



The Twelfth Step

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

The Twelfth Tradition

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

Here we are at year’s end! We shall go out this month with a poem from our oft times contributor Bill P. Look at the things to do, and find a way to go out and meet your fellow AAers.

Next month I would like to print your articles, poems, snippets, thoughts, on what you did in the early days of sobriety to help you live one day at a time.; how to stay in the day, etc.

To all of you, newcomers, new friends, old friends, all the faces I see at all the meetings, thank you for spurring me on to service. I hope your year has been one filled with gratitude, love, fun and fellowship. I hope next year will find your lives filled with even more. Greetings of the Season!

We are the fellowship and the fellowship needs ‘we’.

In service, Judy

South Jersey AA Contact information

Website: www.aasj.org

AA information: toll free 856-920-1212

AA office: 856-486-4446

Newsletter: newsletter@aasj.org

“When anyone anywhere, reaches our t for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. For that I am responsible.”



Steering Committee Meeting Highlights

Intergroup Chair: Frank will be at the Day of Sharing on 10/16. Full report to follow next month.

Answering Service: Monday overnight shift needs a volunteer. Still in need of volunteers for the back up list

Archives: Continuing to work on group histories. Make sure your group's is sent in.

Budget & Finance: proposed budget handed out in Sept will be voted on in Dec. Committee is in need of a co-chair.

H&I: Always in need of people willing to do service—check your e mail or the aasj.org website.

Literature: Road Show is going along quite well; Volunteers are still needed to help out. Literature is looking for volunteers for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights in the Intergroup office.

Meeting List: There are new meeting lists now available.

Newsletter: The monthly newsletter is now available on the aasj.org website. Thanks to Dan the website man and his helper Andy for this success.

Unity: In the works are Alkathons for Christmas and New Years. These events will run 24 hours, starting at 6 pm on the eve of the holiday and going till 6 pm on the day of the holiday. Volunteers are encouraged to help.

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Practicing These Principles

BILL says, in "The Milestones Ahead," "It is true that the love of one drunk for another is wonderful to behold." As we go all out to help another alkie in our Twelfth Step work, he says, "there is an expression of almost pure love, the kind of love that has no price tag on it." But in our association with others (to quote Bill again) "are we able to carry these principles into all our affairs? We sometimes quarrel a great deal, not often about things that matter too much, but there is a great deal of unnecessary anger, ambition, pride, a tendency to cling to people. All the problems of personal relationships which have to do with an emotional sobriety, a happy sobriety, are yet far from solution.

"It is plain to all of us that unless this society can develop enough brotherhood and partnership amongst its members, we shall some day fall into disunity, and the basis of partnership and brotherhood has to be greatly improved personal relations."

All of which brings to mind the following thoughts. It sometimes seems as though we are the most scrappy bunch of people in society. Small wonder, since before AA we fought in the saloons and then went home and fought with our wives for no reason at all. Then we fortunately found AA but we just don't get well over night. We find fault with the manner in which our group Secretary and Chairmen conduct the meetings; we engage in factional disputes regarding inter-group affairs, and complain about AA business in general. But doesn't most of this occur because we think that matters are not being conducted in the best possible manner? Perhaps since we are all so enthusiastic about our wonderful program, and being a super-critical lot to start with, we are unconsciously only trying to protect and guard it against anything that we think might prove injurious. In the final analysis, don't we all want to do only what is good for AA? Then we have no major differences but differ only in our opinion as to how best to do good, which is, after all, only a matter of detail. Thus, perhaps the remedy for our problems is already available through the application of our First and Second Traditions in the following manner:

When a question involving a difference of opinion arises, all members of the group can be invited to express their opinion on the subject. Then all the facts pertaining to the subject will be presented which makes it much easier to judge the issue in a fair and impartial way. Since our first tradition says "personal recovery depends upon AA unity," it would make sense to be certain that our unity comes first. We can play it safe by adopting the policy used by the General Service Conference which provides that no action should be taken on any question unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the Conference members. A mere majority should not authorize action because if even a small minority are in opposition, this would tend to destroy our unity. But the important thing is that by asking the entire group to voice its sentiments, we are using our Second Tradition, which says: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience." Here we tie ourselves to the greatest power in existence, the power that really makes AA tick. If we are sincere in our approach this plan will invariably give us the right answer as the group conscience speaks.

When working in AA we are dealing with the most precious commodity in the world, human lives. Since we all have the same disease, God knows we do need, and have a right to expect, the help of one another.

If we waste time in petty bickering, we are not only jeopardizing our own serenity and sobriety but are also endangering the chances of recovery for "the millions who don't yet know."

Therefore, it behooves us to remember at all times that in our association with one another, our AA unity must come first.

Grapevine, 1954, GB, Columbus Ohio

Tradition Twelve

The Faces of Anonymity.

“Who you see here, what you hear here, let it stay here” is a line that you will often hear at meetings; although I like the way I heard it on an audio from a 1950 AA meeting, *“What you hear here, take that with you, who you see here, leave that here.”*

Either way, the idea is Anonymity and that is what the Twelfth Tradition is all about.

Our text tells how the early AA’s felt the need to remain somewhat reclusive as the number of requests for help might overwhelm them. Keep in mind that our entire fellowship numbered less than might show up for an anniversary meeting these days.

