



sonoma county
**Intergroup
Fellowship**

NEWS

NOVEMBER

2006

Get the latest meeting listings, upcoming events, and more, at www.sonomacountyaa.org

Too Much Gratitude?

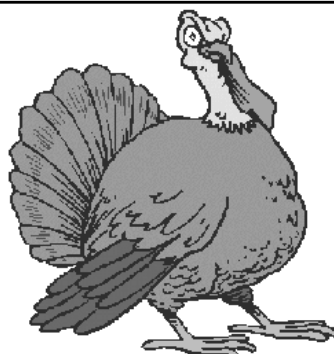
Scientists at an unnamed and nonexistent university are concerned that the upcoming Thanksgiving Alkathon might offer both attendees and volunteers too much to be thankful for.

“Look here,” one scientist warned, “this gratitude stuff is serious business. It means not taking things for granted. It means being happy with life. I’m not sure the human race is ready for this. I don’t know if our economy can take it.”

Jeff S., the SCIF Alcathon coordinator, dismissed the scientists’ concerns as being as nonexistent as the scientists themselves. He plans to go ahead with the event beginning Wednesday, November 22, at 6:00 P.M.

Meetings are scheduled for every two hours, and going until 12 Midnight Thanksgiving Day. All of this is to take place at the Fifth Street Light, at 525 Fifth Street, downtown Santa Rosa.

Volunteers are needed!



Thanksgiving Alkathon

**Wed, Nov 22, 6 PM to
Thu, Nov 23 12 Midnight**

Meetings every 2 hours!

- Sobriety
- Sharing
- Fellowship

525 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa
Next to Gold’s Gym.

Plenty of parking!

Pot Luck! Bring something to share!

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Birthdays

Stu	11/1986	20
Pete	11/1988	18
Tom H.	11/2000	6
Dave H	11/16/00	6

Hey! Want to show that this thing works? Get your birthday in the newsletter!

Unity Day 2006: The Real Agenda

It has long been known that Unity and Service are two legs of the Recovery triangle, but does that mean that just by attending Unity Day 2006 you can improve your chances of recovery? Maybe so. As one old-timer put it, “It couldn’t hurt.”

Following is what our sources claim to be the “real” agenda for Unity Day 2006.

9:00 - 9:45	Registration	11:30 - 12:30	Growing A.A. In Sonoma Co.
9:50	Opening Prayer & Welcome (James C.)		Sonoma Co. Young People in AA, Access Sonoma Co., Dist. 18 (Jolie, Diane W. & Marta)
10:00 - 10:50	Panel I What We Do, & What's Going On	1:00 - 2:00	Lunch!
	(H&I, Kelly T.; G.S., Margrete V.; SCIF, Bob K.)	2:00 - 2:30	Skit: “A.A. Heaven”
		2:45 - 3:30	Bonnie Jean K. & Ensemble
11:00 - 11:15	Signs of Sobriety- Presentation Susan C.	3:30 - 4:00	Guest Speaker (Tony K.)
		4:00	Joy Of Sobriety & Gifts of Service
			Sobriety Countdown (Megan M.)
			Closing (James C.)



Speakers Panels
Service Information Displays
Live Theatre Free Lunch
Pot Luck Desserts
There is a \$5 Fee to Register

Saturday, November 11
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Westview Christian Church
3950 Doubles Drive
Santa Rosa

Volunteers are needed!

September 2006 Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting

Meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer

Readings:

- Tradition 9: Dennis
- Preamble: Steve
- Concept 9: Valentin

Introduction of New Representatives to Intergroup:

- Pat H. "Bring Your Own Big Book," 7:30 PM Friday, S.R.;
- Kelly B. "Sunday Smiles," 11 AM Sunday, Santa Rosa;
- Molly A. "Quitting Time," 5:30 PM Thurs., Fri, & Sun, Pet;
- Scott A. "Working Winners," 8 PM Thursday, Santa Rosa;
- Donna L. "Alcoholics Only," 7:30 PM Monday, Santa Rosa;
- Sue F. "Hessel Big Book," 7:30 PM Thursday, Sebastopol;
- David S. "Wednesday Night Men's Stag," 8 PM Wed, S.R.;
- DL L. "Lady Bug Sunday," 5:30 PM Sunday, Rohnert Park;
- Dennis B. "12 x 12 at 12," 12 Noon Wednesday, Cotati;
- Dami R. "Up The Steps," 10:30 AM Saturday, Santa Rosa;
- Mark V. "Great Reality Big Book Study," 6:30 PM Thu, S.R.
- Martha B. "Lucchesi Park," 12 Noon, Mon – Fri, Pet

