



# Maui Serenity Gazette

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Maui Intergroup

October, 2011

## FIESTA DE LA GRATITUDE

(Gratitude Night)

OCTOBER 16, 2011

5:30pm - 9:00pm

PUKALANI COMMUNITY CENTER

*Dinner at 6:00pm*

WHAT TO BRING:  
SIDE DISHES WITH A MEXICAN THEME & DESSERTS.

2 Fabulous Speakers!

**PINATA busting @ 7:30 just before speakers**



Sponsored by Maui Intergroup  
Hosted by Upcountry Sunrise Group

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## Doctor Calls "Slip" More Normal Than Alcoholic

THE mystery of slips is not so deep as may appear. While it does seem odd that an alcoholic who has restored himself to a dignified place among his fellow-men, and continued dry for years, should suddenly throw all his happiness overboard and find himself again in mortal peril of drowning in liquor--often the reason is very simple.

People are inclined to say: "There is something peculiar about alcoholics. They may seem to be well, yet at any moment they may turn back to their old ways. You can never be sure!"

This is largely twaddle. The alcoholic is a sick person. Under the techniques of Alcoholics Anonymous he gets well, that is to say, his disease is arrested. There is nothing unpredictable about him any more than there is anything weird about a person who has arrested diabetes.

Let's get it clear, once and for all, that alcoholics are human beings just like other human beings--then we can safeguard ourselves intelligently against most of the slips.

Both in professional and lay circles, there is a tendency to label everything that an alcoholic may do as "alcoholic behavior." The truth is, it is simply human nature!

It is very wrong to consider many of the personality traits observed in liquor addicts as peculiar to the alcoholic. Emotional and mental quirks are classified as symptoms of alcoholism merely because alcoholics have them--yet those same quirks can be found among nonalcoholics, too. *Actually they are symptoms of mankind!*

Of course, the alcoholic himself tends to think of himself as different; someone special, with unique tendencies and reactions. Many psychiatrists, doctors and therapists carry the same idea to extremes in their analyses and treatment of alcoholics. Sometimes they make a complicated mystery of a condition which is found in all human beings, whether they drink whiskey or buttermilk.

To be sure, alcoholism like every other disease does manifest itself in some unique ways. It does have a number of baffling peculiarities which differ from all other diseases. At the same time, many of the symptoms and much of the behavior of alcoholism are closely paralleled and even duplicated in other diseases.

The alcoholic "slip," as it is known in Alcoholics Anonymous, furnishes a perfect example of how human nature can be mistaken for alcoholic behavior.

The "slip" is a relapse! It is a relapse that occurs after the alcoholic has stopped drinking and started on the A.A. program of recovery. "Slips" usually occur in the early stages of the alcoholic's A.A. indoctrination, before he has had time to learn enough of the A.A. technique and A.A. philosophy to give him solid footing. But "slips" may also occur after an alcoholic has been a member of A.A. for many months, or even several years, and it is in this kind, above all, that one finds a marked similarity between the alcoholic's behavior and "normal" victims of other diseases.

No one is startled by the fact that relapses are not uncommon among arrested tubercular patients. But here is a startling fact--the cause is often the same as the cause which leads to "slips" for the alcoholic. It happens this way:

When a tubercular patient recovers sufficiently to be released from the sanitarium, the doctor gives him careful directions for the way he is to live when he gets home. He must be in bed every night by, say, 8 o'clock. He must drink plenty of milk. He must refrain from smoking. He must obey other stringent rules.

For the first several months, perhaps for several years the patient follows directions. But as his strength increases and he feels fully recovered, he becomes slack. There may come the night when he decides he can stay up until 10 p.m. When he does this, nothing untoward happens. The next day he still feels good. He does it again. Soon he is disregarding the directions given him when he left the sanitarium. *Eventually he has a relapse!*

(Continued at the top of the next page.)

