

HOW

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS... SOME AA HISTORY

Between noon of Wednesday, December 24, 1952 and midnight of Thursday, January 1st, 1953, some 120,000 members of AA will have seen their dreams of a dry holiday and their hopes of a sane New Year's come safely true.

The first Christmas for AA was the depression year of 1935. There were three old timers to mark it ... hardly a dozen newcomers to share it with them. In Akron, Dr. Bob and Bill D. were going on their second six months. Four recruits had from four months to two months. in New York, Bill W. had thirteen months since his last drink, seven months since his historic trip to Akron and the start of AA.

In Akron, the six gathered with their families at Dr. Bob's. There was no ceremony ... no exchange of presents. The Twelve Steps had not yet been formulated. The Big Book was only a vague stirring that would not even be in manuscript until three more Christmases had been achieved. But there was joy that this most dangerous of times for the alcoholic had arrived ... and twenty-four hours by twenty-four hours was being mastered.

"There was thanks," remembers one of the two who survives that first Akron Christmas, "that we had come this far. However, I am certain that there was still considerable fear and trembling ... not fear that this new way would not work, but doubt and uncertainty that we would be able to hold on to it.

Bill W. recalls only a quiet day in New York that Yule of 1935 where there were very few involved. Five years later, there was a place in New York for an AA Christmas party ... the first AA clubhouse. And about the 24th Street Club there hangs a real Santa Claus story!

Or rather, it is a Saint Nicholas story. Just one hundred years before, in 1840, the building was erected at Number 334 1/2 West 24th Street ... the property of a family named Moore who were large landowners in Manhattan Island's Chelsea section. And driving across the snow-covered lawn, Dr. Clement Clarke Moore began to compose (some say just as his sled runners touched what is now the meeting room of AA's first clubhouse!) his immortal gift to children of all ages ... " 'Twas the night before Christmas." (Grapevine, December, 1952).

From Grapevine Web Editor's Note:

In 2003*, more than 2,000,000 AA's will gather in various meeting sites across the globe, having fanned out from Akron and New York. The tinkling at midnight will not be the ice cubes or glasses clinking but rather the sound of sleigh bells as eight tiny reindeer take flight, as heard by the grateful ears of all people who can be, for even a moment, as children.

* Editorial license taken

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12 Twelve XII

STEP

**“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.”**

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others. And these things which they have in common are not too hard to understand. When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable. What he has received is a free gift, and yet usually, at least in some small part, he has made himself ready to receive it.

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TRADITION

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions,
ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition -- or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior -- especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

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CONCEPT

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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TREATMENT: GROUP COMMITMENTS

ALCOHOPE
5925 37th St, Vero Beach, FL 32966

CENTER FOR EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
(CEBH)
1190 37th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960

TUESDAYS:		SATURDAYS:	
Indian River Men's	12-09	Candlelight	12-13
South Vero	12-16	Vero Beach Group	12-20
Serenity House	12-23	ODAAT	12-27
Royal Palm	12-30		

MONDAYS:

Safe Harbor Women's	December 15
Vero Beach 12 & 12	December 22
Noontime Recovery	December 29

CARRY THE AA MESSAGE!
FOR INFORMATION CALL LEE: 567-4759



2003 ~2004
ALKATHON SCHEDULE

TIME	CHRISTMAS	NEW YEAR'S
4 - 6PM	Free & Easy	ODAAT
6 - 8PM	ODAAT	South Vero
8 - 10PM	King's Highway	I Am Responsible
10 - 12AM	Royal Palm	Indian River Men's
12 - 2AM	Indian River Men's	Indian River Thursday
2 - 4AM	Surfside	Vero 12X12
4 - 6AM	I Am Responsible	Free & Easy
6 - 8AM	Indian River Thursday	Easy Does It
8 - 10AM	Safe Harbor Women's	Noontime Recovery
10 - 12PM	Vero 12X12	Safe Harbor Women's
12 - 2PM	South Vero	Vero Beach Men's
2 - 4PM	Vero Beach Men's	Surfside



F Y I . . . and Pass It On!