September Birthdays:

- Valentin S. 2 Yrs., Louis S. 15 Yrs., Reis D. 2 yrs.,
- Scott K. 4 Yrs., Mark V. 5 Yrs.

LIAISON REPORTS

H&I Report: Mark V. reminded folks that H&I Representatives meet on the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center. New rep orientation, for those interested in this service commitment, takes place at 5:30PM, followed by the business meeting at 6:00PM. The 36th Annual H&I Conference will be held in Petaluma on August 13, 14, 15th 2007.

General Service: Kenin H. reported District 12 voted to adopt "Access Sonoma County" as a new standing committee of General Service. Also, due to generous contributions, six pamphlets have been translated in Kazakh for AA's of Kazakhstan, a former Soviet Republic in Asia. GSO is looking for potential contributors to the pamphlet "AA for the Native North American."

PI/CPC Report: Bob K. filled in for Dave R. Bob encouraged anyone wanting to be of service to this committee, that they meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at SR City Hall

lounge with speaker training at 7:00PM and the business meeting at 7:30PM. They are in need of volunteers. He explained the function of the group is to provide accurate information about A.A. and to distribute literature to hospitals, police stations, hotels, jails, libraries, etc. They are in need of speakers for the County's drinking driver program. This commitment requires two years of sobriety.

Bridging The Gap: Bob K. reported for Carolyn A. The purpose of BTG is to introduce the newly released residents of treatment facilities to AA in their local communities. They use a list of AA volunteers to coordinate with newly released AA newcomers and take them to their first meeting. All that is required to be a volunteer is 6 months of sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps. Having transportation is helpful. Business meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the AA Bookstore at 7:00PM. In August there were 32 requests. Four presentations were given.

SOCYPAA: Bob K. filled in for Larry C. stated the next major event for SOCYPAA is the third "Annual Marine World Trip" on October 7, 2006—see flyer. SOCYPAA will be competing to bring ACYPAA Conference to Sonoma County. SOCYPAA business meetings are listed in the Newsletter Calendar.

Access Sonoma County: Diane W. reported that ASC meets at the 2nd Thursday of the Month at 6:30 PM at the Bookstore. ASC has been adopted by General Service Sonoma County. ASC is working to provide telephone numbers for the blind or their friends to share their experience, strength and hope. For more information call Diane at 526-1466.

OFFICER REPORTS

Intergroup Chair: Bob K. thanked all for their service to Intergroup. Larry O. stated that Unity Day will be on Saturday November 11, 2006. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Volunteers are needed for Unity Day. There will be no raffles this year at Unity Day.

Vice Chair: Susy E. filled in for Tim P. and she instructed the 9 new reps. about Intergroup, its functions, ETC.

Treasurer: John S. stated the financial outlook is good. He

(Continued on page 3)

<u>INTERGROUP OFFICERS</u>			<u>AA TELESERVICE</u>		
CHAIR	Bob K.	578-4877	PHONE LINE COORDINATOR	Dave R.	538-3212
VICE-CHAIR	Tim P.	823-4526	12 STEP COORDINATOR	James C.	546-4623
SECRETARY	Bob P.	538-3169	<u>AA HOTLINES</u>		
TREASURER	John S.	328-1679	SANTA ROSA	707-544-1300	
<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u>			LONG DISTANCE	800-224-1300	
SEMINARS	Jim B.	332-2737	PETALUMA	707-762-5122	
ACTIVITIES	Monika G.	526-6460	SONOMA	707-938-2027	
OUTREACH	Victoria H.	573-7330	<u>OPEN SHIFTS</u>		
COMMUNICATIONS	Dave H.	545-3183	SPANISH	707-829-1272	
TELESERVICE	Stephen I.	843-0967	Sunday	10 P.M. – 9 A.M.	Thursday 8 – 11 A.M.
ALCATHONS	Jeff S.	481-7414	Tuesday	10 P.M. – 8 A.M.	Friday 10 P.M. – 9 A.M.



