

# SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

Hill Country Intergroup

Volume 14, Issue 3

March 2014

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## Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

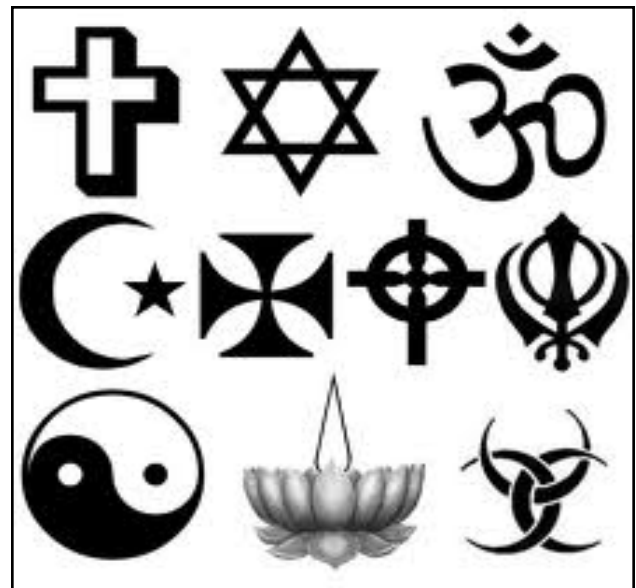
## “Language, Symbols and Higher Powers”

Change some of the words in the Big Book? Make the “God Thing” less complicated and perhaps easier for newcomers to grasp? Can these words even be uttered by a member of AA without lightning striking? If this actually came to pass, would our Steps still work their magic? I was recently asked where I come down on these matters.

Well, my views on this, and other things, are evolving all the time, sometimes in a subtle way, sometimes dramatically. Why? Two reasons: 1) For me, the “learning process” of the AA program, as in all spiritual pathways, is informed by my experience. One can be educated about AA, but not into it. For us to be able to pass this experience on, we must be able to put it into words, and the words we

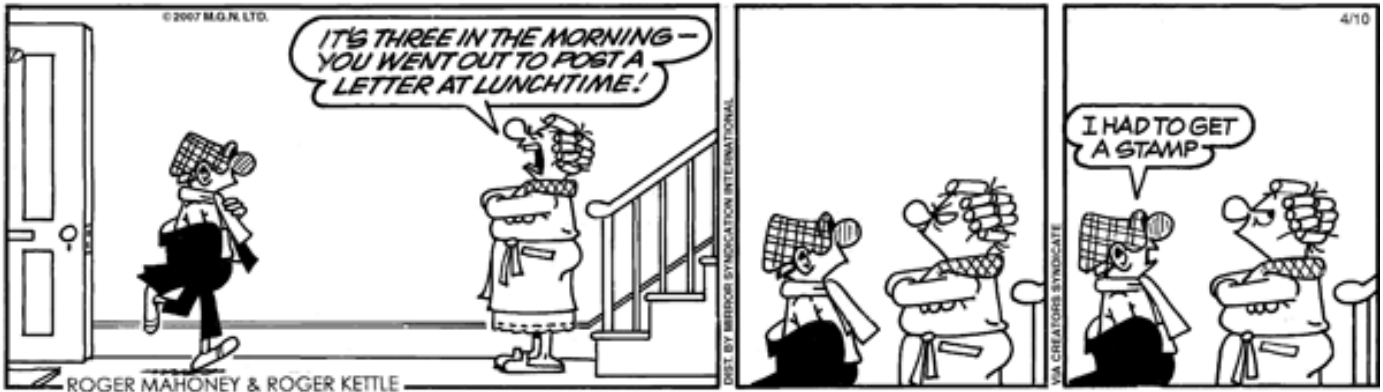
choose are very important because 2) Language is, by its very nature, symbolic, and symbols are the most powerful and dramatic way to express great spiritual truths. So, when my

This power is often expressed in many different ways, but I believe that for recovering alcoholics it is all one and the same. I have come to believe that the only common and unique fea-



experience dictates to my mind that my views have been somewhat altered, it is incumbent upon me to find the right words to express these alterations. For me, AA's policy of "God as we understand Him" falls into this category.

ture of our individual "Gods" or "Higher Powers" is that we found this power in the rooms of AA. Therefore, I have no problem referring to these HPs, collectively, as the "God of Alcoholics Anonymous", i.e., the power that al-



### HCIA Reps Meeting - 2nd Monday Each Month!

Covenant Presbyterian Church Room 107  
 3003 Northland Drive  
 Austin, TX 78757

Always the 2nd Monday of the Month @ 6:30pm  
 (Except February - Breakfast Meeting - 1st Saturday @ 9:30am - HCIA Office)

### THE HCIA DEAF ACCESS COMMITTEE (DAC) NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The DAC provides ASL interpreted meetings for deaf AA members. Contributions are needed to continue.