NEW MEETING
The Source Mission
1872 Commerce Ave
Vero Beach
OPEN DISCUSSION
Thursdays 7PM

NEW AWAKENINGS GROUP
MEETS AT 7:30AM
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
3306 20th St
(Route 60 at 33rd Ave)
Vero Beach

NEW MEETING
Newport Club
2536 16th Ave
Outside Room
OPEN DISCUSSION
Mondays 6PM

NOTICE:
The Serenity House meetings at Sebastian River Junior Women's Club are open to men AND women.
Mondays 12PM: Open Big Book
Thursdays 12PM: Closed Step Study
SERENITY HOUSE Group
952 US Hwy 1, Sebastian

FRIDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1850 6TH Ave, Vero Beach
FRIDAYS 7:30PM ~ CLOSED BIG BOOK STUDY

"MAN TO MAN"
Saturday Mornings 9AM
Men's N/S Open Discussion
Sebastian Yacht Club
Indian River Drive, Sebastian

2003 ~ 2004
HOLIDAY ALKATHONS
FROM 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE DAY TO 4PM CHRISTMAS DAY
AND
FROM 4PM NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY TO 4PM NEW YEAR'S DAY
* VERO BEACH: NEWPORT CLUB
SEBASTIAN: YACHT CLUB
*Sponsored by participating Groups of Indian River Central Office.
See commitment schedule on Page 3.

NEW MEETING
First Church of God
1105 58th Avenue
SUNDAYS from 6 - 7PM

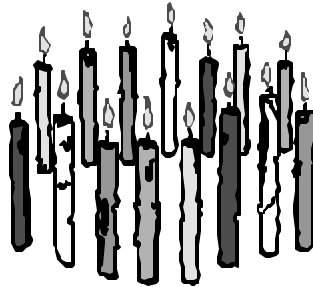
SOUTH VERO GROUP
HOLIDAY EATING MEETING
FOLLOWS 5:30 OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th
ALL WELCOME... Please bring a covered dish!

HELP WANTED:
Indian River Central Office Men's Corrections Committee needs eligible volunteers. If interested, call Central Office or visit our next business meeting at 7PM on Thursday, December 11th, at the Newport Club.

MEETING CHANGE:
SOUTH VERO GROUP
FRIDAY 10PM
OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING
CHANGED TO 11PM.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To publish announcements of birthdays being celebrated by your Group's members each month, please bring list of names and numbers of years to Central Office and put in filing cabinet in folder labeled "HOW Editor," send via e-mail to irhow@yahoo.com, or use link from website at indianriveraa.freesevers.com.

ROYAL PALM GROUP		MIDNIGHT OIL		INDIAN RIVER WOMEN'S	
<i>Celebrates Last Monday</i>		Bob M.	7	Allene M.	12
Rod R.	15			<i>November</i>	
Jerry R.	27	ODAAT		Kay H.	21
		<i>Celebrates Last Friday</i>			
BAREFOOT BAY		Gerard P.	1	HIBISCUS MONDAY NIGHT	
James M.	6	George R.	2	Andy C.	1
Sandy K.	13	Karen M.	4	Steve M.	7
Al F.	35	Sue S.	12		
		Allene M.	12	INDIAN RIVER THURSDAY	
FREE & EASY GROUP		Anne K.	14	<i>Celebrates Last Thursday</i>	
<i>Celebrates Last Thursday</i>		Bert C.	16	Kathy L.	17
Joe R.	21	Carole C.	18	Debbie F.	19
Greg P.	27	Paul H.	19	Mary Ann C.	22
SOUTH VERO GROUP		Dana McC	20	KING'S HIGHWAY	
<i>Celebrates Last Wednesday</i>		Vivien B-L	21	Judy W.	9
Kerwin R.	1	INDIAN RIVER MEN'S		VERO 12 & 12	
Gus J.	2	Jim Mc	16	Debra U.	1
Steven P.	3	VERO BEACH MEN'S		Tom H.	3
Tony G.	5	Wayne C.	?	Carole N.	17
Tyrone B.	10	BEACHSIDE BEGINNERS		SERENITY HOUSE	
Jinny J.	12	<i>Celebrates Last Tuesday</i>		Denise L.	15
Bob T.	29	Elizabeth K.	12		
NOONTIME RECOVERY		Joan W.	28	HAPPY	
<i>Celebrates Last Friday</i>				AA	
Dick G.	4	DISCOVERY WOMEN'S		ANNIVERSARY!	
Mike M.	6	Jenna L.	9		
Clyde H.	16	Cathy M.	11		
Herb R.	27				