A NOTE FROM GENERAL SERVICE

Concept X

Well, I'm here to tell you that in addition to the 12 steps and 12 Traditions, we have the 12 Concepts, which are part and parcel of our service manual. They define the scope and reasoning behind the way we (AA) operate, and are very useful to refer to when choosing our service leaders and our procedures.

So the short form of Concept X reads: "Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws."

The whole concept takes up a few pages and is a little short of two thousand words, for those of you who are interested. It points out that "ultimate" authority is rarely to be used. It also points out that there is a natural tendency of people to try to garner power for the sake of power, so the task set out before AA was to create a structure in which there are constraints on the use of ultimate power. It makes for interesting reading, and I would add that it is a "short read" and thus should go on the reading list of every one in a service position.

There are other (11, to be specific) Concepts, and all of them are worth reading, so while I know that your schedules are hectic (mine is, I know), try to fit these in.

Contributed by Bill K.

A SUGGESTION FOR THANKSGIVING

The following is excerpted from an editorial that first appeared in the November 1949 Grapevine.

Pre-AA, we alkie could sometimes achieve that dubious state called "sobriety, period." How bleak and empty this alleged virtue is, only God or a dried-up drunk can fully testify. The reason? Of course every AA knows it: nothing has taken the place of the victim's grog; he's still a man of conflict and disunity. Comes then the 12 Steps of Recovery, bringing to him a "personality change." The shattered prospect feels reassembled; he now says he seems all one piece. We understand exactly what he means, for he describes the state of being "at oneness"; he is talking about personal unity. We know he must work to maintain it and that he can't stay alive without it.

Will not the same principle hold true for AA as a whole? Isn't it also a fact that the alcoholic is in no greater peril than when he takes sobriety for granted? If vigilant practice of sound principle is a matter of life and death for him, why isn't that equally so for the AA group, and for our far-flung society itself?

Yet many of us still take the basic unity of Alcoholics Anonymous for granted. We seem to forget that the whole of modern society is on a dangerous and contagious "dry bender." We evidently assume we are so different from other men and women, that disintegration can't hit us. Our unity appears as a gift of Heaven; something to be perpetually enjoyed by us AAs quite without effort.

Criticism is not intended, because our present attitude is natural enough. It stems from the fact that no society in its infancy has ever enjoyed more providential protection against temptation and untoward happenings than has ours. Minor

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SCIF General Meeting *(Continued from page 2)*

made a point for all the reps. to thank their groups for their contributions to Intergroup.

Bookstore: Volunteers are needed to work in the Bookstore on various shifts. One year sobriety is required.

Registrar: Susy E. reported all is well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach: Victoria H. is promoting Intergroup to the meetings she is attending.

Activities: Monika G. reported the next dance will be the "Halloween Dance" on Friday October 27, 2006 at the Sebastopol Community Center. A donation of \$10 is requested. Volunteers are needed.

Seminars: Jim B. and reported the next seminar will be in January 2007 at the bookstore. The topic will be "Sponsorship".

Alcathons: Jeff S. emphasized the need for "Old Timers" at the Alcathons

Teleservice: Steve I. reported that the business meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00PM at the Bookstore. Volunteers are need for various shifts. (Refer to

the Newsletter.) He asked that Intergroup Representatives announce at meeting level that volunteers are needed at Teleservice.

Newsletter/Communications: Dave H. reported the Newsletter Committee meets at the Bookstore at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Dave is looking for articles to print in the Newsletter.

Old Business: Ask representatives if it is OK to change from a Monthly Financial report, to a Quarterly Financial report for publication in the Newsletter.

New Business:

(1). Need two ICSC members for the Bookstore.

(2). Does Sonoma County AA wish to have an AL-ALON Liaison?

(3). Change December Intergroup meeting from December 25th to December 18th.

