

ANONYMOUS SOUTHJERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

JUNE 2019

Character Defects?

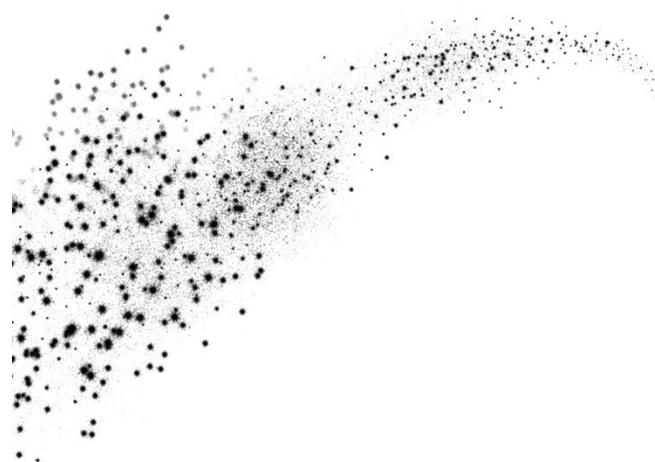
Step Six: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“Defects of character? Really?
Or were they all just the characteristics
that made me *me*?
Like alcohol. Alcohol made me *me*!

So I have to become willing to be relieved of all these defects of character? Really? All of them? Then who will I be? And how can I expect to let go of all of myself even if I wanted to? I mean...that would almost be as difficult as letting go of alcohol, wouldn't it? Hmm...the alcohol that I haven't had a drink of since embarking on this journey, right? Wait! The alcohol for which the obsession has been lifted? How did that happen? I merely became honest that I was powerless over it, asked my Higher Power to remove that obsession and became willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen. And the obsession was lifted thus far?

So if God removed that obsession, maybe God could remove my defects of character, too? Wouldn't that be nice? Okay, if it's possibly that easy then I'd be willing. *Entirely* willing.”

That's the conversation I had with myself that got me entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. I was sitting in the shade on a grassy hillside on the grounds of a rehab called Ten Acre Ranch in warm and sunny Southern California where I went to get sober. It was actually beyond warm. It was hot and the sun was beating down and I could literally *see* it beating down



just beyond the shade where I sat contemplating the 5th step I just completed out in a horse pasture with my sponsor. I was exhausted and closed my eyes for a few minutes to think about what this 6th step meant to me and whether it was time to ask for God's help in the next step. When I realized I might doze off before I was finished with my thoughts, I abruptly opened my eyes and saw many tiny little white lights swirling around and flying away from me. Little white squiggly lights that were so in focus yet so clearly leaving my field of vision. What could that be? Was I really even seeing this or was it my imagination?

In my analytic, over-thinking, alcoholic mind I thought that must just be pollen blowing around in the wind and shining in the sun as seen by my weary, dried-out, sun-squinty eyes. BUT...
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Inside This Issue: ♦ SJI Trivia ♦ Area 45 Events ♦ Opportunities for Service ♦
♦ Announcements and Things to Do ♦

in my newly clear and recovering and *open mind*, I decided it was as many of the character defects that I was ready to be rid of leaving the confines of my former self. Once I let it be that I immediately felt an almost tangible sense of relief. What a liberating and uplifting feeling! And you know what? I realized how ready I was in that moment and it cleared the way for me to ask for help in the next step with some of the more challenging ones that would take a little more deliberate work. I was entirely ready...to work on myself.

Opening my mind and being ready for this step was a much needed start to becoming a better person in sobriety than I had ever tried to be before.

Ray C

Moorestown Men Into Action

TRADITION 6: A Common Sense Approach

Inviting cooperation, avoiding affiliation

The Fifth Tradition tells us what the primary purpose, or spiritual aim, of an AA group is: "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Anything that interferes with this or confuses people about what is and is not AA can compromise the mission of Alcoholics Anonymous. This where the Sixth Tradition comes in.