12 TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON SOBER AND JOYOUS

- 1 Line up extra AA activities for the holiday season.
- 2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.
- 3 Keep you're A.A. telephone list with you all the time.
- 4 Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area.
- 5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.
- 6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't bring an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy
- 7 Don't think you have to stay late.
- 8 Go to church, any church.
- 9 Don't sit around brooding
- 10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday Temptations.
- 11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.
- 12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

Excerpt from Box 459 Bulletin Board



"Members of Alcoholics Anonymous answer a call from a man who admits the liquor habit has completely licked him," the *Sacramento Union Newspaper* of December 12, 1943 reported. In the early days of AA, the fellowship sought and received much more publicity than today. "Fifty per cent of AA 'cures' take effect immediately and are permanent," the article went on to say.

AA PREAMBLE ~ FROM 1940

"We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves.

We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure.

Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover.

An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form.

The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it.

We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation. I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment.

We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book.

If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought you one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A."



IMPATIENT LETTER FROM GOD

DATE: Eternity
 TO: My Children on Earth
 FROM: God
 RE: Idiotic religious rivalries

My Dear Children (and believe Me, that's all of you):

I consider myself a pretty patient Guy. I mean, look at the Grand Canyon. It took millions of years to get it right. And how about evolution? Boy, nothing is slower than designing that whole Darwinian thing to take place, cell by cell and gene by gene. I've even been patient through your fashions, civilizations, wars and schemes, and the countless ways you take Me for granted until you get yourselves into big trouble again and again.

But on this occasion of My Son's birthday, I want to let you know about some things that are starting to tick me off.

First of all, your religious rivalries are driving Me up a wall. Enough already! Let's get one thing straight:

These are your religions, not Mine. I'm the Whole Enchilada; I'm beyond them all. Every one of your religions claims there's only one of Me (which, by the way, is absolutely true). But in the very next breath, each religion claims it's My favorite one. And each claims its bible was written personally by me, and that all the other bibles are man-made. Oh, Me. How do I even begin to put a stop to such complicated nonsense?

Okay, listen up now: I'm your Father and Mother, and I don't play favorites among My Children. Also, I hate to break it to you, but I don't write. My longhand is awful, and I've always been more of a "doer" anyway. So all your books, including the bibles, were written by men and women. They were inspired, remarkable people, but they also made mistakes here and there. I made sure of that, so that you would never trust a written word more than your own living Heart.

You see, one Human Being to me — even a Bum on the street — is worth more than all the holy books in the world. That's just the kind of Guy I Am. My Spirit is not an historical thing, It's alive right here, right now, as fresh as your next breath.

Holy books and religious rites are sacred and powerful, but not more so than the least of You. They were only meant to steer you in the right direction, not to keep you arguing with each other, and certainly not to keep you from trusting your own personal connection with Me.

Which brings Me to My next point about your nonsense: You act like I need you and your religions to stick up for Me or "win souls" for My Sake. Please, don't do Me any favors. I

can stand quite well on my own, thank you. I don't need you to defend Me, and I don't need constant credit. I just want you to be good to each other.

And another thing: I don't get all worked up over money or politics, so stop dragging My name into your dramas. For example, I swear to Me that I never threatened Oral Roberts. I never rode in any of Rajneesh's Rolls Royces. I never told Pat Robertson to run for president, and I've never ever had a conversation with Jim Bakker, Jerry Falwell, or Jimmy Swaggart! Of course, come Judgment Day, I certainly intend to...