Group Concerns/ Sharing: None

Summation: Bob P. filled in for Tim P. and outlined the meeting.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

Gratefully In Service,

Bob P.

The Color of Alcoholism

by Donna E.

I saw the color of alcoholism. It is dandelion-dust yellow. I saw it creep into my friends face and had seen it there so long that it looked normal to me.

JC DancingSpirit / Jan Cora Hall passed over two days ago.

The entire experience is so sacred to me that I almost feel badly trying to put words to it. But at the same time I want to share it with you.

We sat with her. There must have been 30 of us, over the 4 days of her passing that came to sit. Stroke her face, rub her tired arms and legs, hold her hands. Sing to her, laugh and cry with her, pray, encourage and hold her.

Often during those few days, I would be sitting beside her bed and I would see "us". There would be one or sometimes two women on each side of the bed. We were touching her, loving her and being together in such a natural way. It was right. It felt to me that this was what God made women for. It's a special gift to be able to bring life into the world and to help it to pass when the time has come.

We talked of our lives, our sponsee's, the connections we have with each other and with JC. We talked of her life. I didn't hear anyone say, "What a waste" or express any regret for what was happening. There seemed to be a broad acceptance that JC had lived her life as best she could and she was entitled to that. After all, what more is there? What more do each of us have than to live our lives? The thought came to me that I've long waited for permission of some sort, from some source I don't know, to make this mine. Where did that come from? Why do I wait?

I can't say there wasn't fear or regret. There was enough of that. But in it all there was an amazement that came

to JC that she was loved and accepted by those who knew her. It was incredible for this woman to see that every tattoo, every piercing, every time she shaved her head and each weird style of dress, as well as every bizarre act of living that she crowded into her life, was only her effort to keep everyone away. She was so afraid of life. When her dying days began, if you can mark that time, she said that she was afraid. I asked her if she knew exactly what she was afraid of and she said, "I'm afraid to live and afraid to die." Aren't we all? I guess that would pretty well cover it. But in her drive to keep everyone out, she found her way into a group of people that for the most part could see through those attempts to keep alone and loved her anyway, even when they had to love her from across the room. It was amazing when she began to realize that and it renewed her, somehow.

One of the days before she died she said to me, "I just can't believe how good my life is!" That will stay with me forever. Isn't that also the case with all of us? We don't know how good our lives really are, regardless of the longing to have it different. Like the child who gets 22 Christmas presents and says, "Dang, I didn't get what I always wanted." When asked what he always wanted he said, "I don't know, but I didn't get it!"

Anyway, JC passed with a color that lost the look of dandelion dust and was more like a fading yellow bruise but the look of peace on her face was much more what I noticed than her color.

She is free. I can't help but know that she is going to something much better than she left behind. She left with me a precious gift. A sacred moment of being so connected to a person that I was allowed to witness the second most private moment of life and that is the moment that it ends.

I love you and I love this very life.
Donna



The Worst Disease

I have come more and more to realize that being unwanted is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience.

Nowadays we have found medicine for leprosy, and lepers can be cured. There's medicine for TB, and consumption can be cured. But for being unwanted, except there are willing hands to serve and there's a loving heart to love, I don't think this terrible disease can be cured.

Mother Teresa

Reprinted from *Peacemaking: Day by Day*
by Mother Teresa of India

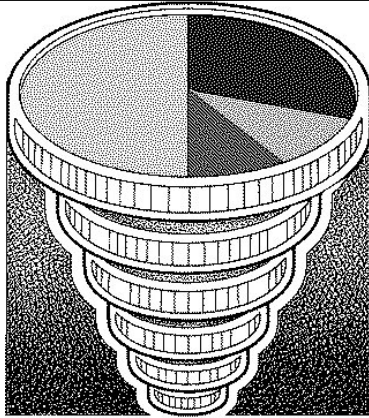
We Is One

by Jeremy R.

When the chill winds whistle
through the cracks in my soul ...
and i'm so alone!
And i wonder where my love is,
and i wonder who my love is ...
and there's no going home.
I turn to the Light, and i pray
for the strength to accept
what i cannot control.
And i'm warmed by the Grace
that touches my heart,
and helps me to be
an essential part of the Whole!

jeremy r.