Many years ago, I served on a local AA convention committee. A member of the committee also served on the board of an alcoholism agency, which held an annual "fun run" to raise money. The committee member suggested that the convention allow runners to register, pay for the race, and select an alcoholism agency T-shirt through the AA convention registration form. At first the convention committee approved the idea. After all, the money would simply be run through the convention account and turned over to the agency, the "fun run" was the same weekend as the convention, most of the runners would be AA members anyway, and it would be a convenience for everybody,

right? But soon, uncomfortable murmurs were heard during convention committee meetings. Someone cited a line from the long form of Tradition Six: "While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied." With that clarification, the committee voted down the proposal, and the member who suggested the idea graciously accepted the decision.

When I was new in AA, some AA groups at a nearby men's recovery home named themselves after the facility, and they were listed that way in the AA meeting schedule. This created some hard feelings in the AA community. Eventually, the AA group changed its name so it wouldn't look like it was affiliated with the recovery home.

Sometimes alcoholism treatment programs advertise themselves as "AA-oriented" or "based on twelve steps," or in a manner that includes the initials "AA," often to trade on the good name of AA. Although only AA members acting in their AA capacities can compromise our Traditions, this usage has concerned many AA members because of the potential for confusion between AA and these treatment programs. To the extent that local AA groups allow this to go unchallenged, this practice can compromise the spirit of the Sixth Tradition, which includes actual and implied affiliation of AA with related facilities.

In its early years, AA was closely tied to hospitals—that's where many of our early members were introduced to AA. Over time, however, we have found a middle course that fits with our principles of cooperation rather than affiliation.

It took many years for AA to clarify its relationship to clubs. In the early years, AA itself even referred to "AA clubs," now more often called "alano" clubs to signify that they are outside of AA. In 1972, the General Service Conference recommended that the General Service Office (GSO) no longer accept contributions from clubs, but GSO could, of course, continue to accept contributions from AA groups that meet in clubs. In 1989, the Conference decided not to list clubs in the AA directories, further shoring up the distinction between AA and clubs. (Continued on page 3)

Some years ago, I visited an old AA friend in a distant city, and we attended a meeting of a local AA group. At the end of the meeting, I was surprised to hear the treasurer report that he had made a group contribution to a nearby detox center. When I later asked my friend about this, he agreed that this use of group funds was an example of an AA group financing a related facility. But he had been tilting against that windmill ever since he moved to town and hadn't made much progress.

Another time, at an area assembly, a petition was circulated asking the county government to fund a treatment facility for alcoholics. Several people objected and suggested that petition-signing should be done outside the rooms of AA. The petitioners agreed and moved the petition drive to the parking lot.

It's easy to take affiliation issues too far. I don't think that using a particular brand of coffee at an AA meeting means that AA is endorsing that brand of coffee. Nor do I think that meeting in a church or hospital means that AA is affiliated with them--as long as AA pays its own way. Affiliation problems generally concern non-AA efforts to deal with alcoholism. Common sense takes care of most of these issues.

AA has clarified its relationship to non-AA literature several times. In 1972, our General Service Conference recommended: "It be suggested that when a local AA facility (central office, inter-group, group, etc.) sells non-Conference-approved literature, it be clearly designated as such." In 1975, the Conference said, "Previous Conference

action to display non-Conference-approved literature and Conference-approved literature separately be reaffirmed." In 1976, the Conference even told the GSO to stop distributing a non-AA biography of Bill W.! In 1977, the Conference got more pointed by stating, "It was suggested that AA groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine." I don't see nearly as much non-AA literature at AA meetings as I used to.

Of course, Conference approval does not imply disapproval of other literature. Conference approval is sought for our literature so people can distinguish between AA and non-AA literature. This is entirely within the spirit of the Sixth Tradition, in that it lessens the chance of a group looking like it endorses the publications or programs of something outside AA. Of course, we are perfectly free (and are encouraged) to read anything we believe will help us in our recovery from alcoholism.

Much of our everyday practice in AA is aimed at preventing issues of money, property, or prestige from diverting us from our primary purpose. When this spirit of the Sixth Tradition infuses our AA life, AA remains so strong that a group's ability "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers" cannot be shaken.

-- Paul C.

Oceanside, California

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This Month's Trivia Question

What is the Name the location of

Dr. William D. Silkworth's final resting place ?