The thing is, I want you to stop thinking of religion as some sort of loyalty pledge to Me. The true purpose of your religions is so that you can become more aware of Me, not the other way around. Believe Me, I know you already. I know what's in each of your hearts, and I love you with no strings attached. Lighten up and enjoy Me. That's what religion is best for.

What you seem to forget is how mysterious I Am. You look at the petty little differences in your scriptures and say, "Well, if this is the Truth, then that can't be!" But instead of trying to figure out My Paradoxes and Unfathomable Nature — which, by the way, you never will — why not open your hearts to the simple common threads in every religion?

You know what I'm talking about: Love and respect everyone. Be kind. Even when life is scary or confusing, take courage and be of good cheer, for I Am always with you. Learn how to be quiet, so you can hear My Still, Small Voice (I don't like to shout). Leave the world a better place by living your life with dignity and gracefulness, for you are My Own Child. Hold back nothing from life, for the parts of you that can die will surely die, and the parts that can't, won't. So don't worry, be happy (I stole that last line from Bobby McFerrin, but he stole it from Meher Baba in the first place.)

Simple stuff. Why do you keep making it so complicated? It's like you're always looking for an excuse to be upset. And I'm very tired of being your main excuse. Do you think I care whether you call me Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, Wakan-tonka, Brahma, Father, Mother, or even The Void or Nirvana? Do you think I care which of My Special Children you feel closest to — Jesus, Mary, Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed or any of the others? You can call Me and My Special Ones any name you choose, if only you would go about My business of loving one another as I love you. How can you keep neglecting something so simple?

I'm not telling you to abandon your religions. Enjoy your religions, honor them, learn from them, just as you should enjoy, honor, and learn from your parents. But do you walk around telling everyone that your parents are better than theirs? Your religion, like your parents, may always have the most special place in your heart; I don't mind that at all. And I don't want you to combine all the Great Tradi-

...Continued on page 8



... Continued From Page 7

tions into One Big Mess. Each religion is unique for a reason. Each has a unique style so that people can find the best path for themselves.

But My Special Children — the ones your religions revolve around — all live in the same place (My Heart) and they get along perfectly, I assure you. The clergy must stop creating a myth of sibling rivalry where there is none.

My Blessed Children of Earth, the world has grown too small for your pervasive religious bigotry and confusion. The whole planet is connected by air travel, satellite dishes, telephones, fax machines, rock concerts, diseases, and mutual needs and concerns. Get with the program! If you really want to help Me celebrate the birthday of My Son Jesus, then commit yourselves to figuring out how to feed your hungry, clothe your naked, protect your abused, and shelter your poor. And just as importantly, make your own everyday life a shining example of kindness and good humor. I've given you all the resources you need, if only you abandon your fear of each other and begin living, loving, and laughing together.

Finally, My Children everywhere, remember whose birth is honored on December 25th, and the fearlessness with which He chose to live and die. As I love Him, so do I love each one of you. I'm not really ticked off, I just wanted to grab your attention because I hate to see you suffer. But I gave you Free Will, so what can I do now other than to try to influence you through reason, persuasion, and a little old-fashioned guilt and manipulation? After all, I Am the original Jewish Mother. I just want you to be happy, and I'll sit in The Dark. I really Am, indeed, I swear, with you always. Always. Trust In Me.

Your One and Only,
God

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AS THEY SAID...

"There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Albert Einstein (1875 -1955)

"The only difference between me and a madman is -- I'm not mad."

Salvatore Dali (1904 -1989)

"If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it how to dance."

George Bernard Shaw (1856 -1950)

"Whenever I climb, I am followed by a dog named "Ego."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

"I have not failed. I have just found

10,000 ways that won't work."

Thomas Alva Edison (1847 - 1931)

When asked the secret to a long and happy life, she said she had learned to "Fill what's empty, empty what's full, and scratch where it itches."

Duchess of Windsor (? -1986)

CHOICES

We have the choice of two paths before us - - - at every moment.

One ascends to peace of mind, serenity, happiness, power, success, making a positive contribution to humanity.

One descends to drunkenness, misery, loneliness, poverty, ugliness, failure, disease, jail.

To choose the first path, we must be clean and sober.