SCIF FINANCIAL SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2006



Example of Suggested Group Contributions to AA Service Entities

- 50-70% to Intergroup
- 10-30% to Local General Service
- 10-20% to CNCA
- 10-20% to GSO New York

	Month of <u>September-06</u>			Year to Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
Central Office	-	2,022	(2,022)		19,712	(19,712)
Groups	4,363		4,363	37,169		37,169
Individuals				123		123
Office Rent				120		120
Teleservice		883	(883)		8,236	(8,236)
Web Site		18	(18)		165	(165)
Newsletter	100	664	(564)	164	5,537	(5,373)
Interest	23		23	247		247
Subtotal	4,486	3,587	899	37,823	33,651	4,173
Bookstore	4,701	4,303	398	52,398	56,084	(3,686)
Activities				5,780	5,634	146
Alkathons						
Seminars	40		40	87	11	76
TOTAL	9,227	7,890	1,337	96,088	95,379	709

Assets & Liabilities

Cash in Bank & Petty Cash	28,642	Memo: Cash in Bank & Petty Cash	28,642
Prepaid Expenses	4,884	Prudent Reserve	(25,000)
Liabilities	(3,029)	Liabilities	(3,029)
Subtotal	30,497	Operating Reserve	3,642
Literature Inventories	30,028		
Property	3,122		
Total Assets & Liabilities	63,648		

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Meetings	September	2006 YTD	Meetings	September	2006 YTD	Meetings	September	2006 YTD
11th Step Meeting	180.00	292.24	Here and Now	75.00	75.00	Sober Sisters	49.98	49.98
12 X 12 @ 12 Group	100.00	376.00	Hessel Big Book Study Group	25.00	25.00	Sober Sunday Group	200.00	400.00
12 X 12 Plus	233.00	511.00	Higher Power Group	494.59	494.59	Sonoma Valley Fellowship		1,006.25
5th St. Light		16.55	Highlander Group	250.00	250.00	South Park Survivors		264.62
A Vision For You		250.00	How It Works Group	70.00	70.00	Spirit of Akron		136.30
AA Cache Creek Group		600.00	Just For Today	164.80	394.10	Steps To Serenity Group		176.39
AA Check It Out Group		80.00	Kenwood Group		752.00	Sunday Morning Smiles Group		147.00
AA Health Professionals		200.00	Kenwood Step Study		60.95	Sunday PM Closed Discussion Group	50.00	150.00
AA of Sonoma, Thursday 11th Step Group		145.00	Let's Discuss It Group		100.00	Sunday Sanity	250.00	500.00
AA of Sonoma, Tuesday Big Book Group		54.39	Lunch Bunch Group		200.00	The Shuman Fellowship		70.72
AA Step Study Group		125.00	Mature & Sober Group		538.61	The Sunday Night Group		268.78
Acres Fellowship Group		958.01	Monday Mood Swings		150.00	There Is A Solution		500.00
Alive & Well In Fulton		90.42	New Hope Book Study Group		88.34	Think About It Group		820.32
Any Lengths Group	91.98	319.85	New Women In AA		31.78	Third Step Group		403.41
As Bill See's It		35.00	Newcomers & Oldtimers		191.37	Thurs. AA Alano Club		369.70
Attitude Adjustment Group		700.00	Not Just Another Newcomer's Meeting	350.00	420.00	Thurs. Big Book Step Study	100.00	170.00
B.Y.O.B.B.		100.50	Oaks Fellowship		332.00	Thurs. Night 12 X 12 Discussion Group		813.71
Big Book & Step Study, Sebastopol		40.00	Open Door	100.00	400.00	Thurs. Night Women's AA		452.50
Big Book Review		58.84	Out of the Ashes Group		40.01	Tuesday Afternoon Delight	274.46	757.72
Bodega Bay Fellowship		361.00	Petaluma Fellowship	76.00	237.00	Tuesday Night Big Book Study - Petaluma		230.00
Book & Discussion, Sonoma		228.60	Petaluma Valley Group		203.39	Tuesday Night Beginners AA		242.50
Breakfast Club		552.83	Prayer & Meditation, Sebastopol		50.00	Tuesday River Discussion		75.00
Came to Believe Group		108.00	Promises Group		125.59	Up Group		190.00
Cazadero Group		30.00	Quitting Time Group	270.00	1,017.00	Up The Steps		386.95
Cloverdale Fellowship Hall		97.00	Redwood Winners		87.00	Warm Springs Fellowship @ Mt. Vista Farm		300.00
Daily Reflections Group		114.46	River Grace		128.00	Wednesday Matinee	597.00	597.00
Early Bird Fellowship of Petaluma	231.33	2,011.19	Round Barn Big Book Study		80.00	Wednesday Night Men's Stag		425.00
Expect A Miracle		1,380.00	Round Table Discussion Group		350.00	Wednesday Wonders		135.00
Faha Home Group		50.00	Saturday AM Fellowship		30.00	We're In The Now		312.04
Fourth Monday	84.00	729.70	Saturday Men's Meeting, Healdsburg		719.00	Women's Growing Pains of Alcoholics		155.44
Friday Nooners of AA		162.00	Saturday Morning Beginners		30.00	Women's Perspective AA Group		316.39
Gay Newcomers Group		55.23	Saturday Night Living Right		280.00	Women's Step Study & Discussion Group		329.64
Good Neighbors, Geyserville	600.00	800.00	Saturday Serenity		492.17	Women's Step Study, Sonoma		162.65
Graton Fellowship		788.92	Sebastopol Men's Stag		198.00	Women's Tuesday At Noon		180.49
Gualala Group		600.00	Sebastopol Step Study Group		203.37	Working Winners		253.74
Happy Hour Group		270.00	Serenity Fellowship Hall	150.96	1,168.90	Young & Young At Heart		500.00
Healdsburg Group	209.50	209.50	Sharing & Caring		360.00	(group name not on check or money order)		58.66
Healdsburg Sunday Morning AA		50.00	Simply AA		296.28	(group name not on check or money order)		299.40
Healdsburg Women's Book Study		250.00	Single Purpose Group		91.00			
Total							4,363.01	37,168.98