Answering Service Shifts: We currently have six open shifts and need your help to spread the word that service commitments are available for the following shifts. Please make announcements at the meetings you attend and have anyone interested contact us: Sunday O/N (overnight) spot from 10PM-8AM, Weds from 6-8PM, Friday O/N from 10PM-8AM, and Saturday O/N from 10PM-8AM

12-step list: Please continue to remind everyone that more volunteers are need for the 12-step list. We have a signup sheets available for anyone wishing to take a copy to their home groups. Please contact the Answering service committee for more details. If you know anyone who would like to be of service, please have them contact us at answeringservice@aasj.org.

Public Information: We have 4 programs scheduled at local high schools for members to talk in health classes and carry the message. If anyone wishes to do service please contact Public Information at publicinfo@aasj.org.

Area 45:

GSO Corrections: Volunteers are needed to correspond with fellow A.A. members inside correctional facilities. Sign up by completing the form on the Corrections Correspondence pamphlet (F-26) or contacting Area45corrections@gmail.com.

Editorial Policy

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are printed with permission from AA World Services, Inc., and/or the AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from readers are encouraged—you can write about your experience, strength and hope in general, or you can focus on one of the steps or traditions. You can also write about something that touched you at a meeting, something that bothered you at a meeting, or some service commitment you especially enjoy. Submissions are edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish flyers for events in this newsletter. However, we are happy to include your gathering in the general list of fellowship announcements.

Please send your submissions to newsletter@aasj.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SJ INTERGROUP:

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Website: www.aasj.org
24-Hour Hotline 1-856-486-4444

SJIG holds its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 pm at: St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
1989 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ

This Month In A.A. History

1935: Men on a mission

Dr. Bob lapses into drinking again but quickly recovers. The day widely known as the date of Dr. Bob's last drink, **June** 10, 1935, is celebrated as the founding date of Alcoholics Anonymous. Dr. Bob and Bill spend hours working out the best approach to alcoholics, a group known to be averse to taking directions. Realizing that thinking of sobriety for a day at a time makes it seem more achievable than facing a lifetime of struggle, they hit on the twenty-four hour concept.

1941: The Serenity Prayer

Ruth Hock receives a newspaper clipping of the Serenity Prayer that had been printed in the *New York Herald Tribune* in **June** 1941. Ruth and many A.A. members in New York and elsewhere all immediately feel this prayer's relevancy to A.A.'s principles. Soon, the prayer is printed on cards and is being passed out to A.A. members everywhere. The prayer has since become a central part of A.A. heard in meetings around the world. The prayer's authorship is generally attributed to well-known Protestant theologian Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr.

1944: The AA Grapevine debuts

An eight-page bulletin intended to bring A.A. news to members (including soldiers overseas) expands to become the Fellowship's official magazine, with the first issue published in **June** 1944. It comes to be called A.A.'s "meeting in print."

1947: The A.A. Preamble

In the **June** 1947 edition of the A.A. Grapevine, a statement defining the Fellowship and its mission appears for the first time. The statement, known as the A.A. Preamble, is quickly adopted by A.A. groups and becomes a standard inclusion in A.A. literature.

(Brought to you by the Archives Committee)

SPEAKING COMMITMENTS

MAY 2019

Monday

Maryville Women's – Williamstown NJ [May 27 8-9pm](#)
[1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ](#)

Tuesday

Delaware House – Westampton NJ [May 21 2-3pm](#)
[21 Ikea Drive, Westampton NJ](#)

Wednesday

Jefferson MICA Unit – Cherry Hill NJ [May 29 12-1pm](#)
[2201 Chapel Ave W, Cherry Hill NJ](#)

Unity Place I – Cherry Hill NJ [May 22, 29 12:40-1:30pm](#) 1
[Keystone Ave, Cherry Hill NJ](#)

Solstice Counseling – Pemberton NJ [May 29 12-1pm](#)
[300 Birmingham Road, Pemberton NJ](#)

Thursday

Ancora – Hammonton NJ [May 16, 23, 30 7-8pm](#)
[202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ](#)

Unity Place II – Hammonton NJ [May 16, 23, 30 10-11am](#) 121
[S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ](#)

