

Michael P: Survey summary was handed out. Take a look when you get a chance. It's a start that IGRs show up at intergroup meetings, but we need people on committees as well. Also, it's up to us to find people to be IGRs – we need to be ambassador of fellowship and help people take on these commitments.

Round Table – Gratitude: We went

around the room and individuals shared about gratitude for service.

Meet the Meeting

Artists & Writers, Ethan: We meet Fridays, 6:30 at 1350 Waller St. at Masonic Ave, All Saints Episcopal Church. Meeting has been around for over 20 years. Drunks on Display is our yearly talent show. Get there early! It fills up. People perform music, comedy, Shakespeare, display artwork. There's a great raffle with donated artwork or other gifts. All door and raffle proceeds go directly to Central Office.

Volunteers for next month : Claire, Girls Night Out; Jenny, Walk of Shame; Jennifer, Sesame Step.

The next Intergroup Meeting is Wednesday December 5th at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. in SF at 7pm. Orientation for new reps is at 6pm; dinner is served at 6:30pm. The proposed 2013 budget will be presented.

Come check out the 'New and Improved' Intergroup!

The current Intergroup structure allows us to direct our focus on carrying the message through the various service committees. The "CPC" portion of PI/CPC (Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community) is looking for help with outreach to members of the professional community.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate outreach to health care professionals, judges, attorneys, probation officers, court-appointed counselors and other referring professionals, please attend the Annual PI/CPC meeting in January (currently scheduled for Sat., Jan. 12, 2013—confirmation will be available on our website or in the January 2013 issue of The Point). To find out more about this important 12th Step work visit www.aa.org and type "C.P.C. workbook" into the search field. You may also contact the SF PI/CPC committee at picpc@aasf.org with any ?s.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

BOARD OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Margaret J. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

Phil L. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Michelle C. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Rebecca M. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

12th STEP COMMITTEE

Alex K. 12thstep@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Michael P. archives@aasf.org

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Blu F. orientation@aasf.org

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Blu F. fellowship@aasf.org

THE POINT

Charley D. thepoint@aasf.org

ACCESS COMMITTEE

Steve F. access@aasf.org

TRUSTED SERVANTS

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Michael P. tsw@aasf.org

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

OPEN. website@aasf.org

PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Rich G. picpc@aasf.org

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Carolyn R. sfteleservice@aasf.org

aa group contributions

Fellowship Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	\$ 28	\$ 1,996
Contribution Box		\$ 329
Customer	\$ 6	\$ 6
Deer Park Discovery Group		\$ 60
GGYPAA		\$ 1,200
Gratitude in Action		\$ 658
ICYPAA		\$ 417
Intergroup	\$ 96	\$ 942
Marin Teleservice		\$ 1,500
Spirit of San Francisco		\$ 141
TSWC		\$ 62
Unidentified Group		\$ 42
Western Roundup (Living Sober)	\$5,079	\$ 5,079
Fellowship Total	\$5,209	\$12,431

Marin Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
11th Step Meeting M 8pm	\$ 50	\$ 50
12 & 12 Study Sa 815am		\$ 195
As Bill Sees It M 2pm		\$ 12
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	\$ 153	\$ 3,329
Awareness/Acceptance M 1030am		\$ 156
Blackie's Pasture Sa 830pm		\$ 450
Candlelight Sun 830pm		\$ 195
Closed Women's Step Study Tu	\$ 103	\$ 345
Crossroads Sun 12pm		\$ 1,700
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	\$ 517	\$ 1,267
East San Rafael Big Book		\$ 100
Experience, Strength & Hope Sa 6pm		\$ 75
Friday Night Book F 830pm		\$ 140
Girls Night Out W 815pm		\$ 193
Gratitude Tu 8pm		\$ 162
Greenfield Newcomers Sun 7pm		\$ 302
Happy Destiny F 7pm		\$ 350
Happy Hour (Marin) Th 6pm		\$ 75
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm		\$ 950
High & Dry W 12pm		\$ 129
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am		\$ 528
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am		\$ 169
Island Group Th 8pm		\$ 132
Just Can't Wait 'til 8 M 630pm		\$ 220
Larkspur Beginners F 7pm		\$ 325
Larkspur Beginners W 7pm		\$ 66
Living in the Solution F 6pm		\$ 139
Marin City Groups 5D 630pm		\$ 292
Marin City Groups 6D 630pm		\$ 251
Monday Night Stag Tiburon 8pm		\$ 487
Meditation Weds 7pm	\$ 65	\$ 65

