

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES HOLIDAY EDITION

Published by the Hill Country Intergroup
1825 Fortview Rd. Suite 104 Austin, Texas 78704

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2012

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Our Mission

**WE WORK
24 HOURS A
DAY
FOR YOU!**

**Information 12th
Step Referrals
Service
Opportunities**

**www.austinaa.org
(512) 444-0071**

Happy, Joyous, and Free p133

The holiday season is upon us and it is a time when the so called normal people celebrate with family and friends and enjoy themselves. That was not the case for me and many like me as I had managed to run anyone and everyone away. The holidays seem to bring on the reality of the destruction that I had caused and the fear and depression of being alone would set in. The great thing about AA is that it taught me about fellowship, friendship, and how to have a higher power that when I allow him fills me up with the reason I am still here. I am not here to feel sorry for myself or to be miserable; I left that life for this one. I am here to be Happy, Joyous, and Free. It took a few years to understand what that truly meant as it is very entwined. I found out that to be free I must help someone else and give completely of myself without any return. This occurs when I get out of myself long enough to be concerned with your situation so that I can actually listen. The free part comes when know that I do not have to solve your problem or even say a word; I just have to listen with a kind and loving heart. The joy comes from knowing that I could be there for someone with all my heart and not have to be the hero, but be a friend. This is a joy that can bring you even closer to that power that we all seek even if we do not want to admit it. This joy takes away that depression and loneliness that lives in the center of us that in AA we call the hideous four horseman Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, Fear. If we truly give of ourselves and help others we will experience Happy as this is not a destination it truly is an inside job and the program has allowed this Alcoholic to experience HAPPY more often than not.

Robert C.

December History

(AA World Services Archives) A Momentous Meeting:

Bill's attempts to raise money for his and Bob's vision prove unsuccessful. In 1937, his brother-in-law, Dr. Leonard Strong, Jr., is able to set up a meeting with men connected to the philanthropies of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. At a December meeting attended by Bill, Dr. Bob, Dr. Silkworth, and a few group members from New Your and Akron, the potential backers are moved and impress by the Fellowship's work. However, after it is pointed out that money could spoil the movement's purpose, the meeting reaps welcome enthusiasm and moral support, but no funds.

**Hill Country
Intergroup
Representatives
Meeting
2nd Monday
Of the
Month
6:30 PM
Covenant
Presbyterian
Church
Education Bldg.**

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Office –

Billy C., Marty C., Marla K., Frank D., Gordon D., Michael N., Pat F., Claire C. John B., Dan H., Jeanne R., Lizz R., Leslie Ann D., Valerie A.,

Hotline –

Rick P., Mike W., Gordon K., Mary Jo B., Friday Rush Hour Group, Keep 1st Things 1st Group, Bouldin Group, Rod D., Chris C., Kevin B., Randy R., Into Action Group (Elgin), Nicole C., Samantha D., Mary T., Primary Purpose Group, Linda R., Mark A., Maggie B., Wendy F.,



HCIA Birthday Club

NOVEMBER
BIRTH DAYS
2012

No Birthdays This
Month.

Become a Birthday
Club Member....
Contact HCI To Join



NOVEMBER DONATIONS

Bridge to Shore—\$589	On The Colorado (OTC) - \$10
1313—\$369	Saturday Morning Serenity—\$97
Fresh Start—\$20	Principles Before Personalities—\$87
Bluebonnet—\$89	Allandale—\$783
What It's Like Now—\$97	Austin Citywide—\$150
Into Action (Elgin) - \$68	Phelan Rd.—\$10
The Noon Group (617) - \$100	Central—\$90
Sold On Sobriety (SOS) - \$50	North Austin 24—\$63
Lake Travis Serenity—\$250	Lampasas—\$78
Keep 1st Things 1st—\$379	Northland—\$266
164 Pages—\$74	Western Trails—\$10
Thurs. Nite Men's Group—\$66	

Learning How to Forgive

AROUND THE TABLES, over a period of many 24 hours, I have experienced many versions of the Eighth and Ninth Steps of the AA guide to recovery. As the chemical fog lifted, I endeavored to copy with the havoc caused by my insanity. One particular problem persisted: While I had made financial restitution, I couldn't grasp an approach toward the emotional amends which I felt necessary.

The answer, as I now see it, is that I had to learn the true meaning of forgiveness. My prayers for aid in amends were getting nowhere because I hadn't forgiven.

"After all, can't they see how changed I am? Why don't they accept me? What's wrong? Do I have to crawl before them? Here I am not drinking, and they don't seem impressed by the change. "Maybe you hear a hint of a wee little resentment of self-pride. Right—I wasn't forgiving them for not forgiving me.