The same tragedy can be found in cardiac cases. After the heart attack, the patient is put on a strict rest schedule. Frightened, he naturally follows directions obediently for a long time. He, too, goes to bed early, avoids exercise such as walking up stairs, quits smoking and leads a Spartan life. Eventually, though, there comes a day after he has been feeling good for months, or several years, when he feels he has regained his strength and has also recovered from his fright. If the elevator is out of repair one day, he walks up the three flights of stairs. Or, he decides to go to a party--or do just a little smoking--or take a cocktail or two. If no serious after-effects follow the first departure from the rigorous schedule prescribed he may try it again, until *he* suffers a relapse.

In both cardiac and the tubercular cases, the acts which led to the relapses were preceded by wrong thinking. The patient in each case rationalized himself out of a sense of his own perilous reality. He deliberately turned away from this knowledge of the fact he had been the victim of a serious disease. He grew overconfident. He decided he didn't have to follow directions.

Now that is precisely what happens with the alcoholic--the arrested alcoholic, or the alcoholic in A.A.--who has a "slip." Obviously he decides again to take a drink sometime before he actually takes it. He starts thinking wrong before he actually embarks on the course that leads to a "slip."

There is no more reason to charge the "slip" to alcoholic behavior than there is to lay a tubercular relapse to tubercular behavior or a second heart attack to cardiac behavior.

The alcoholic "slip" is not a symptom of a psychotic condition. There's nothing "screwy" about it at all. *The patient simply didn't follow directions.*

*And that's human nature! It's life! It's happening all the time, not merely among alcoholics but among all kinds of people.*

The preventative is plain. The patient must have full knowledge of his condition, keep in mind the facts of his case and the nature of his disease and follow directions.

For the alcoholic, A.A. offers the directions. A vital factor, or ingredient, of the preventative, especially for the alcoholic, is sustained emotion. The alcoholic who learns some of the technique or the mechanics of A.A. but misses the philosophy or the spirit may get tired of following directions--not because he is alcoholic but because he is human. Rules and regulations irk almost anyone, because they are restraining, prohibitive, negative. The philosophy of A.A., however, is positive and provides ample sustained emotion--a sustained desire to follow directions voluntarily.

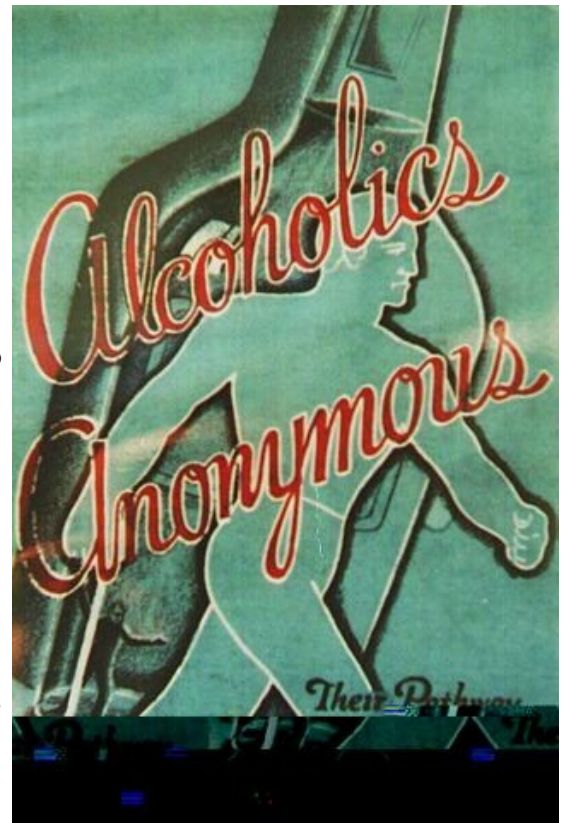
In any event, the psychology of the alcoholic is not as different as some people try to make it. The disease has certain physical differences, yes, and the alcoholic has problems peculiar to him, perhaps, in that he has been put on the defensive and consequently has developed nervous frustrations. But, in many instances, there is no more reason to be talking about "the alcoholic mind" than there is to try to describe something called "the cardiac mind" or "the t.b. mind."