Pinelands Recovery (new building) – Medford NJ [May 23 7-8pm](#)
[283 Old Marlton Pike, Medford NJ](#)

Daybreak – MICA – Atco NJ [May 16, 30 10:30am-12pm](#)
[368 White Horse Pike, Atco NJ](#)

Friday

Jefferson Psych Unit – Cherry Hill NJ [May 31 7-8pm](#)
[2201 Chapel Ave Cherry Hill NJ](#)

Maryville Post House – Pemberton NJ [May 31 8-9pm](#)
[610 Browns Mills Road, Pemberton NJ](#)

JUNE 2019

Sunday

Inspira Psych Unit – Woodbury NJ [June 23, 30 4-5pm](#)
[509 N Broad St, Woodbury NJ](#)

Monday

Kingsway Recovery – Mullica Hill NJ [June 3, 24 7-8pm](#)
[124 Bridgeton Park, Mullica Hill NJ](#)

Tuesday

Delaware House – Westampton NJ [June 4, 18, 25 2-3pm](#)
[21 Ikea Drive, Westampton NJ](#)

Wednesday

Jefferson MICA Unit – Cherry Hill NJ [June 5, 19 12-1pm](#)
[2201 Chapel Ave W, Cherry Hill NJ](#)

Solstice Counseling – Pemberton NJ [June 19 12-1pm](#)
[300 Birmingham Road, Pemberton NJ](#)

Thursday

Ancora – Hammonton NJ [June 20](#), 27 [7-8pm](#)
[202 Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ](#)

Unity Place II – Hammonton NJ [June 6](#), 13, 20, 27 [10-11am](#)
121 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ

Daybreak – MICA – Atco NJ [June 20](#), 27 [10:30am-12pm](#) 368
White Horse Pike, Atco NJ

Saturday

Cooper Psych – Camden NJ [June 1](#), 22, 29 [10:30-11:30am](#)
[1 Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ](#)

Announcements & Things to do

Sunday, May 19th - Area 45 Spring Assembly, registration begins 8:30am, DCM/GSR Orientation 8:45am, Assembly 10:00am; Committee Meeting to follow. Elmer Grange Hall, 535 Daretown Rd, Elmer, NJ 08318

Mon. May 20 - Wenonah BB eating meeting 38th anniversary 6:30 pm desserts and snacks starts followed by 2 speakers @ 7:30 pm. snacks and desserts greatly appreciated. @ Glassboro & Mantua Rd. Wenonah.

Mon. May 20 - Masonville Group 28th. Anny 6:00 PM Food & Refreshments 7:00 PM Special Guest Speakers Masonville UM Church 200 Masonville/Ark Rd. Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

* SJIG Literature Road Show Visiting *

Thurs. May 23 - West Deptford "A New Day" group will celebrate their 7th anniversary at Southwood Baptist Ch. 11 Griscom Lane West Deptford. Starting at 7:30am sharp with a continental breakfast and meeting as usual. more info call Wayne @ 856-534-0104

Friday, May 31 – Moorestown Barber Group 56th Anniversary. Trinity Episcopal Church, Main St., Moorestown, NJ. Pizza at 7:00 PM. Speakers at 8:00 PM.

Saturday June 8th – Founder's Day Celebration 11 – 4PM Calvary Church 317 Conrow Rd Delran SJIG & Districts 3 & 26 learn about Service in AA

June 7-9 - Akron Founder's Day their 84th anniversary sponsored by Akron, Ohio intergroup - more info google Founder's Day AA.

June 9th Voorhees Big Book will celebrate 16 years @ Hope Church. 6PM FFF 7:00 2 Speakers The Meeting Place 500 CooperRd. Voorhees

June 9 - Egg Harbor City district 16/17 will sponsor a Founder's Day event. 9am breakfast , 10am - 12noon panel. @ 351 Cincinnati Ave. Egg Harbor City.

Mon, June 10 - The Palmyra Group will hold its 27th Anniversary on at the Epworth United Methodist Church located at 5th and Morgan Ave, Palmyra at 7pm with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 PM.

Saturday June 29 - Your World in AA 10 AM – 2PM Brooklawn Senior Center