The second path requires just one drink.

LISTEN

When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel that you have to do something to solve my problem -- you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Listen!! All I asked was that you listen; not talk or do-- just hear me.

Advice is cheap: 50 cents will get you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham in the same newspaper.

And I can do for myself; I'm not helpless. Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and weakness.

But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can quit trying to convince you and can get about the business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling.

Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them.

So, please *listen* and just hear me.

And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn... and I'll listen to you.



The Legacy of Recovery

The Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

Many of us, upon first seeing those words, asked ourselves the question "Can it be just that simple?" -- and then heard a voice inside us answer, "Yes."

Bill's application of AA principles to ever-changing circumstances was another of his remarkable talents. Day in and day out, letters would arrive at his desk asking for his "last word" on a matter of AA policy. And, in answer after answer Bill would fall back upon the basic principles of AA's three Legacies, tempered by wisdom, humor, perspective, and regard for the feelings of others.

One warm example occurred in 1968 when a well-meaning AA wrote to Bill, in deep concern, about an influx of youthful hippies or flower children to local AA groups, along with their distinctive manner of dress, sexual mores, and other unorthodox behavior, including the use of drugs. The writer feared that this particular invasion might be "a very real threat to our wonderful, God-given program."

Bill's reply was typical of his use of AA principles to meet new challenges:

"Your letter about the hippie problem, so-called, was mighty interesting to me. I doubt that we need to be alarmed about this situation, because there have been precedents out of the past. All sorts of outfits have tried to move in on us, including communists and heroin addicts, prohibitionists and do-gooders of other persuasions.

"Nearly all of these people, who happened to have an individual problem with alcohol, not only failed to change AA, but, in the long run, AA changed them. I have a number of them among my closest friends today, and they are among the best AA's I know.

"You also have some people who are not alcoholics, but are addicts of other kinds. A great many AAs have taken pity on these people, and have actually tried to make them full-fledged AA's. Of course, their identification with alcoholics is no good at all, and the groups themselves easily stop this practice in the normal course of AA affairs.

"Thoughtful AAs, however, encourage these sponsors to bring addicts to open meetings, just as they would any other interested people. In the end, these addicts usually gravitate to other forms of therapy. They are not received on the platform in open meetings unless they have an alcohol problem, and closed meetings are, of course, denied them. We know that we cannot do everything for everybody with an addiction problem.

"There has also occurred lately a new development centering upon hippies who have LSD or marijuana troubles -- not so much stronger stuff. Many of these kids appear to be alcoholics also, and they are flocking into AA, often with excellent results.

"Some weeks ago, there was a young people's convention of AAs. Shortly thereafter, four of these kids visited the office. I saw one young gal prancing down the hall, hair flying, in a mini-skirt, wearing love beads and the works. I thought, 'Holy smoke, what now!' She told me she was the oldest member of the young people's group in her area -- age twenty-two! They had kids as young as sixteen. I was curious and took the whole party out to lunch.

"Well, they were absolutely wonderful. They talked (and acted) just about as good a kind of AA as I've seen anywhere. I think all of them said they had had some kind of drug problem, but had kicked that, too. When they first came around, they had insisted on their own ideas of AA, but in the end they found AA plenty good enough as it was. Though they needed their own meetings, they found interest and inspiration in the meetings of much older folks as well.

"Perhaps, as younger people come into AA, we shall have to put up with some unconventional nonsense -- with patience and good humor, let's hope. But it should be well worth the attempt. And also, if various hippie addicts want to form their own sort of fellowship along AA lines, by all means let us encourage them. We need deny them only the AA name, and assure them that the rest of our program is theirs for the taking and using -- any part or all of it.

"For these reasons, I feel hopeful and not a bit scared by this trend. Of course, I'm no prophet. I may be mistaken, so please keep me posted. This is a highly interesting and perhaps significant development. I certainly do not think it ought to be fought. Instead, it ought to be encouraged in what we already know to be workable channels.