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

“We can be grateful for every agency or method that tries to solve the problem of alcoholism—whether of medicine, religion, education, or research. We can be open-minded toward all such efforts and we can be sympathetic when the ill advised ones fail. We can remember that A.A. itself ran for years on ‘trial and error’.

“As individuals, we can and should work with those that promise success—even a little success.”

[Bill W., *Grapevine*, March 1958]

The October meeting of the H&I Committee gave a warm welcome to new meeting reps Christine (As Bill Sees It Group); Rick, (3rd Step Group); Allyson, (Up The Steps Group); Ron, (Young And Young At Heart Group); Maria, (No Frills Group); Jodi, (Any Lengths Group); and Jeff (Outsiders Group). Thank you for being of service! Visiting H&I were Bob, June, Fritz, Carl, Nellie and Mike—we’re glad you’re here as well.

Due to the time constraints of holding elections for a new Chair, there was no five-minute share this month.

Don S. was elected the new Chair; a resounding THANK YOU was delivered to Kelly T., outgoing Chair, for her four years of excellent service.

Are you grateful for your sobriety? Would you like to share your story with someone who can’t get to a meeting? Then maybe H&I is for you. Come and find out at the next meeting on Wednesday, November 1, at 6:00 (orientation at 5:30, to which all are welcome). The location is the Santa Rosa Senior Center at the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Rutledge Avenue, one block east of Santa Rosa Avenue. Bring yourself, bring a sponsee (or sponsor) or bring a friend, but join us in bringing experience, strength and hope to others.

