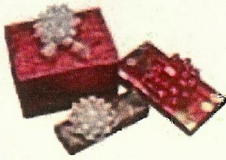




The Awakening

November 17, 2005

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



GRATITUDE AND GIVING

From Thanksgiving to the New Year the joy is to give away what we have received.

Alcoholics Anonymous has given us a greater gift than we could have imagined. Following is Bill W.'s description in his Christmas message of 1944:

Greetings On Our 10th Christmas, 1944

... men and women of AA never forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World. How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth. Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos.

Great indeed. our blessings!

The Grapevine is now available online and includes audio: www.aagrapevine.org!

SPECIAL HELP AT THIS SPECIAL TIME

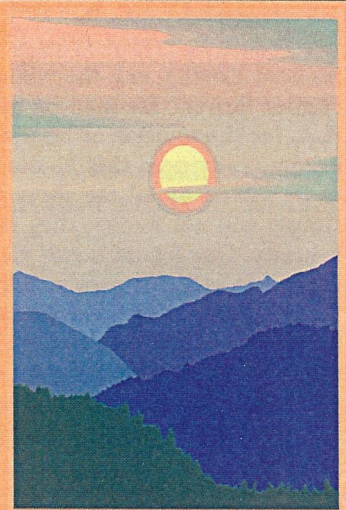
For many of us, this time of year ("Christmas", "Chanukah", or simply "the Holidays") is often very difficult. Memories of tragic incidents with families, loneliness, and depression are common. It has been called "The Bermuda Triangle" for the three holidays from Thanksgiving to New Year. If you find yourself falling there are numerous A.A. activities to help, including meetings 24 hours a day, on the holiday dates and more. Pick up a meeting directory at the literature table and, remember, the Central Office is always open to help. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" are much more fulfilling with the "Twelve Steps of A.A."

CENTRAL OFFICE: (818) 988-3001

BILL W. ON THE 12TH TRADITION

ONE may say that anonymity is the spiritual base, the sure key to all the rest of our Traditions. It has come to stand for prudence and, most importantly, for self-effacement. True consideration for the newcomer if he desires to be nameless; vital protection against misuse of the name Alcoholics Anonymous at the public level; and to each of us a constant reminder that principles come before personal interest--such is the wide scope of this all embracing principle. In it we see the cornerstone of our security as a movement; at a deeper spiritual level it points us to still greater self-renunciation.

A GLANCE at the 12 Traditions will instantly assure anyone that "giving up" is the essential idea of them all. In each Tradition, the individual or the group is asked to give up something for our general welfare. *Tradition Twelve*, in its mood of humble anonymity, plainly enough comprehends the preceding eleven. The "Twelve Points of Tradition" are little else than a specific application of the spirit of the "Twelve Steps of Recovery" to our group life and to our relations with society in general. The Recovery Steps would make each individual A.A. whole and one with God; the Twelve Points of Tradition would make us one with each other and whole with the world about us. Unity is our aim.



The Sunset Group

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

November 24
Facility closed
for Thanksgiving
(Meeting Directories available)

December 1
Wayne B. of Santa Monica

December 8
Andrew I. of
Anchorage, Alaska

December 15
Rachel L. of Bakersfield

December 22
Adam T. of West Los Angeles

December 29
Nancy N. of Tujunga

January 5
Cia F. of West Los Angeles

January 12
Matt. G. of Fresno

January 19
Bob L. of Glendale

January 26
Suzanne B. of Studio City

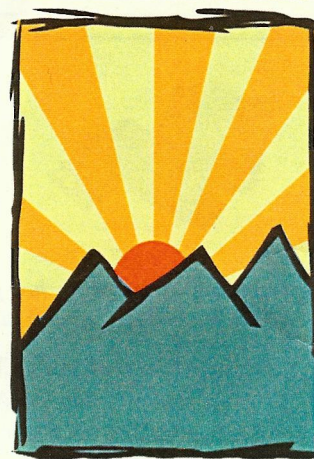
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"MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM."

So how, exactly, can the willing person continue to turn his will and his life over to the Higher Power? He made a beginning, we have seen, when he commenced to rely upon A.A. for the solution of his alcohol problem. By now, though, the chances are that he has become convinced that he has more problems than alcohol, and that some of these refuse to be solved by all the sheer personal determination and courage he can muster. They simply will not budge; they make him desperately unhappy and threaten his newfound sobriety. Our friend is still victimized by remorse and guilt when he thinks of yesterday. Bitterness still overpowers him when he broods upon those he still envies or hates. His financial insecurity worries him sick, and panic takes over when he thinks of all the bridges to safety that alcohol burned behind him. And how shall he ever straighten out that awful jam that cost him the affection of his family and separated him from them? His lone courage and unaided will cannot do it. Surely he must now depend upon Somebody or Something else. (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* p. 39)



SUNRISE GROUP

Saturday Morning
Step Study
8:00 am
above Jerry's Deli and
PINZ Bowling Alley
12655 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA

November 19
Kelly L. of Laguna
Niguel
Step Three

November 26
Terri M. of Simi Valley
Steps One, Two, and
Three

December 3
David D. of Chatsworth
4th Step (Resentments)

December 10
Dave G. of Valley Village
4th Step (Fear)

December 17
Maureen H. of Downey
4th Step (Sex)

December 24
Scott R. of Silver Lake 4th
Step Overview



START YOUR DAY WITH THE 3RD STEP PRAYER

"God, I offer myself to Thee -- to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!"

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING YOUR HIGHER POWER?

"To those who have fought against a belief in God, as I did, I have this to say: I still don't understand my God. I don't have to. All I have to do is not fall into the trap of believing I must logically analyze and tabulate all information on God before I can believe in his existence. If I want the answer to that question, at the next AA meeting I'm in, all I have to do is see how many people raise their hands when asked if they have a year or more of sobriety. This should be sufficient to prove God's power." -- Al A. St. Cloud Warehouse, Florida

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THE SUNRISE GROUP STEP STUDY

The Sunrise Group meeting is a step study workshop. A speaker shares his or her experience with the step for 30 to 40 minutes, followed by ten minutes of questions and answers. Coffee and pastries are served and if you want to gain a greater understanding of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous this is the meeting for you.

There's more to sobriety than meetings alone. Get a commitment and get into action.