I think we'll help the alcoholic more if we can first recognize that he is primarily a human being--afflicted with human nature.

-Dr. William Duncan Silkworth

Reprinted with permission from the January, 1947 A.A. Grapevine.

*For those who don't know, Dr. Silkworth treated Bill W. at Townes Hospital through several relapses until he finally got sober. Dr Silkworth also wrote the Doctor's Opinion at the front of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.*



## HOW I FOUND AA

I moved to Maui several years ago after a 14 year relationship ended. My heart was broken and I had no idea what I was doing. I was lonely and filled with self pity and fear. I started drinking beer on the lanai, staring at the ocean.

I then went on to writing poetry to ease my pain which led me to drink more for what I thought was inspiration. In reality it only fed the fire and my thirst could not put it out. I made a promise to myself not to get involved with anyone for a year (which I was successful at). My mind had become tainted with beer and wine going from 2-4 cans to a six pack to a 12pack a day. I drank to remove my pain and really it seemed to work.

After that year, I started dating again and from that first date drinking beer became the norm for the next year. Everyday, it was the beer diet. Then my partner had to leave the island. Again I became fearful and alone. My drinking increased. At the end of July my Mother died suddenly. I was in shock and the only way I knew how to deal with my feelings was to drink all day until I could fall asleep at night. It hurt so bad that in the following two weeks I went from drinking a 12 pack to adding a bottle of hard liquor (Vodka or rum to be specific). I started throwing up and in a sick way I believed that purged my being.

After two weeks of this self inflicted hell I thought I was going crazy. I couldn't deal with life. My Mother and my Partner gone I was truly alone and alcohol was my best friend, but it drove me to the front door of insanity.

Sitting in front of my computer one day in August I started crying. I didn't want to feel this way.

And somehow in my drunken stupor, I researched and found AA on Maui.

I thought about it for a few minutes. I asked myself "What did I have to lose?" I needed help..

So I called the number to Central Office.

I cried drunkenly in their ear and when I was done they said someone would call me. In my amazement within ten minutes I did receive a phone call. This woman patiently listened to my drunken rant. She was kind and helpful and suggested I needed to go to a meeting.

Another woman in the program was a friend of hers. She said she lived right up the street. Now a second woman called and listened as I spilled my drunken words into her ear. She told me she would pick me up and drive me to a meeting. She held my hand as we walked to the table [probably so I didn't bolt away, (just kidding?). I sat there scared to death as everyone of you probably have experienced. I think the next few days this was repeated - picking me up and taking me to a meeting.

I am forever grateful that when I called Central Office someone was there. Without that I don't know what I would have done. Someone was there! I couldn't believe it. They were kind and concerned. Without that phone call I wouldn't be here today.

And with those two women helping me, I became a grateful member of AA.

I consider them my angels.

And I found in my Mothers death, she gave me the gift of sobriety.

And by the way, those two women are still in my life today and I honor and thank my higher power for their love.

Central Office saved my life and turned this broken soul into a miracle.

And I just celebrated one year of sobriety on Aug.16th.

From Dawn L  
Lahaina, Maui



**MINUTES**  
**MAUI INTERGROUP MEETING**  
**SEPT. 10, 2011**

Kawika, Intergroup Chair; Rich, CO Mgr.; Jean M, CO Chair. 17 total attendees (list at end).

6:00 pm Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer. Prior meeting's Minutes were motioned (Joan), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Matt) and accepted. (See hand-out of Agenda)

Bill, Treasurer's report (see financial report hand-out). No new news, tough time financially. Approx. \$200-250 were anonymous contributions. Motion carried to accept Treasurer's report.