Send contributions to : Deaf Access Committee 1825 Fortview Rd. STE 104 Austin, TX 78704

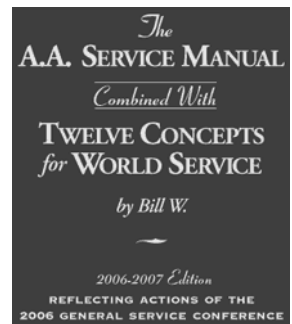


#### DAC donations

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alandale             | 50             |
| Bridge to Shore      | 150            |
| Desire to Stop       | 25             |
| Keep 1st Things 1st  | 496.58         |
| Lighthouse           | 35             |
| Reading Rainbow      | 10.95          |
| Saturday AM Women 's | 524.72         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1292.25</b> |

#### *Concept Three*

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”





## Language... —continued from page one

lowed millions of alcoholic men and women to become transformed and to recover from alcoholic drinking, which is, after all, the story of Alcoholics Anonymous.

When the Big Book was published, the average new member was about 50 years of age, white,

white collar, and had a "churchy" background. The language in the book was contemporary and the religious references familiar. No problem. Almost eight decades later, this is no longer true. The language is frequently unclear, and the religious overtones are often offensive to the new-

comer, and to others as well. The "God Thing" has always been a stumbling block for some members, but nowhere near as problematic as it is today. I know, from personal experience, that it is certainly possible to get sober with the book in its present form, but the current archaic and ultra-

## Tradition

### Three

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

## February Volunteers

|               |           |          |
|---------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Office</b> | Claire C  | Buster S |
|               | Dan H     | Chris    |
| Billy C       | Marilyn C | David G  |
| Mark K        | Glen      |          |
| John B        | Jeane R   |          |
| Marty C       | Melissa A |          |
| Kathleen V    | Gail      |          |
| Frank D       | James B   |          |
| Murdo         | Pat F     |          |
| Mary L        | Eileen B  |          |

## Thank You!

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Hotline</b> | Treasure       |
| Unity Group    | Darin A        |
| Linda G        | Mary Jo        |
| Chris C        | Western Trails |
| Northland      | Randy R        |
| Dudley F       | Harlan O       |
| Dave S         | Gordon K       |
| Grant C        | Jeannie H      |
| Karin S        | Westwood Well- |
| PPG Group      | ness.          |

## February Donations from Groups

## Thank You!

|                     |     |                    |     |                     |         |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|---------------------|---------|
| 617 Foundation      | 100 | Lampasas           | 43  | Northland           | 135     |
| East Austin         | 79  | North Austin 24    | 25  | Keep 1st Things 1st | 1158    |
| Driftwood           | 150 | Courage to Change  | 112 | Lighthouse          | 100     |
| Welcome Home        | 25  | Sunset Canyon      | 50  | Grass Roots         | 75      |
| Any Lengths         | 436 | Bridge to Shore    | 324 | Northland           | 315     |
| Western Trails      | 7   | Westwood Wellness  | 75  | The River           | 25      |
| Allandale           | 503 | Westlake           | 500 |                     |         |
| Saturday AM Women's | 229 | Reading Rainbow    | 25  |                     |         |
| Wimberley           | 10  | What's it Like Now | 133 | Total               | 4650.15 |

Didn't see your group here?  
Check in at the next group conscience meeting and ask why!  
Thanks everybody!

HILL COUNTRY  
INTERGROUP

*If you want to drink,  
that's your business.  
If you want to stop  
And can't  
that's our business.*



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## “Language...” continued from page 3

charged religious language repels a great many newcomers, and some not-so-new members as well. So why present unnecessary obstacles to so many others? Why make it any harder than it should be to find the "God of Alcoholics Anonymous"? In the interest of rectifying this blatant exclusivity, I think that an honest debate on this topic is not only possible, but should go forward.

I'd like to add one point: the 12 Steps of our program impact in a slightly different way upon each recovering alcoholic. Each person, working in their own way, at their own pace, finds their own truth. This truth may differ slightly for each individual, but always seems to be sufficient to finally achieve the ultimate goal - sobriety. Because these truths are perceived and expressed slightly differently by each individual when they recover, the Big Book, in a subtle but very true sense, is re-written.

I hope I have been able to express these personal thoughts and feelings in a way that is understandable, and may be, at some point, useful.....CR

## Intergroup Needs Volunteers!

Come by and sign up to be one of our friendly volunteers.

Imagine what it would be like to come to the office and no one was at the front desk! You are needed.

Come by and sign

up to work the phone desk at the Intergroup Office.

Shifts are Monday thru Friday,

10AM-1PM

1PM-4PM

4PM-6PM

Call 444-0071

Or come by and sign up!

Twelve step calls,

Literature sales,

Friendly conversation,

Coffee,

Come by and sign up!

An early telephone design.



Tony Brosi is celebrating 2 years on March 17th and his home group is Tin Roof in north Austin.