In service,

Mardi

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SCIF Bookstore750 Mendocino Ave. Suite 10 Faith Lutheran Church.....4970 Newanga Ave. St. Luke Lutheran Church.....905 Mendocino Ave . S.R Senior Center704 Bennett Valley Rd.			1 Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:30 New Rep Orientation	2	3	4
5 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	6 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45 Service Manual Study 6:45 New Rep Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting	7	8 PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00 Speaker Training 7:30 Business Meeting	9 Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Meeting	10	11 Unity Day 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
12	13 SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 7:00 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering	14	15 Newsletter 6:30 SCIF Bookstore	16	17	18
19 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	20	21 Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30 New Rep Orientation 7:00 Business Meeting	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Thanksgiving Alkathon 6:00 PM Wed – 12 AM Thurs	24	25 General Service Area 06 Committee Mtg 320 N. McDowell Blvd, Petaluma 12:30 – 3:30
26	27 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 Newsletter Collating 7:30 New Rep Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	28 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	29	30	31	

Shalom

The following is reprinted from the book THANK YOU FOR SHARING: Sixty Years of Letters to the Grapevine. From Jerusalem, Israel:

The two Moslem gentlemen were neatly dressed and very shy; they sat quietly through the entire Friday afternoon meeting of the Jerusalem Shalom AA Group while the rest of us caught up with each other after the trials and celebrations of the Easter/Passover holiday. Our chairman, a young Jew who had come into AA as an alcoholic child, noticed that they hadn't spoken and asked them if they wanted to say anything before the meeting closed.

They did, and despite some difficulty with English, they told their stories. Living far from AA meetings and hesitant to approach the mainly Jewish meetings in Jerusalem, they had gotten sober reading AA books, but now they realized they also needed the fellowship of other alcoholics in order to stay sober. So they gathered their courage and came to ask if they could be part of our meeting.

The response was a heartfelt outpouring of warmth and love, which almost overwhelmed them. We had had Arabic literature waiting for the first people who might need it. A Catholic nurse offered to help set up an Arabic language meeting, and I volunteered to participate since I live on the West Bank. We closed with the Serenity Prayer, which is posted in English, Hebrew, and Arabic in our meeting room, and I stood holding hands with a Moslem on one side and an Orthodox Jew on the other. The Moslems asked for telephone numbers, and nearly everyone in the room gave theirs. When I left, the two men were exchanging numbers with a grizzled Jewish West Bank settler.

I've been reading a lot about AA in North America, where the trend seems to be toward fission: AA for atheists, AA for women, AA for Christians, etc. Here, because we are so few, we move toward fusion. We know we have to hang together in order to remain viable. We have only 400 AA members in all of Israel, two in the Palestine areas, and a couple more in Jordan, both of them Loners. (There must be more drunks in the area—and in fact there are—but with all the division of culture, religion, and ethnicity in our region, reaching out is very limited and difficult.) As a result, we've all needed to learn tolerance and acceptance of one another. We've discovered it can be done and been enriched by the discovery. We've learned that God is indeed operating in Jerusalem meetings and doesn't seem to care much whether we call him God or Allah or HaShem. So why should we? Perhaps this is a lesson that can be used elsewhere, even when the divisions among people are not so great as they are here.

Linda W., October 2000

Thanksgiving Suggestion

(Continued from page 3)

troubles we have had, but none serious enough to test our adult strength. It's not strange that we are a bit complacent and self-satisfied. Surely there need be no counsel of fear, nor lack of faith in the prediction that a far greater time of trial may yet be ours. When we think our situation through, simple prudence and foresight will tell us that.

The 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous are a distillate of our experience of living and working together.

They apply the spirit of the 12 Recovery Steps to our group life and security. They deal with our relations with the world outside and with each other, they state our attitudes toward power and prestige, toward property and money. They would save us from tempting alliances and major controversies, they would elevate principles far above personal ambitions. And, as a token of this last, they request that we maintain personal anonymity before the open public as a protection to AA and as proof of the fact that our society intends to practice true humility.

For the information of the general public and for the instruction of new AA members, the 12 Traditions have just been released in a much condensed "short form" which we hope will be as widely read and understood as the 12 Steps of Recovery. Should this happen, our current growing pains will be lessened and we shall commence to lay up a great store of insurance for the years ahead.

What then could be more appropriate than to set aside Thanksgiving week for discussion of the practical and spiritual values to be discovered in our Tradition? We could thus reinforce our faith in the future by these prudent works; we could show that we deserve to go on receiving that priceless gift of "Oneness" which God in His wisdom has so freely given to us of Alcoholics Anonymous in the precious years of our infancy.

Bill W.