Rich, Central Office report (see payroll breakdown hand-out). Ten days ago a circuit breaker "popped" with entire wall of CO without electricity. This fueled the computer, printer, network connection and is now inoperable. Circuit breaker is in vacant office; landlord on vacation off island with daughter trying to obtain key. Rich spent about 10-hours dealing with the problem and trying to fix the computer/printer network.

Need new Tuesday night phone volunteer. Also the Phone Coordinator moved to Big Island so we need a new Phone Coordinator. It is a volunteer service position which basically involves recruiting, and overseeing night phone crew.

Event Reports:

Bill/Upcountry Sunrise: 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Gratitude Night is set for Oct. 16 with "Fiesta of Gratitude" as theme. Hosting 200-people in potluck situation at Pukalani Comm. Center. Action: solicit side dishes (hand-out given as sign in sheet for side dishes). Sunrise group to make burritos. Usually 'just enough food'. Having a piñata with a \$1 contribution to whack the piñata. Will have a male and female as speakers. Need help with side dishes, water, sodas.

CO Bash: 2012 Locations? Kihei Comm. Center was motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed. Rich to follow up.

Colleen: Should C.O. even be doing events? Bill L suggested Intergroup stop paying for events. Let groups pay for Alkathons, etc. Rich: The events mostly pay for themselves. Contribution boxes at events generally recoup expenses.

Old Business: Central Office Finances

There was much discussion regarding Central Office finances as it is always a struggle to pay the bills.. There was discussion about fundraising, decreasing C.O. costs; e.g., have mgr. pay ½ of cost of health ins., reduce hours from 20 to 10 hrs. Also to have the Serenity Gazette become a service position, not taking up time/\$ as managerial duty. If Kilakila fee is too much, Steering Committee will look into covering these duties "in house" i.e., within AA. This idea was motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and passed by a vote.

Bill L: There is no one solution to everything but let's start somewhere. Acknowledge out loud—with less contributions, the Island's groups have a negative feeling – C.O. should cut costs, month after month. Members read the financial report and don't see any changes in our expenses. So let's do some little thing. Other ideas: to form an ad hoc committee to get with other groups to 'spread the word' about 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and splits to support C.O.

Group Reports:

Bill/Upcountry Sunrise: 50% of meeting attendees are drug court referrals. At first, members were skeptical, little \$ into the basket. Now seeing a change that drug court folks are participating, becoming a positive force.

Malcolm/Over the Rainbow: 6:30-7:30 Over the Rainbow Growing meeting, more people but less \$ put into the basket. Individuals are suffering, less people contributing. Positive: feels CO is a good thing.

Joan/We Agnostics: Collect and remit CO contributions every month. We voted not to contribute to District nor to collect \$ for rep's to take plane trips, GSR off island meetings. #1 priority is C.O.

Brenda/Lahaina BB: C.O. is crucial, receives many calls, whereby people come to meetings and recover. Also want to find ways to trim expenses.

NEW Meeting: Kihei Women's, Friday, 1:30 pm at St. Theresa's.

Happy Hour BBQ This is the last month, Oct. the first Thurs. It is self supporting (not taken from 7<sup>th</sup> tradition) BBQ runs March-Oct. due to sunlight.

**GROUP ACTION ITEMS:**

- Need phone coordinator, Intergroup Mtg recording secretary
- Food sign-ups for Gratitude Night/Upcountry
- Continue to form ideas for saving money.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie T.

