

Summer – Fall 2008



The Beacon

Email: beacon@aaworcester.org

Volume 10 Numbers 8-9

Summer has come and gone, and it is getting colder. Here and there we are already seeing flashes of red and yellow mixed in with the green as we drive along the highway.

We have many announcements and meeting changes to catch up with, on Page 8; Also, there have been many changes to the "bookie" listing on Page 5 - Many bookies have changed, and we are now including hospital commitments and contact info; If you know of a meeting on the list that has a new bookie, please have them contact The Beacon with their updated info.

The Worcester Area Intergroup has changed its office hours. Now, on Wednesdays, the office closes at 2:00PM (all other days remain the same). It has been related to us that this will be a semi-permanent change until further announcement.

The current yellow meeting list, is number 2008-C. If you do not have one, they are free at any AA meeting or at the Intergroup office. Please be aware that very soon the next one will be coming out, and it will contain many cumulative changes.

The big news this month is the **closing** of **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Downtown Worcester. The **High Noon Group**, will host its last meeting there on Sept 30. Starting on **October 6, 2008** those meetings will be held at **Covenant - Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church** on 24 Hamilton Street in Worcester. That is right up Hamilton St. from St. Stephen's, and directly across the street from St. Joseph's.

One of the notices on the back cover is a time change for the Wednesday Night Candlelight meeting in Shrewsbury. This is a wonderful group which needs some new blood, and they have changed their meeting time to accommodate people commuting longer distances, and coming home from work later. If you have a Wednesday night available to try them out, you will not be disappointed.

Richard C, editor.

CORRECTION - Triton Group in Webster has **NOT** moved!!!! This was an error in the September print edition, corrected before it hit the Web version. Our sincere amends to all at Triton. Please see Page 8 for the correct time and location. R.C.

AA Wisdom

Any sober day is a successful day.

Honesty is the soul of courage. Courage is the soul of humility. Humility is the soul of happiness.

Humility is the quality of accepting one's position in life with grace.

"Nothing is ever so bad that a drink won't make it worse." Dr. William D Silkworth

Progression from normal drinking to alcoholic drinking: Fun No Fun Nothing.

*I would rather go through life sober, believing I am an alcoholic
Than go through life drunk, trying to convince myself I am not.*

Step Nine

Tradition Nine

Concept Nine

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

"Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees."

Traditions Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through October 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Checklist's

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

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1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program-even if no one makes me do so-with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully-and profit thereby-when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

To find out about social events in **District 26** (North & west of Worcester) check out their unofficial web site: www.26ac.org

HOW to get and stay Sober:
Honesty
Open-mindedness
Willingness

Check the bulletin board for meeting changes and new meetings in our area on Intergrroup's very own web page:
www.aaworcester.org

First 3 Steps in Seven Words: I can't He can I'll let Him.

About AA

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The statement above, which is read at the beginning of many AA meetings around the world, is known as the Preamble of AA. According to a recent estimate, there are more than 2 million AA members and 100,000 AA groups in 150 countries throughout the world.

SPONSORSHIP CORNER:

Life is a dance, When you take the steps



On Resentments

IF I expect God to forgive my mistakes, how can I be resentful of the actions of others? For, having forgiven my mistakes, who am I to say that He should not forgive the mistakes of His other children also? - Grapevine, January 1952.

Drawing for Alcathon 2008 Time Slots Being Held This Month

There will be three (3) Alcathons for the Holidays, and groups will be given the same one-hour time slot for all three. Drawings will be held on two days, for odd and even hours respectively: 7:30PM Tuesday October 7 at the monthly GSR meeting, and 7:00PM Thursday, October 9 at the Intergroup meeting. Both will take place as usual at St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St., Worcester

Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid.