Our readings also warn against the urge to get in the limelight, for the best of intentions. The press of the day thought that AA was absolutely marvelous and also mysterious and wanted to know a lot more. Few of us today are celebrities, but we may well be influential to others and if we promote AA and then fall short in other areas, even without drinking, we may be doing AA harm by our disclosure. AA may be judged by the way we act. You may be the only copy of the Big Book a person ever sees

There is more to safeguarding individual anonymity than just protecting AA. The world does not have the understanding of Alcoholism that we do in AA. Can you blame them? We didn’t know what it was and we were living with it! There are sometimes negative ideas about what an Alcoholic is and what recovery from Alcoholism is all about. Too much disclosure too soon might be harmful to the AA in early recovery. If you have to explain your recovery, our literature often explains things a lot better than we can. Use the pamphlets available at group meetings

Another aspect of Anonymity might be that we all have one purpose in coming to AA. For one reason or another, usually one of the three ‘L’s, your Liver, your Lover or the Law, we arrive at an AA meeting. Hopefully whatever brought us here, we find that it is the right place for us to be and we stay. What we do outside the rooms, what we have, what we have done, what we believe, is all incidental. The Anonymity of AA is that we are all the same and working towards the same goal, recovery from Alcoholism. The AA with twenty years and the AA with Twenty days sit side by side. We all started with one day and we all have today. From Yale to Jail. From Penn State or the State Penn as the sayings go. We are all here because we weren’t all there! We are all trudging that same road to Happy Destiny

The Twelfth Tradition speaks of Principles before Personalities. That is easier to say than do sometimes, but our goal nonetheless. The proof that it works is an AA International Convention. Fifty Thousand strangers who feel that they all know one another. Any AA convention, gathering or meeting is the same thing or should be. We AA’s are truly fortunate people. There is probably no other fellowship like ours and Anonymity keeps it all together.

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

Anonymous, Washington Twp

Fellowship Announcements and Things To Do

Friday, December 10 - Casalan Group 53rd Anniversary. AL-AN Club, 761 Cass St., Trenton, NJ 7:30PM. Special Guest Speaker: Cynthia W. of the Big Book Study Group of Harlem.

Friday, December 10 - "How Important Is It" Group Christmas Candlelight Meeting starts at 8 PM. Holiday banquet after meeting. St Charles Borromeo Church School. Stagecoach & Johnson Roads, Washington Township.

Wednesday, December 13 - 13th Annual "Friends of Bill" Men's Christmas Dinner. 6:00PM. Nicolosi's Catering, Hessian Ave. & Rt. 45, West Deptford, NJ. \$40/pp. All proceeds support "Hope Hall VOA" Children's Christmas Party. Tix: Jack W- 856-768-1039, Jack H- 856-456-5909, Rudy N- 856-906-2980, Frank H- 215-280-5733.

Thursday, December 16 - 2010 Holiday Meeting - OSTRALIA - Open Step and Tradition Meeting. Cross Keys United Methodist Church, North Main Street and Cross Keys Road Williamstown, NJ

7:00 PM: Eating - 8:00 PM Speaker

December 31, 2010 New Year's Eve! Fun, Friends and Fellowship abound at the **NEW BEGINNINGS** Club in Runnemede. From 9pm to 1 am. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the door. There will be food, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Contact Anna for more info 856-981-7021

March 18-20, 2011, Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center & Marina, Solomons MD South Maryland Roundup First Southern Maryland Roundup. \$30 Registration fee per person. All workshops, speakers, dance and fellowship opportunities are included in the registration fee. Tickets for the buffet dinner with speakers will be sold separately. Hotel patrons have easy access to boating, exploring, and enjoying breath taking sunsets and cool breezes. Accommodations are extra, and are being reserved at \$104, so reserve by 2/18/2011.

See www.southernmarylandroundup.org for information, including flyer and registration form.

March 25-27 Area 45 CONVENTION, Cherry Hill—make your plans now!!

April 1-3 - Couples Escape Weekend @ St. Mary of Providence Center, 222 Isabella Rd. Elverson, PA

19520. Put the zing back in your **relationship**. Come join us for an escape weekend with other recovering couples (of all ages). \$260 per couple covers room and board in a beautiful setting. For more info call: Wayne @ 856- 534- 0104.

May 12 - 15, 2011 - 6th Annual International Seniors in Sobriety Conference. Holiday Inn, Long Island. Workshops; A.A. & Alanon Meetings & Speakers; Spiritual Conference; Fellowship & Banquet. Tour of "Stepping Stones" Home of Bill W. & Lois. Contacts: Coni M. cmot@optonline.net, Nancy O. nomh@optonline.net, Nancy B. nblomberg@segalco.com

June 10-12, 2011 is the 21st Annual Akron Founders Day Trip. South Jersey takes on Akron!! \$400.00 suggested price for transportation, accommodations and food.

"Miracles Do Happen"

A gift was handed to me one day.
From our "God" who lives up above.
I peeked inside and there I saw contents like,Patience,Tolerance and Love.

These traits I've always wanted, but never knew how to ask for.
There was more inside the box, I could never have asked for more!

"He"said, Son, please just learn these, then pass it on to another.
Someone who really wants this, A future AA sister or brother.

Have to give it away to keep this.
Now, Who can I give it to??
I may never know who accepted this
But I'm sure this will see them through.

Their pain, the doubts and worries
Surely in time will be removed
As long as they pass it on too
Then the "Miracle" will be proved!

There are many other contents
to be used "One Day At A Time"
Their Sobriety then can be achieved.
With not any reason or rhyme.

The "Miracle" then can take place
As so many others can say
Have to Give it away,to keep it
There sure seems to be no other way!

All have a blessed Holiday,full of peace!
remember, "Miracles never Cease"

Bill P