<b>CONTRIBUTING GROUPS</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>2011 YTD</b>
3rd Step Turn It Over		\$229.00
Alana Ohana	\$600.00	\$1,990.00
Anonymous Contributions	\$95.00	\$1,281.00
Back To Basics	\$25.00	\$106.00
Club 449		\$251.40
Dawn Patrol		\$162.50
District 13 Business meeting		\$31.00
Food For Thought		\$351.80
Fri Nite Young People Kihei		\$200.00
Friday Gay & Lesbian BigBook		\$24.18
Haiku Hang Loose Group		\$212.50
Happy Hour	\$371.50	\$2,754.15
HICYPAA		\$232.63
High In The Sky - Kula		\$450.28
Imi Loa Searcher Group		\$10.50
Intergroup - Monthly Meeting	\$22.00	\$191.91
Just Do It		\$64.50
Kahana Spinners		\$300.00
Kihei Beach		\$271.39
Kihei Morning Serenity	\$614.00	\$614.00
Lahaina Big Book Study		\$354.65
Lahaina Study Group		\$233.75
Lahaina Whalers		\$150.00
Maui Sunset	\$86.50	\$1,659.27
Mon. Kihei Womens Step Study		\$200.00
Monday Night Women's Mtg		\$3.00
No Ka Oi Group		\$50.00
Over the Rainbow		\$128.00
Paki Maui Group	\$150.00	\$850.00
Paniolo Group	\$81.50	\$181.50
Pau Hana (Kahului)		\$98.50
Primary Purpose	\$975.00	\$3,575.00
S. A. M. Meeting	\$50.00	\$50.00
Sisters Of Sobriety	\$27.00	\$70.50
Sober And Crazy	\$160.37	\$896.30
Step Sisters		\$22.38
Steps To Freedom		\$11.00
Sunday Sunset Feelings		\$168.49
To Thine Own Self Be True		\$531.40
Upcountry Sunrise		\$46.14
Upcountry Sunset		\$60.00
Wailuku Group		\$10.35
Wake Up Call		\$250.00
We Agnostics	\$50.00	\$552.23
Women's AA Way of Life		\$58.88
Unaccounted for group		\$19.50
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,307.87</b>	<b>\$17,748.08</b>

<b>INCOME REPORT: September, 2011</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Total Group Contributions:		\$3,280.87
This year 44 Groups have contributed		
This Month 12 Groups Contributed		
Central Office Golf Tournament net		\$148.00
Literature Starting Balance	10.51	
Sales / Deposit	680.00	
Expenses	474.00	
Closing Balance	216.51	
Operating Account		
Beginning Balance	(23.62)	
Income / Deposit	3,455.87	
Expenses	2,930.23	
Total Operating account	502.02	
Prudent Reserve	6,588.28	
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>		<b>\$3,455.87</b>
<b>2011 YEAR TO DATE INCOME:</b>		<b>\$28,876.59</b>

<b>EXPENSE REPORT: September, 2011</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
Haran Development		525.00
Kilakila		1,058.51
Hawaiian Telcom		290.91
Kilakila		1,055.81
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>		<b>\$2,930.23</b>
<b>2011 YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$29,125.05</b>
<b>YTD NET INCOME</b>		<b>(\$273.46)</b>

### Central Office Report

- Books sold: 61, Pamphlets sold: 74.
- Explored possibility that the company which does our payroll might be able to do it cheaper. They cannot as they already charge us a low rate = \$104/mo.
- A circuit breaker blew in the office a month ago which disabled the wall plugs along one whole wall at the office which we had the computers and printer attached to. We are using extension cords from sockets on the other wall but the printer is not usable this way. The landlord was contacted because the breaker box is apparently in a vacant office next door, which is locked. He was in Africa for 3 weeks; should be back by now but has not responded to phone messages. We will not pay the rent until we hear from him because the problem has existed for over a month now and this may be the only reasonable way to get his attention.

Thank you for your generous contributions. Without your financial support Central Office cannot exist to serve A.A. members on Maui.

## TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

### from the A.A. Grapevine

**Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues;  
hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.**

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an “AA opinion” on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the “AA opinion”?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

2011 Intergroup Sponsored Events		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Group Hosting Event</i>
Oct 16	<b>Gratitude Night</b> Pukalani/Tavares Com. Ctr Dinner & Speakers 5:30-9 pm	Upcountry Sunrise
Nov 23 & 24 Wed & Thur	<b>Thanksgiving Alcathon</b> Cameron Center November 23, 2:00 p.m. to November 24, 4:00 p.m. Dinner 1pm on Thurs., Nov 24	Happy Hour
Dec 24 & 25 Sat & Sun	<b>Christmas Alcathon</b> Cameron Center December 24 at 2pm to Dec. 25 at 4:00 p.m. Dinner at 1 pm on 12/25	Kihei Morning Serenity
Dec 31, Jan 1 Sat & Sun	<b>New Year's Alcathon</b> Camp Olowalu December 31 at 2pm to 1/1/2012 at 4:00 p.m. Dinner at 1pm on 1/1/2012	Friday Night Young People



**“Life is either a  
daring adventure  
or nothing.  
Security is mostly  
a superstition.  
It does not exist  
in nature.”  
-Helen Keller**

### What is "the Message" of AA?

Have you ever heard people talk about spreading "the message of A.A."? What exactly is that message? **Please send us any passages from A.A. approved literature which you think expresses what "the message" of A.A. is.** A small search of the literature of Alcoholics Anonymous reveals the following hints:

...the kind of freedom and release the first one hundred men and women experienced from taking the spiritual actions of the Steps.

Love, tolerance

Don't drink; go to meetings; work the Steps; help others

Actions that the first one hundred men and women had done to establish an effective relationship with God.

Helping a man establish an effective relationship with God and discover his place in the world, rather than trying to force him into complying with my wishes.

Our new way of staying sober is literally founded upon the proposition that "Of ourselves, we are nothing, the Father doeth the works." In Steps One and Two of our recovery program, these ideas are specifically spelled out: "We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol. . .that our lives had become unmanageable"--"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." We couldn't lick alcohol with our own remaining resources and so we accepted the further fact that dependence upon a Higher Power (if only our AA group) could do this hither-to impossible job. The moment we were able to fully accept these facts, our release from the alcohol compulsion had begun. For most of us this pair of acceptances had required a lot of exertion to achieve. Our whole treasured philosophy of self-sufficiency had to be cast aside. This had not been done with old-fashioned will power; it was instead a matter of developing the willingness to *accept* these new facts of living. We neither ran nor fought. But *accept* we did. And then we were free. There had been no irretrievable disaster. **Please send in anything from the A.A. literature which spells out "the message".**

### Relationships...

When it comes to relationships, I have been guilty of continuing to do the same thing the same way, and expecting different results. On many occasions this has resulted in sadness for me and/or others.

Fortunately for me, the "12 Steps" have become part of my life. As a result, I have learned to listen to myself, and become aware of my part in relationships, situations and behaviors that are potentially destructive. With the help of my Higher Power, I have learned that I can trust myself to make necessary changes that lead to healthier relationships.