Marin Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
Mill Valley 7D 7am	\$ 758	\$2,872
Mill Valley Discussion W 830pm	\$ 91	\$ 291
Mill Valley Original Smokeless SS Th 8pm		\$ 150
Monday Blues M 630pm		\$ 500
Monday Night Big Book Study M 8pm		\$ 100
Monday Night Stag - 12 & 12 M 6pm	\$ (570)	\$ -
Monday Night Stag Tiburon	\$ 420	\$ 420
Monday Night Women's M 8pm	\$ 175	\$ 175
More Will Be Revealed F 12pm		\$ 50
Morning After Sa 10am		\$ 50
Morning Attitude Adjustment	\$ 66	\$ 229
Nativity Monday Night Big Book M 8pm		\$ 100
Newcomers Step M 730pm		\$ 208
Novato Monday Stag M 8pm	\$ 150	\$ 150
On Awakening 7D 530am		\$ 722
Pathfinders Tu 12pm		\$ 325
Primary Purpose W 830pm	\$ 36	\$ 82
Quitting Time M-F 530pm		\$1,150
Refugee Th 12pm		\$ 280
Reveille 7D 7am		\$ 200
Rise N Shine Sun 10am		\$ 241
San Geronimo Valley Book Study F 8pm		\$ 297
San Geronimo Valley M 8pm		\$ 526
Saturday Night Sa 8pm		\$ 334
Sausalito 12 Step Study Group		\$ 178
Serendipity Sa 11am	\$ 234	\$ 424
Sisters In Sobriety Th 730pm (M)		\$ 62
Sober Sisters Wed 12pm		\$ 148
Spiritual Testosterone Stag Su 830a		\$ 284
Steps To The Solution W 715pm		\$ 100
Streetfighters Sa 9am		\$ 156
Sunday Express Sun 6pm	\$ 100	\$ 300
Sunday Night Corte Madera Sun 8pm	\$ 106	\$ 329
Sunlight of the Spirit Th 7pm	\$ 400	\$ 700
T.G.I. Tuesday 6pm		\$ 75
Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm		\$ 300
TGIF F 6pm		\$ 158
The Fearless Searchers F 8pm	\$ 71	\$ 467
There is a Solution Tu 6pm		\$ 61
Thursday Night Book Club Th 7pm	\$ 20	\$ 41
Thursday Night Miracles Th 830pm		\$ 38
Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu		\$2,059
Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm	\$ 157	\$ 157
Tuesday Big Book Tu 830pm		\$ 75
Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 830pm		\$1,255
We, Us and Ours M 650pm		\$ 250
Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm		\$ 75

SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
Wednesday Night Candlelight 8pm	\$ 110	
Wednesday Night SD W 7pm	\$ 59	\$ 144
What's It All About F 12pm		\$ 60
Women For Women W 12pm		\$ 50
Women in Unity Th 1230pm		\$ 140
Women's Big Book Tu 1030am	\$ 350	\$ 835
Working Dogs W 12pm		\$ 500
Marin Total	\$3,509	\$31,828

SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
10am Big Book W 10am		\$ 275
10am Step Study M 10am		\$ 15
130 Smokeless Th 130pm		\$ 100
6am Dry Dock 7D		\$ 134
6am Dry Dock Sa		\$ 221
6am Dry Dock Th		\$ 60
7am As Bill Sees It Fri	\$ 62	\$ 166
7am Living Sober W 7am		\$ 247
7am Smokeless Su 7am		\$ 107
7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am		\$ 218
7am Step Discussion Tu 7am		\$ 71
830am Smokeless F 830am		\$ 165
830am Smokeless Th 830am		\$ 299
830am Smokeless W 830am		\$ 391
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm		\$ 164
A New Start F 830pm		\$ 120
Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm		\$ 262
After Work M 6PM		\$ 261
Agnostics & Freethinkers Su 630pm	\$ 120	\$ 211
All Together Now Th 8pm		\$ 114
Alumni W 830pm	\$ 119	\$ 119
Amazing Grace M 7pm		\$ 144
Any Lengths Sat 930am		\$ 684
Artists & Writers F 630pm	\$1,047	\$ 2,162
As Bill CCs It Sun 8am		\$ 100
As Bill Sees It Th 6pm		\$ 569
As Bill Sees It Th 830pm		\$ 95
As Bill Sees It Tu 1210pm		\$ 180
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm		\$ 439
Atheists, Agnostics & Others Sa		\$ 15
Bayview AA Th 7pm		\$ 120
Be Still AA Su 12pm	\$ 144	\$ 460
Beginners 12 x 12 F 7pm	\$ 420	\$ 782
Beginners' Step Study Sat 7pm	\$ 96	\$ 96
Beginner's Warmup W 6pm		\$ 81
Bernal Big Book Sat 5pm		\$ 812
Bernal New Day 7D	\$ 305	\$ 3,125

SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD	SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD	SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
Big Book Basics F 8pm	\$ 161	\$ 555	High Noon Friday 230pm		\$ 278	Rise N Shine Sun 10am		\$ 174
Big Book Study Su 1130am		\$ 476	High Noon Monday 1215pm		\$ 244	Room to Grow F 8pm		\$ 201
Blue Book Special Su 11am	\$ 160	\$ 403	High Noon Saturday 1215pm		\$ 787	Rose Garden Big Book Th 1205pm		\$ 129
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	\$ 28	\$ 28	High Noon Sunday 1215p		\$ 157	Saturday Afternoon Meditation 5pm		\$ 623
Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm		\$ 46	High Noon Thursday 1215pm		\$ 46	Saturday Beginners Sat 6pm	\$ 736	\$1,382
Brothers in Arms M 8pm		\$ 211	High Noon Wednesday 1215pm		\$ 47	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm		\$1,440
Buena Vista Breakfast Su 12pm		\$ 171	Hilldwellers M 8pm		\$ 700	Saturday Night Regroup Sat 730pm	\$ 313	\$ 956
Came To Believe Su 830am		\$ 154	Home Group Sat 830pm		\$ 495	Say Hey Group M-F 6pm	\$ 99	\$ 582
Came to Park Sat 7pm		\$ 168	How Was Your Week? Sa 10am		\$ 476	Seacliff Th 830pm		\$ 75
Castro Discussion Th 8pm		\$ 283	Huntington Square W 630pm	\$ 232	\$ 700	Serendipity Sa 11am		\$ 137
Castro Steps & Traditions W 8pm		\$ 600	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm	\$ 193	\$ 391	Serenity House	\$ 150	\$1,500
Code Blue Big Book Study W 7pm		\$ 656	Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm		\$ 30	Serenity Seekers M 730pm		\$ 324
Coit's Quilters		\$ 76	Keep Coming Back Sa 10am		\$ 213	Sesame Step Tu 730pm		\$ 224
Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm		\$1,092	Let It Be Now F 6pm		\$ 127	SFPOA Th 7pm		\$ 200
Cow Hollow Young People's Tu		\$ 119	Like A Prayer Su 4pm		\$ 454	Shamrocks & Serenity M 730pm	\$ 828	\$ 828
Design For Living - Big Book Tu/Th		\$ 140	Lincoln Park Sat 830pm		\$ 110	Sinbar Su 8pm		\$ 411
Design for Living Sat 8am		\$1,058	Live and Let Live Su 8pm		\$ 515	Sober at State MW 1210pm		\$ 135
Diamond Heights Tu 830pm	\$ 57	\$ 297	Living Proof Th 630pm		\$ 113	Sober Saturday Sa 830am		\$ 163
Dignitaries Sympathy W 815pm		\$ 630	Living Sober on Sixth St.		\$ 85	Sobriety & Beyond W 7pm		\$ 267
Each Day A New Beginning 5D 7am	\$ 808	\$ 808	Living Sober W 8pm		\$ 65	Sobriety & Miracles Sa 5pm		\$ 84
Each Day a New Beginning F 7am	\$ 745	\$2,481	Living Sober with HIV W 6pm		\$1,390	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am		\$ 306
Each Day a New Beginning M 7am		\$ 186	Lush Lounge Sa 2pm		\$ 366	Sought to Improve Th 715pm		\$ 60
Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am		\$2,569	Meeting Place Noon F 12pm		\$ 179	St. Anne Book Study		\$ 125
Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am	\$ 410	\$1,403	Meeting Place Noon W 12pm		\$ 375	St. Francis Men's F 830pm		\$ 125
Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am		\$ 339	Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am		\$1,054	Step Talk Su 830am		\$ 687
Each Day a New Beginning W 7am		\$1,274	Midnight Meditation Sat 12am		\$ 72	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm	\$ 210	\$ 517
Early Start F 6pm		\$2,205	Miracle (Way) Off 24th St W 730pm	\$ 190	\$ 190	Stepping Out Sat 430pm		\$ 180
Easy Does It Tu 6pm		\$ 85	Mission Fellow. No Reservations Su 230pm		\$ 30	Stepping Stone SS M 730pm	\$ 121	\$ 121
Embarcadero Group 5D 1210pm	\$ 240	\$ 720	Monday Beginners M 8pm	\$ 94	\$ 404	Sunday Bookworms Sun 730pm		\$ 379
Epiphany Group Th 8pm		\$ 180	Monday Men's Meeting M 8pm	\$ 201	\$ 255	Sunday Coffee With Bill 10am		\$ 27
Eureka Step Tu 6pm		\$ 172	Monday Monday M 1215pm		\$ 135	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag		\$ 223
Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm		\$ 226	Monday Night Big Book Study M 8pm		\$ 105	Sunday Night 3rd Step Group 5pm		\$ 647
Excelsior "Scent" Free for All Sa 8pm		\$ 180	Monday Night Women's M 8pm		\$ 290	Sunday Night Castro SD 730pm		\$1,009
Extreme Makeover M 730pm		\$ 113	Moving Toward Serenity W 830pm		\$ 222	Sunday Silence Su 730pm		\$ 175
Federal Speaker Su 12pm		\$ 301	New Friday Big Book F 12pm		\$ 218	Sunday Step Study		\$ 87
Fell Street F 830pm		\$ 339	New Highs W 130pm		\$ 108	Sunday Sunrise Su 7am		\$ 58
Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am		\$ 184	Newcomers Tu 8pm	\$ 90	\$ 216	Sundown W 7pm		\$ 932
Fireside Chat Group Th 8pm		\$ 177	No Reservations M 12pm		\$1,012	Sunset 11'ers Sa		\$ 100
Fireside Chat Sa 9pm		\$ 156	Noon Smokeless W 12pm		\$ 25	Sunset 11'ers Su	\$ 100	\$ 380
Friday All Groups F 830pm	\$ 34	\$1,318	O.A.D.W. Mon 7pm		\$ 31	Sunset 11'ers Th		\$ 122
Friday Lunchtime Step F 12pm		\$ 109	Off Broadway Book Th 730pm		\$ 31	Sunset 11'ers Tu		\$ 91
Friday Night Blast F 630pm		\$ 150	One Liners Th 830pm	\$ 29	\$ 173	Sunset 11'ers W		\$ 26
Friday Night Book F 830pm		\$ 374	Park Presidio M 830pm		\$ 54	Sunset 9'ers F	\$ 75	\$ 106
Friday Smokeless F 8pm		\$ 211	Parkside Th 8pm	\$ 269	\$ 980	Sunset 9'ers Sa		\$ 110
Friendly Circle Beginners Su 715pm		\$ 65	Pax West M 12pm		\$1,271	Sunset 9'ers Su		\$ 138
Friendly Circle Su 830pm		\$ 144	Pax West Th 12pm		\$ 784	Sunset Speaker Step Sun 730pm		\$ 580
Gold Mine Group M 8pm		\$ 331	Potrero Hill 12 x 12 M 630pm	\$ 138	\$ 349	Surf Tu 8pm	\$ 92	\$ 363
Haight Street Blues Tu 615pm		\$ 800	Progress Not Perfection Tu 830pm		\$ 114	Ten Years After Su 6pm	\$ 947	\$4,182
Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm		\$ 430	Queers, Crackpots & Fallen Women		\$ 415	The Drive Thru W 1215pm		\$ 346
Happier Destiny W 815pm	\$ 51	\$ 51	Reality Farm Th 830pm		\$ 772	The Dry Dock Fellowship		\$ 195
Happy Destiny Sa 630pm		\$ 405	Rebound W 830pm		\$ 120	The Lads Fr 730pm	\$ 150	\$ 150
Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm		\$ 217	Rigorous Honesty Th 1205pm		\$ 322			

