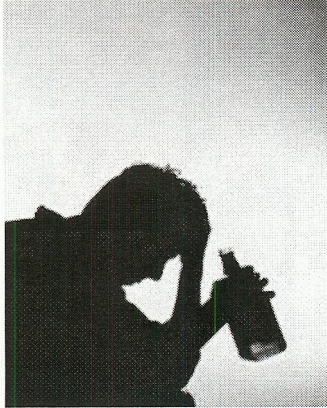




The Awakening

August, 2006

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE:

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose--that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition Five

Because it has now become plain enough that only a recovered alcoholic can do much for a sick alcoholic, a tremendous responsibility has descended upon us all, an obligation so great that it amounts to a sacred trust. For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So the society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not ever be diverted from its primary purpose.

Temptation to do otherwise will come aplenty... people will commence to assert that A.A. is a brand new way of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live.

...Fantastic, you say. Yet some of our well-wishers have begun to say such things. Of this subtle vintage may we never drink too deeply. May we never forget that we live by the Grace of God--on borrowed time; that anonymity is better than acclaim; that for us as a movement poverty is better than wealth.

And may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at our best except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of A.A.--"*That of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers alcoholism.*" -- **Bill W., April 1948**

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in audiocassette versions at cost (\$30) from Central Office or by ordering it from our literature table.

PRIMARY PURPOSE IN ACTION: ONE STORY

"...my friend said to me, "You're a nice guy when you're sober, but when you drink, everything goes crazy." For a moment, I felt like I was looking in a mirror. The only reason I was a nice guy when I was sober was because I felt guilty and ashamed of the things that I had done when I was drinking. There was nothing left in my life that was decent, clean, and honest. My response to her was, "I'm going to do something about that."

Latest that day, I called the operator for information and was given the AA number. I called, and said those fateful words, "My name is Joe and I'm an alcoholic." Two men came to see me, and the first thing they asked was, "Can you say that alcohol made you do things you wouldn't normally do?" That hooked me into the Fellowship.

...I'm really happy that I was led into the Steps right away. As the result of doing the Fourth and Fifth Steps in my third month, I experienced the beginnings of the spiritual awakening that I believe has kept me sober all these years. For me, the greatest promise of the program is the one in the Twelfth Step. It tells me I will have a spiritual awakening as the result of the Steps. I know I need that awakening to have a chance to stay sober.

— Joe B., British Columbia © The Grapevine, May 2005



The Sunset Group

Thursdays at 7:00 pm
Jewish Community Center
13164 Burbank Boulevard
Sherman Oaks, California

August 3

Patrick G. of Lompoc

August 10

*Scott T. of Coldbrook,
N.Y.*

August 17

*John C. of Santa
Barbara*

August 24

Nancy C. of Downey

August 31

Marion G. of Lancaster

September 7

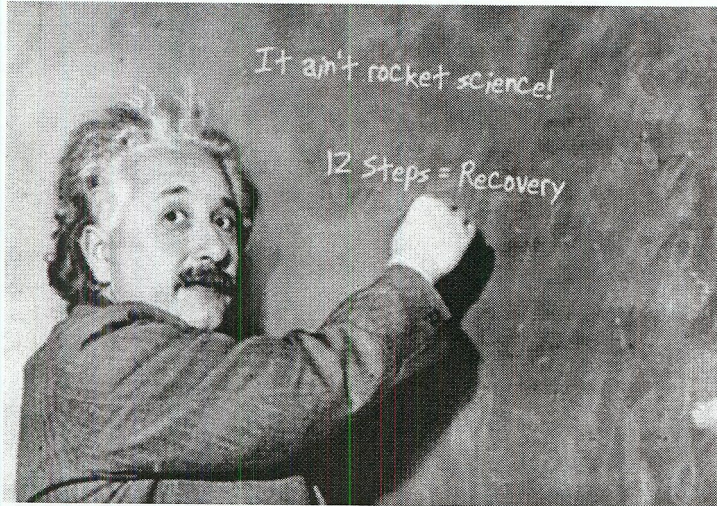
TBA

September 14

Karen G. of Bellflower

The Awakening

A publication of the Sunrise Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



**YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
EINSTEIN TO
WORK THE
STEPS!**

*The Sunrise Group
Starts the Journey
every Saturday
morning at 8:15.
Join us and see!*

STEP ONE: "WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL--THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE."

We often hear we have to "hit bottom" before we can accept the message. Here is one recovered alcoholic's thoughts on this crucial first step:

"HIT BOTTOM" = Hurting Inside Totally Burnt Out Turn To Our Master

Hitting Bottom is the process that brings us back to the God we have abandoned, which the disease of Alcoholism got me to do. I did it, but the disease made me do it, because it's become my master.

**The equation: Powerless = No Power God = Power
therefore Powerless = Godless.**

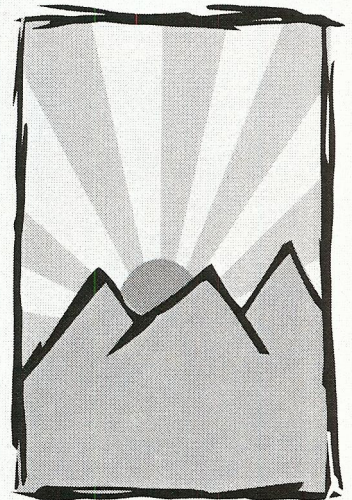
Mickey B.

AN OPEN MIND IS ALL YOU NEED

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven Steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect--unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A., and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us.

-- 12 Steps and 12 Traditions



SUNRISE GROUP

**Saturday Morning
Step Study
8:15 am**

**above Jerry's Deli and
PINZ Bowling Alley
12655 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA**

July 29

**Aaron G.
Step One**

August 5

**Frank C. of Los Angeles
Step One**

August 12

**Daiva V. of Santa Monica
Step Two**

August 19

**TBA
Step Two**

The Sunrise Group is a Step Study Workshop and is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Each week, a speaker shares his or her experience with a single step for 30 - 40 minutes, followed by a 25 minute question and answer period.