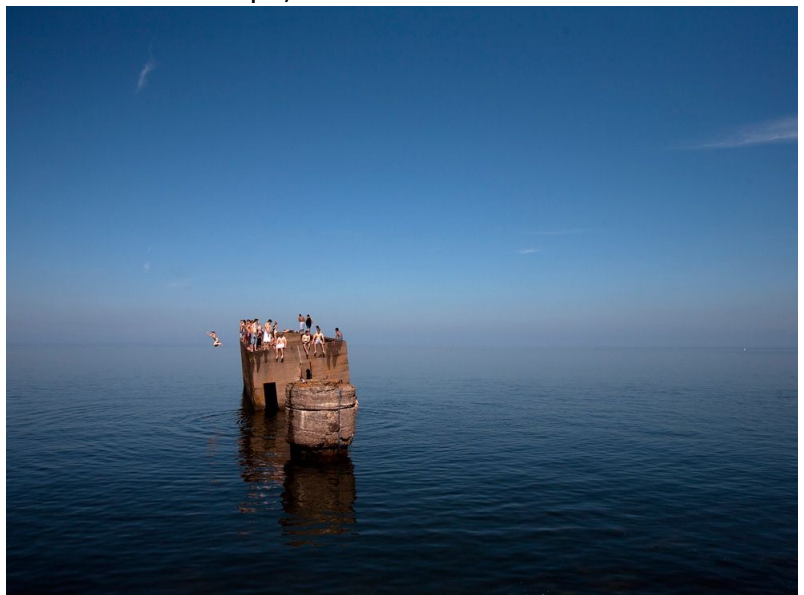
-Anonymous

**If you judge people,  
you have no time to love them.  
~ Mother Theresa ~**

### Letting Go

Instead of hanging on thinking your life depends on it,  
it's time to let go BECAUSE your life depends on it.

-Lisa



Dear AA:

Would you please do your magic and send the following question to the Fellowship:

Does anyone know the origin of "men with men and women with women?" Is this suggestion in our literature? Please help? -Bill S., Office Manager, Naples Area Intergroup, Inc.

The purpose of the Institutions Correspondence Service is the same as that of all AA groups--to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Experience suggests sharing sobriety only and it is best for all concerned if no emotional or romantic involvements develop. Men usually correspond with men and women with women, although exceptions are occasionally made. AA groups sometimes "sponsor" an inmate by sharing as a group rather than on an individual basis. -Grapevine, May, 1988

### **From the Grass Roots**

#### **A LADY'S GRIPE**

I am a woman alcoholic and a member of AA. I have achieved five and a half years of continuous sobriety and have been a subscriber to the Grapevine ever since I came into this wonderful fellowship. This is the first time I have written a letter of this kind but I feel I have a legitimate "gripe" and knowing that we are supposed to discuss with each other anything that is disturbing our serenity--here goes!

I originally found AA in New England and as soon as I was able to I became very active in all phases of activity. Twelfth Step work ultimately absorbed most of my waking hours and even if my new prospect didn't "see the light" immediately, I knew it was helping me stay sober. Many of the guys and gals I worked with did become sober, conscientious and sincere members--and last, but not least, very good friends. Now here is where I come to my "gripe". Since moving to Florida, I have run into a great deal of criticism about men being sponsored by women! Over the past five years, I can honestly say I have sponsored more men than women. Most of these men are married and their wives have become some of my closest friends. One man up north whom I helped had tried AA with two previous male sponsors and had continuously had trouble. One night after I had spoken at an open meeting he asked me if I would become his sponsor, which I did. He recently celebrated three years of sobriety and has always maintained that I was the one who made him realize that he had to "surrender."

We all know that no one sobers anyone up except himself, but I feel that certain people "click" where others might fail. Don't you think it's more important to "carry the message" than to worry about *who* carries it? Certainly, any good member of AA is trying to "practice these principles in *all* our affairs."

Quoting from "God Speaks To AA": "Personal criticism you must expect, lack of appreciation will be common, ridicule will be your lot, your motives will be misjudged." How true! And the pathetic part of it is that the gossip and criticism has come from the so-called "old-timers" who are too busy to devote hours to the new man or woman, who are so smug and self-righteous that they feel they have a right to take another's inventory.

Now that I've gotten that off my chest, I feel better! Incidentally, in closing, I want to say that whenever I get a call, regardless of who it is, man or woman, if they are alcoholic and sincerely want to stop drinking, I'll be on my way. My life has been saved through AA; the rewards of this way of life have been unlimited and the only way in which I can keep it is to give it away.

Anonymous, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

[September 2003](#)

### **The Open Door**

**A presentation by Joe O., panel 52 delegate from Area 45, to the 2003 GSC in New York City.**

We look for those who are like us; those who are the "right kind." At my first meeting, at the age of twenty-six, I fearfully looked from the middle-aged faces to even older faces and wondered if I really belonged. My eye caught sight of a youngish fellow with long hair and a beard. I knew it was alright to stay. You took my kind. You even took other kinds.

