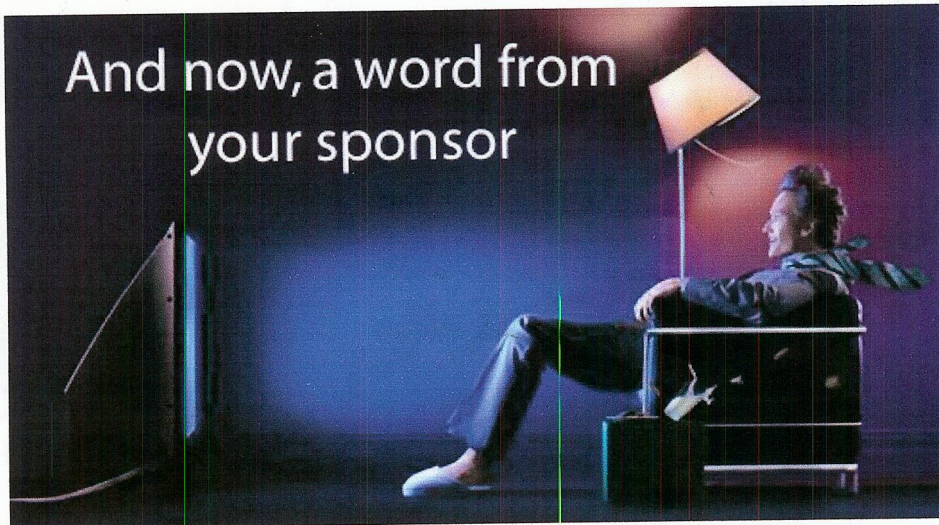




The Awakening

June, 2006

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



And now, a word from
your sponsor

"Not every AA member has had a sponsor. But thousands of us say we would not be alive were it not for the special friendship of one recovered alcoholic in the first months and years of our sobriety.

"In the earliest days of AA, the term 'sponsor' was not in the AA jargon. Then a few hospitals in Akron, Ohio, and New York began to accept alcoholics (under that diagnosis) as patients--if a sober AA member would agree to 'sponsor' the sick man or woman. The sponsor took the patient to the hospital, visited him or her regularly, was present when the patient was discharged, and took the patient home and then to an AA meeting. At the meeting, the sponsor introduced the newcomer to other happily nondrinking alcoholics. All through the early months of recovery, the sponsor stood by, ready to answer questions or to listen whenever needed.

"Sponsorship turned out to be such a good way to help people get established in AA that it has become the custom followed throughout the AA world..."

-- *Living Sober*, p 26

All Day Step Study Workshop Sunday July 16th!

The Sunset and Sunrise Groups are joining for a full day Step Study Workshop featuring Ralph W. and Candice M.! The Steps will never be more fun! Join us for fellowship, food, and some straight up Big Book! Recovery is Fun! Location TBA.

Inventory and Growth - For the Group

In the years ahead we shall, of course, make mistakes. Experience has taught us that we need have no fear of doing this, providing that we always remain willing to confess our faults and to correct them promptly. Our growth as individuals has depended upon this healthy process of trial and error. So will our growth as a fellowship. Let us always remember that any society of men and women that cannot freely correct its own faults must surely fall into decay if not into collapse. Such is the universal penalty for the failure to go on growing. Just as each AA must continue to take his moral inventory and act upon it, so must our whole society do if we are to survive and if we are to serve usefully and well.

-- *A.A. Comes of Age*



The Sunset Group

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

June 1

Charles K. of Tarzana

June 8

Mark C. of Palmdale

June 15

Carla M. of Sherman Oaks

June 22

Clint H. of Woodland Hills

June 29

Michaelaine F. of Escondido

July 6

John A. of Laguna Woods

July 13

Patti G. of Culver City

July 20

Tim H. of Bellflower



“Character Defects” and “Shortcomings” – What’s the Difference?

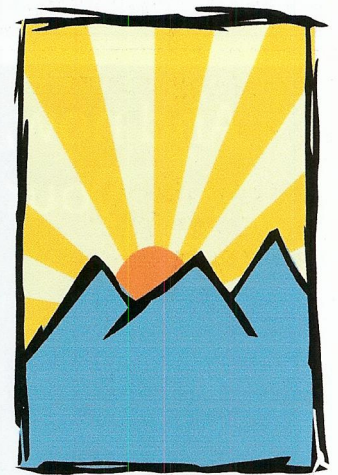
Steps 6 and 7 comprise the fewest paragraphs in the Big Book, yet their importance, just as any other of the steps, cannot be minimized. We often hear members ask “what’s the difference between “character defects” and “shortcomings”? One may think of Step 6 as asking for help in removing aspects of our character that have harmed us and others in the past, the *negative* attributes we had and still have. Step 7, however, marks a turning point, in which we look to the future and ask to gain *positive* attributes, the ones that make our lives, and those around us, better. These are the areas in which we come up short, and ask to gain positive qualities to help us go out and make our amends and ultimately find a true and whole spiritual awakening – which is, after all “*the* – not merely “*a*” result” of the 12 Steps.

For example, here are just a few that early A.A. members noticed as “defects”, or “liabilities”, and others, which they sought out as “assets”.

Step 6 – “Defects of Character” What We Ask to Remove	Step 7 – “Shortcomings” What We Ask to Acquire
Self Pity	Self-Forgetfulness
Self Justification	Humility
Self Importance	Modesty
Self Condemnation	Self Valuation
Dishonesty	Honesty
Impatience	Patience
Hate	Love
Resentment	Forgiveness
False Pride	Simplicity
Jealousy	Trust
Laziness	Activity
Procrastination	Promptness

These are just a few that were suggested in *The Grapevine* in June, 1946. We can find our own as we see our defects and their mirror images.

-- Joe B., Sunrise Group



SUNRISE GROUP
Saturday Morning
Step Study
8:15 am

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

May 27
Yvonne of Los Angeles
Steps 6 & 7

June 3
Steps 8 & 9

June 10
Steps 8 & 9

June 17
Clare S. of West
Hollywood
Steps 10 & 11

June 24
Steps 10 & 11

amends plural noun [treated as sing.]

reparation or compensation.

PHRASES

make amends: do something in order to make up for a wrong inflicted on someone : try to make amends for the rude way you spoke to Lucy.

an offer of amends (Law) an offer to publish a correction and an apology for an act of libel.

ORIGIN Middle English : from Old French *amendes* ‘penalties, fine,’ plural of *amende* ‘reparation,’ from *amender* (see amend).

amend verb [trans.]

make minor changes in (a text) in order to make it fairer, more accurate, or more up-to-date : the rule was amended to apply only to nonmembers.

- modify formally, as a legal document or legislative bill : did she amend her original will later on? | pressuring Panama to amend its banking laws.
- make better; improve : if you can amend or alter people’s mind-set.
- archaic put right : a few things had gone wrong, but these had been amended.

-- Oxford English Dictionary

**Venue Needed for All
Day Workshop on
Sunday July 16th!**
Suggestions Welcome