ASL INTERPRETERS - QUARTERLY REPORT

"Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question:

Is this service really needed?' If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A."

Bill W., "AA's Legacy of Service."

Together we can! Thank you for your support!

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Meeting	3rd Qtr	YTD
Xmas & New Years Alcaathons		150.15
Single Purpose Group		96.11
Hessel Group	7.00	50.81
Third Step Group	278.85	915.55
Up The Steps Group	56.00	87.83
Young & Young At Heart		16.85
Serenity Fellowship	387.19	915.59
Wed Night Women's Step Study	19.26	84.53
TBDME For Young People		24.65
Saturday Night Living Right	53.19	130.95
Women's Perspective AA Group	150.00	250.00
Sunday 5:30 Discussion Meeting, RP		4.21
BYOBB	14.36	14.36
Thursday Big Book Study	16.45	16.45
Signs of Sobriety	90.00	160.00
Total	1,072.30	2,918.04
Paid to interpreters:*	650.00	1,930.00
Prudent Reserve:		988.04

*To date, Interpreters (who are non-AA members) are graciously donating 1/2 hour of their services for fellowship following the meeting (Signs of Sobriety).

NEW MEETINGS

Petaluma

Sat 4:00 PM (O)(W) Afternoon Reality Check

Alano Club 221 Water Street

Sonoma

Sun 9:00 PM (O)(W) Meditation Meeting

Fellowship Hall 276 E. Napa St. (In back)

MEETING CHANGES

Healdsburg

Sat 8:30 AM (O)(W) Men's Meeting

Moved to Villa Chanticleer
1248 N. Fitch Mountain Rd.
(take Powell St. to top of hill)

Tues 8:00 PM (O)(W) 4 IN 1 Meeting

Moved to Church at 208 Matheson St.

Petaluma

Wed 8:00 PM (O)(W) Fromoldhall Group

New name Sometimes Slowly

Santa Rosa

Thu 5:30 PM (O)(W) Men's Meeting

Now open to men New name:
and women The Desperate Group

Sat 5:30 PM (O)(W) There Is Hope

New time: 4:30 PM

MEETING CODES

- (C) Closed meeting, alcoholics only.
- (O) Open meeting, anyone can attend.
- (W) Wheel chair access to meeting area.

*To report meeting changes:
Contact Russell @ 570-9268*

Gloria's Corner

Openings: MON 2-6 PM every other week
TUES 10-2 AM every other week

Shoplifting has become a real problem. Steps are being taken to curtail it!

The new 2007 Calendars and Pocket Planners from the Grapevine are in. We have a limited amount.



Thanks a LOT,
Gloria

P.S. We need volunteers for the monthly inventory, Oct 31st

ADDRESSES

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship

750 Mendocino Ave. #10
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Sonoma County General Service

PO Box 536
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Area 22 H & I Treasurer

PO Box 192490
San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

General Service Office

PO Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

CA Northern Coastal Area Treasury

PO Box 884222
San Francisco, CA 94188

Sonoma County PI/CPC*

PO Box 11350
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

SOCYPAA

P.O. Box 5435
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

*Funded solely through Sonoma County General Service

BOOKSTORE

SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE

750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Manager: Gloria P.

Phone: (707) 546-2066

Fax: (707) 566-9677

E-mail: aa@ap.net

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat 11-3

The bookstore is staffed by volunteers and is sometimes closed for lack of manpower.

Call first!

The Bookstore is closed on these Holidays:

Memorial Day May 29th

Independence Day July 4th

Labor Day September 4th

Thanksgiving November 23rd

Christmas December 25th

New Year's Day January 1st

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Meeting Changes:	Russell	570-9268	

Sonoma County General Service

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Bridging The Gap:	Bob F.	328-6827	bobbtdist12@aol.com
PI/CPC:	Yannick W.	583-2310	yannickW@sbcglobal.net
Recording Secretary:	Donna K.	665-9825	djking2254@aol.com
Treasurer:	Vinny M.	758-6237	vinny@castlesoberliving.com

Hospitals and Institutions

Chair: Kelly T. 479-5978

Sonoma County Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous

Liaison to SCIF Larry C. 364-0400

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