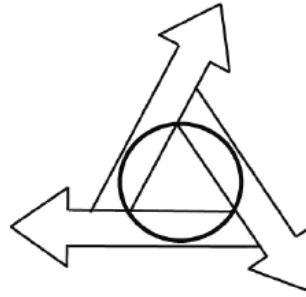
There are other kinds of differences that are sometimes harder to accept than differences between kinds of people--differences of opinion. I think of a catankerous old-timer I knew from the beginning of my sobriety. In some respects she was a polarizing figure. There were those who loved her and those who couldn't stand her. No one lacked an opinion.

When members joined hands for the prayer at the close of the meeting, she would stand to the side. You see, they didn't hold hands when she came into Alcoholics Anonymous during the fifties. When I was about four months sober, I joined her and one of her sponsees at a diner for the meeting after the meeting. They were upset. They'd visited a meeting where the chairperson was not set apart: he wasn't seated at a table or at the head of the table. This group just didn't know how to run a meeting. I pointed out that the placement of the chairman struck me as something that did not affect AA as a whole, and the autonomy provision of the Fourth Tradition left such matters entirely up to the group. The oldtimer looked at me and said: "I hope I know as much about the program as you do when I'm sober as long as you are!" I realized then that there would never be a point in disputing her; she would always have a quarter century on me. This I believe had a great deal to do with our relationship over the next eighteen years. We never had an argument, or even a cross word. She passed out of our sight and hearing a few days after my nineteenth anniversary. She didn't drive. I had many opportunities to take her to meetings and learn a great deal. More, in fact, than from my "official" (read male) sponsors. Sometimes her opinions seemed hopelessly out of date and just plain wrong. But then again: I've only made a "fine start." What do I know?

**MEETING CHANGES**

**NEW MEETING!**

**The Friday Women's meeting is on Friday at 1:30pm at St. Theresa Church**



**OAHU HICYPAA 2011**

Camp Waianae: October 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

85-1560 Haleahi Rd.

Waianae, HI 96792

**Pre-Registration By Mail = \$50/each**

(Includes all meals for the weekend, plus accommodations)

**Registration is \$60 after September 16th.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MALE/FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to Sponsor somebody  \$50 I'm just paying for myself

I'm paying for other people  How Many: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please add their names as well)

\$50 needs to be sent in by check or money order to PO Box

Make checks payable to HICYPAA 2011

What to bring: Clothes, coffee mug, blanket + pillow, toiletries, etc.

The Transportation chair is Jay C. and his phone number is 415-410-4420.

**SUNDAY,  
September 25th  
Hana Caravan**  
Meet at **Wananalua  
Church in Hana**  
**POTLUCK DINNER**  
at 4:30pm  
**A.A. Meeting**  
at 5:30pm - 7pm  
A Service Function of  
**No Ka Oi District 5**

**Contact A.A. on Maui  
Central Office**

70 Central Ave., Suite 1,  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

**808-244-9673**

Phones are answered 24 hours

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday thru Friday: 9am-5pm**

Meeting schedule online:

[www.aamaui.org](http://www.aamaui.org)

Email: [info@aamaui.org](mailto:info@aamaui.org)

**Contact *Maui Serenity Gazette***

**808-244-9673**

PO Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793

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You can contribute articles on any A.A. subject. Anything you wish to submit should be received by the end of each month to be included the next month. Full Submission Guidelines are also on the website listed above.

Articles are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or the Maui Serenity Gazette. Please submit any criticism or suggestions without hesitation.

**All Other Islands**

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Kaua'i AA (808) 245-6677  
[www.hconv.org/kauai/kauaiaa](http://www.hconv.org/kauai/kauaiaa)

Moloka'i & Lana'i AA  
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[www.aamaui.org](http://www.aamaui.org)

West Hawai'i (Big Island, Kona)  
(808) 329-1212

<http://www.westhawaiiiaa.org/>

East Hawai'i (Hilo & Puna)  
(808) 961-6133

**Keep Coming Back!**