Twelve and Twelve, p 87

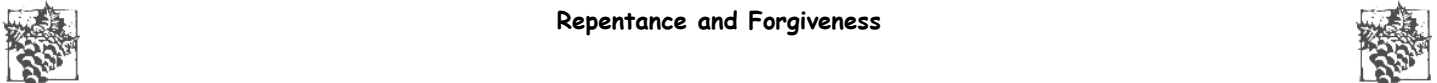
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To have courage, to be unafraid, are gifts of my recovery. They empower me to ask for help and to go forth in making my amends with a sense of dignity and humility. Making amends may require a certain amount of honesty I feel that I lack, yet with the help of God and the wisdom of others, I can reach within and find the strength to act. My amends may be accepted, or they may not, but after they are completed, I can walk with a sense of freedom and know that, for today, I am responsible.

Reflections, p. 263



Repentance and Forgiveness



"What advice can you give about people to whom we have done wrong and ask their forgiveness, yet they will not give it?" It would appear certain, would it not, that the chief concern of the person who did this wrong is to convince himself, and God, that he is actually sorry for what he has done. Repentance means something more than just a feeling of sorrow. The emotion must be backed up by a course of action which shows indeed that one has repudiated his former desires and acts. Have you really repented of what you did? If so, you must leave the issue of events in the hands of God. You are not responsible for having the other people accept your repentance. That is their responsibility. If you have repented, it is their duty before God to forgive. Only make very sure that you have repented. Sometimes we are sorry not for our sins but for ourselves. Sometimes we are aghast over the folly of our acts, without any real change of heart. Confronted with the same situation, we would probably do that evil thing again. Look deeply into your own heart. If there is any imperfection in your repentance you do not deserve to be forgiven, but if your repentance is sincere, then forgiveness is the responsibility of those whom you have wronged.

E. L. D., in Chit-Chat Grapevine November 1954 Vol. No.



Grapevine Editorial from June 1945

On the 8th Step . . .

"Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

It was characteristic of many of us as alcoholics to at least attempt to perform in the grandiose manner. And in harming others we usually succeeded magnificently. So, to say that the first phase of the Eighth Step is a large order is to indulge in understatement which matches our bombastic style.

And yet, however extended be the list of those we have harmed, the fulfillment of this step's admonition need not be a tedious nor a burdensome undertaking. In the first place, let's examine the meaning of the verb: Amend.

Webster's New International Dictionary defines it thus --"To make better, especially in character; to repair, restore; to free from faults, put right, correct, rectify. . ."

There is the credo to which we of A.A. subscribe; the goal we hope to achieve through sobriety. It is both the manifestation of our adherence to the other 11 Steps and our performance of the Eighth itself.

The definition continues:

". . . to change or modify in any way for the better; to recover from illness."

It was written for us!

We have often heard that our sobriety should be founded on "unselfish selfishness", that we should strive to avoid a lapse into drinking for the benefits we, personally, derive from abstinence. It's not sound, we have been told, to try to stay dry for the sake of a wife or a sweetheart or someone else dear to us.

When we first heard that plan of action outlined, we revolted mildly because it didn't seem to meet the specifications of true altruism. Many of us, as we entered A.A., still yearned for that mystic power to "handle" alcohol and it seemed then that the step we were taking was at least in part --a gesture of devotion to some loved one. Without altruism there didn't seem to be much motive to propel us.

Of course, we soon discovered that "unselfish selfishness" was the firmest foundation for our recovery. We found, in the same way, that we try to help others, not solely through altruistic impulse, but so that we may gain strength.

The principle of "unselfish selfishness" is applicable again in the Eighth Step. We seek to identify all those we have harmed and we assume a willingness to make amends so that --recalling the definition of the word --we may "change . . . for the better" and "recover from illness."

The alternative is retrogression. If we fail to "repair", we can only impair.

"Slip Clinic

Grapevine

June 1946

Vol. 3 No. 1

The time to give earnest consideration to "slips" is before they happen!

It is little use going back for one's umbrella after the storm breaks. Better to have taken it along.

The direct or overt cause of a "slip" is known only to the person involved. But the real, fundamental cause is easily found.

Somewhere along the line, one or more of the 12 Steps has been overlooked, by-passed, or neglected!

Even one neglected step can cause all the trouble.

One slip on an icy pavement is all that is needed to break one's leg or fracture a skull.

