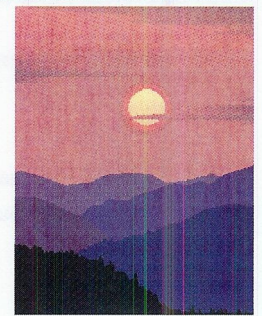


**SUNRISE /  
SUNSET GROUP  
OF  
ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS**



# December Newsletter



**THURSDAY  
SPEAKERS IN  
DECEMBER**

*Dec 4:* **Kelly L. of Pasadena**

*Dec 11:* **Keith D. of Yorba Linda**

*Dec 18:* **Kane of SFV**

*Dec 25:* **no meeting Christmas Day**

*Jan 1:* **no meeting New Year's Day**

**SATURDAY  
SPEAKERS IN  
DECEMBER**

*Dec 6:* **Linda P. Step 1**

*Dec 13:* **Tina Marie S Step 2**

*Dec 20:* **Chris H. Step 2**

*Dec 27:* **Pat P Step 3**

**A Buck In The Basket?**

Take me out to the ball game but I won't expect you to buy me a hot dog, too. Those who participate in the highway robbery of buying refreshments at sports events pay something like \$6.00 for the beers and \$5.00 or more for the hot dog. (I can remember when one got a whole case of beer at that price.)

It's a harsh fact that inflation has us by the throat and is choking us to death. Those of us who are no longer kids feel pinched and distressed by the ongoing soaring prices.

So how does this affect Grapevine readers? In order to keep operating, businesses like the Grapevine must raise their rates to keep this battle against the roaring tiger under control. Gasoline hovers around \$2.50 to \$3.00 a gallon. Movies cost in the neighborhood of \$8.00. We are all aware of these facts. Let's look at AA meetings, something dear and essential in our lives, which are treated shabbily by far too many members.

When I first came to AA in 1963, the accepted contribution was \$1.00, which seemed to pretty well cover expenses. That dollar from 1963, the average "dues" paid by most members, when adjusted for inflation is equal to just 16 cents today!

How--and why--should this be you might ask. The cost of food and others essentials, like coffee, has tripled in forty years. The cost of rent for most meeting places has shot up, too. Literature, directories, coffee, cream and sugar, paper cups, it all adds up.

we have not really paid serious attention to inflation in AA, even though we'd have to be blind not to recognize its serious nature. Churches, which so generously make their facilities available, deserve a larger rental fee. The bite of inflation affects them too. If we aren't paying a fair rental fee, we have to ask ourselves if we are in violation of Tradition Seven: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Likewise, there have been continuously

First of all, what cost \$1.00 in 1963 costs \$6.11 today. Buying the same product in 2005 for \$1.00 would have cost you just \$0.16 in 1963.

1. COMPARATIVE COSTS:	1963	2005
2. A loaf of bread	\$0.21	\$2.89
3. A gallon of milk	\$0.49	\$4.50
4. A 6-pack of beer	\$0.86	\$3.76
5. A carton of cigarettes (avg)	\$1.99	\$45.00
6. A postage stamp	\$0.04	\$0.37
7. The Grapevine	\$0.35	\$1.50
8. Donation	\$1.00	\$1.00

increasing expenses to maintain our vital intergroup offices, area assemblies, and the General Service Office in New York. They can't carry our message of recovery effectively without adequate funding, and there are millions of alcoholics around the world awaiting a message they may never hear.

Obviously, if the average contribution is only one dollar, a group of fifteen or twenty members will have little, if any, money left over to make badly needed contributions to these AA service units after paying for coffee, rent, and literature.

(Continued on page 2)

## WHERE WE MEET

THE SUNSET GROUP meets every Thursday night from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at 14701 Friar Street, Van Nuys, at the corner of Cedros Avenue, near Van Nuys and Victory Blvds.

THE SUNRISE GROUP BIG BOOK STEP STUDY meets every Saturday morning from 8:15-9:30 a.m. on the second floor of PINZ Bowling Center, 12655 Ventura Blvd., just east of Coldwater Canyon.

THE SUNSET GROUP BIG BOOK STUDY meets every Tuesday night from 7:00-8:00 pm. at the Vineland A.D.H.C. Center, 5629 Vineland Ave, just north of Burbank. Parking is in the back off Ensign Avenue.

**HOLIDAYS**  
When our meeting site is closed, we participate in marathon meetings at Unit A, 10641 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood

## Group Inventory

At the quarterly meeting on 10 November, the Sunrise/Sunset steering committee conducted a group inventory. As a result, these topics will be on the agenda at the next meeting:

- Should the group sponsor a phone shift at central office and commit to staffing it?
- Should the sponsorship announcement on Thursday occur before the break?
- Will there be less disruption of the Thursday meeting if cup washing occurs after the question period? Why do we use ceramic cups instead of Styrofoam?
- Should there be an intragroup rep to pass information among all three meetings?
- Should there be official ushers and shushers? Are chanting and whispering discouraged too harshly on Thursdays?
- How can we increase attendance? Can we rebuild the Sunset prudent reserve enough to resume contributions to central office? Can the group cover costs for out-of-town speakers?
- Is the group's adherence to its primary purpose making alcoholic-addicts feel unwelcome?

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, 26 January 2009. Everyone is welcome to attend and you become a voting member at your second meeting. To add an item to the agenda, please see Matt J.

## Maybe it's time for a raise

*(Continued from page 1)*

Does this help explain why only about half of all groups in Canada and the United States contributed to the GSO last year? That lamentable figure--only about fifty percent of the membership--is about the same for my local group's contributions to our intergroup office.

Is this responsibility? Is one dollar--less than the price of a bag of popcorn at a movie --the value that we place on AA?

Let's wake up to the dangers lurking out there. We must not deny our precious life-saving heritage to other alcoholics lurking in the wings for lack of a few more dollars from each of us, not if we truly believe our Declaration of Responsibility:

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

*Editor's note: There are no dues or fees in AA. AA is here for anyone who reaches out for help. The program is given freely to anyone who wants to stop drinking, even at times when he or she may not be able to contribute financially.*

Jack H.  
Stanwood, Washington

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