continued on p.19

profit and loss statement: September 2012

	Sep 12	Budget	Jan - Sep 12	YTD Budget		Sep 12	Budget	Jan - Sep 12	YTD Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					Paper Purchased	397	200	2021	2327
Income					Payroll Fees	9	8	74	72
Gratitude Month	0	0	5773	2845	Phone Book Listings	91	87	819	777
Group Contributions	11213	11875	114111	115994	Postage	200	200	882	714
Ind. Contributions	2303	2310	24821	28257	Printing	0	0	0	600
Newsletter Subscript.	22	15	100	340	Professional Fees	0	75	200	2677
Sales - Bookstore	9922	10040	86009	89222	Recon Discrepancies	0	0	0	0
Special Event Income	0	0	4431	0	Rent - Office	3811	3810	34298	34290
Misc. Income	300	0	300	0	Rent - Other	555	90	1540	765
Total Income	23760	24240	235544	236658	Repair & Maintenance	272	280	2764	2605
Cost of Goods Sold					Security System	0	118	236	354
Cost of Books Sold	7216	6700	61559	57962	Software Purchased	0	0	604	900
Shipping	92	55	532	495					
Credit Card Processing	0	355	2958	3104	Sunshine/12th Step	25	5	25	45
Inventory Adjustments	-3	-25	109	-358	Telephone	256	200	3024	2302
Total COGS	7305	7085	65159	61203	Training	0	0	124	500
Gross Profit	16455	17155	170385	175455	Travel	25	0	410	500
Expense					Total Expense	17672	19487	170147	178790
Access Expenses	240	708	2940	6376	Net Ordinary Income	-1217	-2332	238	-3335
Bank Fees	0	0	1	0	Other Income/Expense				
Employee Expenses	11573	13300	107786	111597	Other Income				
Equipment Lease	0	185	4866	5000	Interest Income	119	165	1055	1392
Filing/Fees	0	0	143	165	Total Other Income	119	165	1055	1392
Insurance	0	0	2402	2383	Other Expense				
Intergroup Events	0	0	1697	1298	Depreciation Expense	584	514	5256	4626
Intergroup Literature	0	8	166	220	Total Other Expense	584	514	5256	4626
Internet Expense	93	108	841	975	Net Other Income	-465	-349	-4201	-3234
Office Supplies	125	105	2281	1348	Net Income	-1682	-2681	-3962	-6569

Treasurer's Report

For the month of September, group contributions were \$662 under budget. Year-to-date group contributions are \$1,863 under budget. Individual contributions were \$7 under budget for September and year-to-date individual contributions are \$3,436 under budget.