In affection ... Bill"

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1940 - <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> begins series of 4 articles on AA by N. Hamilton	1943 - <i>San Quentin News</i> reports "Mr. Bill" speaking to 300 inmates at their AA meeting	1944 - Australia is the first country outside the U.S. to have AA	1938 - Bill begins writing the 12 Steps using ideas from the Oxford Group		1979 - <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> reports death of Henrietta Sieberling 1939 - Bert, the tailor, lends \$1,000 to Works Publishing Co.
7	1949 - Sister Ignatia accepts Poverello medal of St. Francis on behalf of AA from Franciscan College of Steubenville, Ohio	1940 - St. Louis, MO, AA group is founded	2003 - <i>District 6 Business Meeting, IRCC Main Campus, 7:30PM</i> 1939 - Bill leaves NY to visit AA groups in Akron, Detroit and Cleveland	2003 - <i>Central Office Business Meeting, Newport Club, 7PM</i> 1934 - Bill W. takes his last drink and enters Towns Hospital in NYC	1937 - Bill W. meets with Rockefeller Foundation hoping to raise money	1934 - Bill has "spiritual experience" in Towns Hospital and the mental obsession to drink is removed
14		1982 - Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and AA's first archivist, retires but continues as an ambassador - at-large for AA as a passionate advocate of AA history	1995 - The AA Archives in Akron are dedicated		1939 - The first AA meeting in Los Angeles is held in a private home	1950 - Paramount changes the title of "Mr. & Mrs. Anonymous" to "Something to Live For." Movie deals with the "wonderful work of AA"
21		1934 - Bill and Lois start attending the Oxford Group meetings with Ebby T.	2003 - <i>ALKATHONS BEGIN AT 4 PM Newport Club and Sebastian Yacht Club</i>	CHRISTMAS 2003 - <i>ALKATHONS continue through till 4PM</i> 1949 - Dr. Bob's last visit to St. Thomas Hospital's alcoholic ward where he helped 1,000s of drunks		1893 - Rev. Sam Shoemaker is born. He was head of Oxford Group in U.S. and pastor of Calvary Chapel in NY. Ebby took Bill to Calvary's Mission on 23 rd St. in NYC.
28			2003 - <i>ALKATHONS BEGIN AT 4 PM Newport Club and Sebastian Yacht Club</i> 1941 - San Diego AA holds its first New Year's Eve dance in a ballroom in the basement of the Maryland Hotel on F Street.			



• Twelve Qualities of Sponsorship •

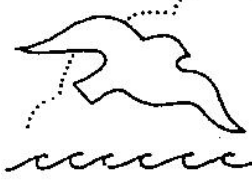
1. I will not help you to stay and wallow in limbo.
2. I will help you to grow, to become more productive, by your definition.
3. I will help you become more autonomous, more loving of yourself, more excited, less sensitive, more free to become the authority for your own living.
4. I can not give you dreams or "fix you up" simply because I cannot.
5. I can not give you growth, or grow for you. You must grow for yourself by facing reality, grim as it may be at times.
6. I can not take away your loneliness or your pain.
7. I can not sense your world for you, evaluate your goals for you, tell you what is best for your world; because you have your own world in which you must live.
8. I can not convince you of the necessity to make the vital decision of choosing the frightening uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of remaining static.
9. I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend; yet I can not get close to you when you choose not to grow.
10. When I begin to care for you out of pity or when I begin to lose faith in you, then I am inhibiting growth both for you and for me.
11. You must know and understand my help is conditional. I will be with you and "hang in there" with you so long as I continue to get even the slightest hint that you are still trying to grow.
12. If you can accept this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults, leaving

• 12 Signs of a Spiritual Awakening •

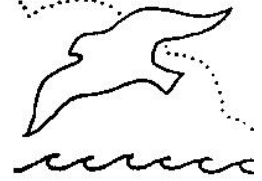
1. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
2. Frequent attacks of smiling.
3. Feelings of being connected with others and nature.
4. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
5. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fears based on past experience.
6. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
7. A loss of ability to worry.
8. A loss of interest in conflict.
9. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
10. A loss of interest in judging others.
11. A loss of interest in judging self.
12. Gaining the ability to love without expecting anything in return.



HOW



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