The 12 Steps earnestly followed, prepare one for every contingency.

The 12 Steps need no amendments. They cover everything necessary to our new pattern of life and every safeguard for maintaining complete sobriety!

They are not local, or national only. They have a universal significance and application. They work as effectively in China or Peru, as they do in New York or Oregon.

There is no imperfection in them. The imperfection is in ourselves.

To score one hundred percent in applying the 12 Steps in all the affairs of our daily life is impossible.

But so far as maintaining sobriety is concerned we can so improve our score that these unhappy "slips," if they do not become impossible, will become far less frequent, less prevalent, and more and more on the way to becoming "unthinkable."

"Controlled slipping" leads to an attempt at "controlled" drinking.

The 12 Steps can't be edited, nor "blue-penciled."

We "shot the works" when we were on our bats, binges, and benders.

Look What's Happened to Me!

Grapevine July 1953

This morning, as I was thanking God for my blessings (and they are many in this AA way of life), I was moved by the great miracle of it all and thought to myself, "Look what's happened to me!"

And in that thought I seemed to find the reason for the miracle. I hadn't said, "Look what I've done!" I knew, and I know, that I haven't done anything.

For many years, like most of us alcoholics, I was sure that I was captain of my soul, master of my destiny, and certain I could attain, through my own unaided efforts, any goal I sought.

Concurrently with this kind of thinking, alcohol forced me to the conclusion that it was a greater power than myself. Even to a self-centered agnostic it became apparent that if there were one such power, there might be others: that behind or above such powers, there was one greater Power.

Then began the half-skeptical examination of daily experiences in a life and mind turned over to this Power. Then, as they say in the ad, from experience came faith: the absolute conviction that the Power could and would manage my life and affairs far better than I had, or could.

That was the beginning of a new life which daily grows more wonderful. It is no longer necessary for me to make decisions, chart a course, or try to attain any goal. It is no longer necessary for me to get drunk, or to stay drunk, because of my (then) inexplicable dissatisfaction with the decisions, courses, goals, or my inability to attain them. I no longer need to try to do anything by myself.

But I am still not far enough away from "Look what I've done" thinking to escape the wonder of thinking, "Look what's happened to me!"

- R. C. H. California

"Bookie" List

- Vivian Athol Tuesday 8:00—9:00PM
 Fran "Life Second To None" Charlton Saturday 7:00-8:00PM
 Kevin S. "Maintenance & Repair" Douglas Thursday 7:00-8:00 PM
 Andy S. "Fitchburg Sunday Morning" Fitchburg Sunday 10:15—11:30AM
 T.B.A. "Holden Thursday Night" Holden Thursday 8-9:00PM
 George K. "Barbershop Group" Hopkinton Tuesday 8-9:15PM
 Ed H. "Hudson Second Chance Group" Hudson Monday 8:00-9:30 PM
 Frank G. "Clean Air Group" Leominster Friday 7:45 - 9:00PM
 Ken "Am I Listening" Leominster Sunday 7:45—9:00PM
 James S. "Leominster Original Group" Leominster Monday 7:45—9:00PM
 Tom M. "Marlboro Helping Hand" Marlboro Saturday 12:00-1:00 PM
 Ed O. "Millbury Tradition" Millbury Saturday 7:30 - 8:30 PM
 Tom "Mood of Happy Destiny" Natick
 Janelle "How It Works" Northboro Wednesday 8-9PM
 Walt B. "Northboro Saturday Morning" Northboro 10:00-11:00AM Saturday
 Tom S. "Stow Sunday Morning" Stow 11:00AM - 12:00PM Sunday
 Dave "Uxbridge Valley" Uxbridge Friday 7:30 — 9:00PM
 Mark P. "Westboro Forge" Westboro Wednesday 8:00 - 9:00 PM
 Melanie Spectrum Westboro State Hospital contact for incoming only-3 meetings nightly (508) 898-1570 x2213 (3d floor)
 Lynn S. "Westboro Sunday Morning AA" Westboro Sunday 11:00AM - 12:00
 Junior "Shrewsbury Gratitude" Worcester Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 Mary Ellen "Four Corners" Worcester Wednesday 8:00 - 9:30 PM
 Christine "Greendale" Worcester Friday 8:30-10:00PM
 Paul C. "How it Works" Worcester Saturday 6:45—8:00 PM
 Paul C. "Stay Active" Worcester Thursday 6:45 PM
 Art F. "Quinsig Group" Worcester Tuesday 8:00—9:00 PM
 Brendan C. "Serenity" Worcester Thursday 7:30—9:00 PM
 Bobby W. "Worcester New Beginnings" Friday 6:45-8:00 PM
 James S. "There is Hope" Worcester Sunday 10:00—11:00 AM
 Jaye J. "Way of Sobriety" Worcester Sunday 10:00—11:00 AM
 Fran D. "We Mean Business" Worcester Outgoing Only
 Justin "Worcester 7 AM" Adcare Daily 7:00AM
 Bob White Adcare Hospital contact for incoming only-3 meetings nightly (508) 799-9000
 Jen Boris CHL Hospital Worcester contact for incoming only-nights and weekends (508) 421-4464
 Ask for 8-East UMass Hospital contact for incoming only - nights and weekend(508) 334-1000
 Kira "Crozier Group" Worcester Monday 8:00—9:00PM
 George "As Bill Sees It" Worcester Thursday 7:00—8:00 PM
 Josh "Young Peoples' Group" Worcester Tuesday 7:30-9PM