I could pray and pray, but no forgiveness came. Now, I'm praying that I weed out all the subtle "unforgiveness" that has been growing for lo, these many years. Once I have truly, through prayer, forgiven any and all for real and imagined injuries. I'll be forgiven. When I have really forgiven, then the flow starts towards me, and then the amends can be made. For me, at least, I have lots of forgiving to do before I can make amends.

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AA Thought For The Month

My memories no longer fill me with shame and remorse. On the contrary, they fill me with gratitude and joy. my whole story is a sort of divine mystery to me.

I don't know how an intelligent human being could have got into such a mess, and the more firmly established in sanity I become, the more amazed I am that I ever got out of the mess.

Came to Believe,

pp. 98-99



Christmas Ornaments



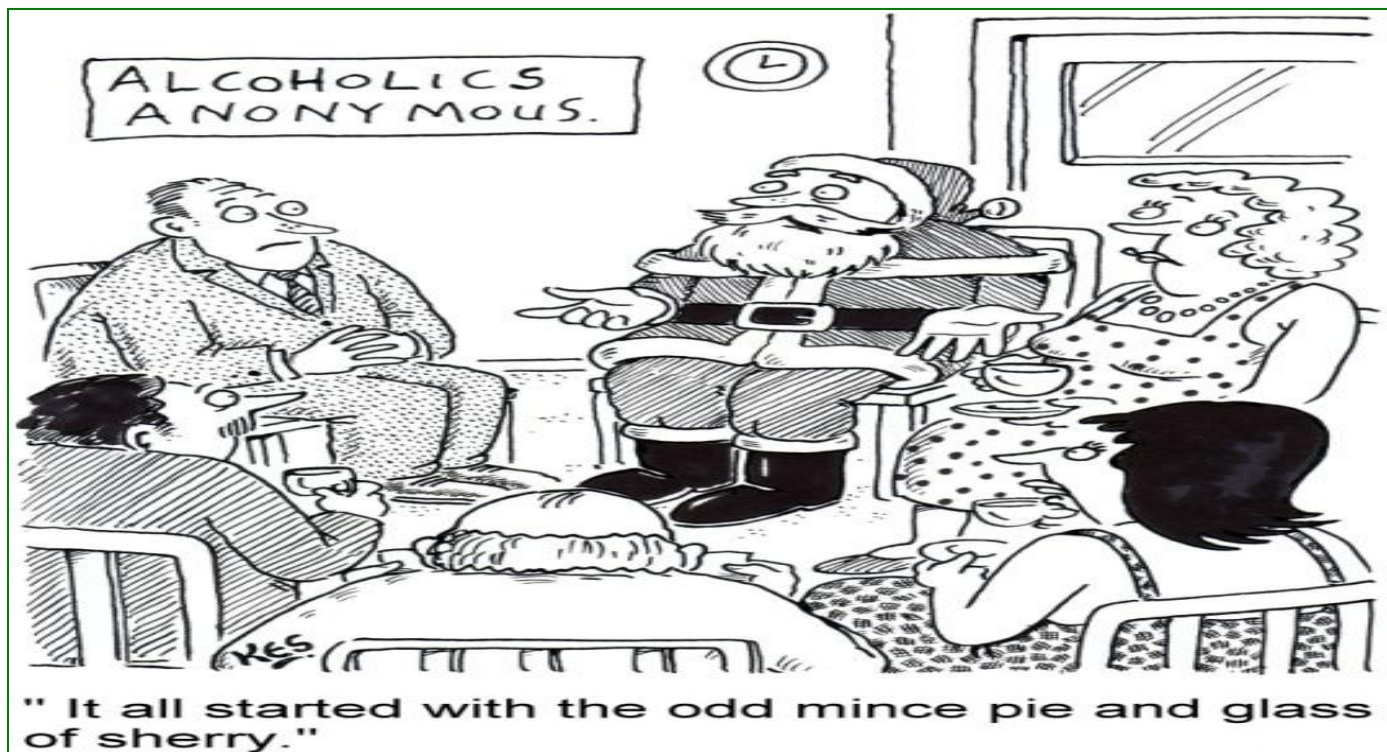
AA HUMOR SECTION

You Might Be An Alcoholic If:

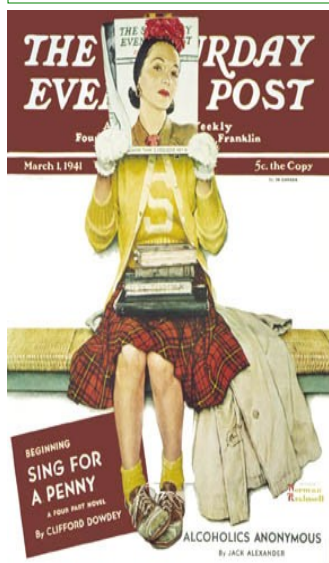
Your twin sons are named Barley and Hops.
You fall off the floor.
The damned pink elephant followed me home again.
The shrubbery's drunk from frequent watering.
Your only friends are Jack, Johnny, and Jose.
I'm as jobber as a sudge!
You consider yourself a workaholic, because every time you go to work, you want to have a beer!
I slept with that damned pink elephant again.
You've fallen and you can't (don't want to) get up.

THREE MAGIC FLIES:

There was a newcomer sitting in a tavern talking to his sponsor. The newcomer looked over at the sponsor and asked him, "How do you tell a social drinker from a hard drinker from an alcoholic?" The sponsor promptly reached into his vest and pulled out a small little box. "You see this little box?" asked the sponsor. "I've got three magic flies in the box" continued the sponsor. "And do you see those three people sitting over there at that table drinking?" the sponsor queried. "Yes" replied the newcomer. "Watch what happens as I let the first fly out of the box," the sponsor said. The sponsor let the first fly out of the box and it flew over and landed in the first persons drink. They looked down and noticed the fly in their drink, got a look of disgust on their face, pushed the drink away, and then ordered another drink. "That's the social drinker" says the sponsor. "Now watch as I let the second fly out of the box." The sponsor let the second fly out of the box and it flew over and landed in the second persons drink. The second person noticed the fly, got an uncomfortable look on their face, and reached down and picked the fly out of their drink, and then drank the drink. "That's the hard drinker" replied the sponsor. The sponsor then let the last fly out of the box and it flew over and landed in the last persons drink. They looked down and spotted the fly in their drink, got an extremely angry look on their face, reached down with both hands and picked it up by it's little wings and hollered, "O.K. you little S.O.B.!!! Spit that back out!!!!" "That's the alcoholic" the sponsor said, smiling.



"Cling to the thought that, in God's hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have—the key to life and happiness for others. With it you can avert death and misery for them".
Bill W.



The Sobriety Variety pages wants to tell your story. We also want to print your experiences with sobriety and service. Please send in your stories to:
hcieditor@hotmail.com

Capital Of Texas Conference 2014

Get ready for Austin's Conference. The first ever Capital Of Texas Conference will be held in August 15-17, 2014. The conference committee chairs have been elected and are working to put together a great conference right here at home.

The next committee meeting will be held at the Austin Galano Club on January 27, 2013 at 2:00 PM.

The committee is currently holding a LOGO contest to come up with the conferences LOGO. If you are interested in entering the contest you can go to the conference Website LOGO contest page and download the Flyer or email your entry to

webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org

If you are interested in serving as a conference Co-Chair of a committee please come to the meeting. If you just want to come see what is going on or join a committee please come and join us.

The Conference Website Address:

<http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org>

Come visit our website and if you have any feed back please email the Website Coordinator.

webmaster@capitaloftexasconference.org



Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1 Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



7 Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 Worship in your own way.



9 Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

HILL COUNTRY INTERGROUP



If you would like to help with the HCI Newsletter or you would like to volunteer at the Intergroup office you can contact us at (512) 444-0071. There are many opportunities for service work. You can also sign up to be on the 12th step list. Volunteering through the intergroup is a great experience. The Sobriety pages is always looking for articles. Tell your story or pick a topic.

Upcoming Events For December

December 1st—Western Trails Group Speaker Meeting!

December 1st—Family Night @ Suburban Alcoholic Foundation!

December 2nd—Yellow House Foundation –Golf Tournament!

December 5th—South Austin Big Book Group (SABBG) Speaker Meeting!

December 8th—Allandale Group—Holiday Party!

December 8th—Austin Round-Up Auction & Holiday Party!

December 8th—Western Trails Holiday Celebration!

December 8th—Bouldin Group—Golden 50th Anniversary!

December 13th—Lampassas Group—Eat n Speak!

December 13th— 67th Anniversary of AA In Austin, TX!

December 15th—Austin Citywide—Monthly Potluck and Open Speaker Meeting!

December 25th—Northland AA Group –Christmas Day Celebration!

December 13th—District 13—New Years Eve Party!

For more information on these or any upcoming events go to the Hill Country Intergroup Website.

HIC WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.austinaa.org

You will find flyers with all the pertinent information for the event and a map to the location.



WELCOME TO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