Bookstore sales were \$117 under budget in September, and are \$3,213 under budget year-to-date.

Total expenses for September were \$1,815 under budget and year-to-date

total expenses are \$8,643 under budget.

We had a deficit of \$1,681 for September, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$2,681. Year-to-date deficit is \$3,962.

Unrestricted cash balance increased from \$25,991 in August to \$27,090, which represents a little more than a month and a half of average operating expenses.

**We'd like to thank all
who participated in
Gratitude Month. Please
send contribution in as
soon as you can and note
"Gratitude Month 2012
and your group name
in the memo field.**



The other night I was invited out for a night with the girls. I told my husband that I would be home by midnight: 'I promise!'

Well, the hours passed and the margaritas went down way too easily. Around 3 a.m., a bit loaded, I headed for home.

Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hallway started up and cuckooed 3 times. Quickly, realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times.

I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution in order to escape a possible conflict with him. (Even when totally smashed, 3 cuckoos plus 9 cuckoos totals = 12 cuckoos. MIDNIGHT!)

The next morning, my husband asked me what time I got in. I told him 'MIDNIGHT.' He didn't seem angry in the least.

Then he said 'We need a new cuckoo clock.'

When I asked him why, he said, 'Well, last night our clock cuckooed three times, then said 'Oh crap.' Cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another three times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then tripped over the coffee table.

Holiday Shopping?

The bookstore at Central Office carries a full line of Grapevine publications including two new ones:

Into Action and Happy, Joyous and Free.

We also stock a wide variety of Grapevine books on CD as well as some AAWS publications.

Give us a call or stop by to have to have a look. Don't forget, we now have Saturday hours! 10am to 2pm.



aa group contributions, continued

SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD	SF Contributions	Oct. 12	YTD
The Leaky Cauldron Su 930am	\$ 493		Walk of Shame W 830pm	\$ 29	\$ 72
The Little Meeting That Could Su 6pm	\$ 31		Walk of Shame W 8pm		\$ 88
The Parent Trap 2 Wed. 430pm	\$ 80		We Care Tu 12pm		\$ 175
The Parent Trap M 1230pm	\$ 12		We Have a Solution F 7pm		\$ 91
The Parent Trap M 1pm	\$ 115	\$ 115	Wednesday Afternoon With Bill		\$ 50
The Pepper Group F 12pm	\$ 119		Wednesday Noon Steps W 12pm		\$ 60
There is a Solution Tu 6pm	\$ 373		Weekend Worker Sat 7am		\$ 60
There Is a Solution W 630pm	\$ 251	\$ 251	West Portal W 8pm		\$ 386
They Stopped In Time M 8pm	\$ 54		Wharfrats Th 815pm		\$ 427
Thursday Morning Men's BB Study Th	\$ 532		What It's Like Now M 6pm		\$ 168
Thursday Night Book Club Th 7pm	\$ 42		Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm		\$ 84
Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm	\$ 428		Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm		\$ 436
Thursday Thumpers Th 7pm	\$ 100		Women's Came to Believe Sa 10am	\$ 49	\$ 237
Too Early Sat 8am	\$ 192	\$1,078	Women's Kitchen Table Tu 630pm		\$ 88
Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm	\$ 300		Women's Meeting There is a Solution		\$ 585
Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm	\$ 72		Women's Promises F 7pm		\$ 836
Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	\$ 27		Work In Progress Sat 7pm		\$ 403
Tuesday Men's Pax Tu 12pm	\$ 671		Working With Others Sa 10am		\$ 83
Tuesday's Daily Reflections Tu 8am	\$ 394		YAHOO Step Sa 1130am		\$ 757
Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm	\$ 72		San Francisco Total	\$ 2,313	\$ 13,586
Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	\$ 812		YTD	\$19,591	\$133,529



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