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons



Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove St., Suite 314

Worcester, MA 01605

(508) 752-9000

(508) 752-0755 (fax)

www.aaworcester.org

Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm
Tuesday 10am-8pm
Wednesday 10am-2pm
Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-2pm
Sunday CLOSED

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Bob D.	TBD
Alternate Chair	Joe N.	None
Secretary	Dot B.	secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Ellen Mc Q.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alternate Treasurer	Lori B.	
Trustees	Harry H. Bob L. Paul M. One vacancy	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Joint Treatment Facilities	Paul M.	treatment@aaworcester.org
Joint Correctional Facilities	Eric R	Corrections@aaworcester.org
Halt Line	Dan M.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Vacant	Social@aaworcester.org
Joint Public Information	Vacant	PiChair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	Bob L.	webmaster@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Eric R.	None
Liaison to District 26	Woody S	
Liaison to Area 30	Ellen Mc Q.	None
Joint Alcathon Committee	Joe N.	
CoChairs Intergroup & District 25	intergroup D-25 Tina P.	
The Beacon	Richard C.	Beacon@aaworcester.org
District 25 Grapevine Chair	John N.	gvd25chr@yahoo.com

Do I do my part?

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The Beacon—100 Grove Street Suite 314 Worcester, MA 01605 email: beacon@aaworcester.org

The Beacon Staff: January 2008 to December 2008

Editor: Richard C. — Serenity, Worcester, MA. Volunteers include Lisa, Anna, Mike, Glen, Linda & Tom, all at Serenity; Tom at Noontime; Joe and John at Intergroup

Rule 62 "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

YOU'RE PROBABLY A BARFLY IF:

- The owners buy new bar stools and have one made with your name on it.
- Your idea of supper is two Slim Jims and a bag of peanuts.
- Your bar tab is more than your rent.

Donald B.



WHEN I BEGIN to dislike AA conversation or company. . .

- When I willfully stay away from meetings. . .
- When I am beginning to take another person's inventory instead of my own. . .
- When I'm more afraid of being known as an AA member than as a drunk. . .
- When I begin to remember the good times I had drinking and overlook the bad times. . .
- When I condemn in others that which I tolerate in myself. . .
- When I say I forgive but I don't forget. . .
- When I shrink from self-examination. . . I'M SLIPPING!

O. A. Texas

A SMALL TOWN bar displays a sign reading "We have no town drunk. We all take turns."

ALCOHOLICS ARE LIKE TEA BAGS. They don't work until they're in hot water.

NOTHING IS SO firmly believed as what we least know.

OVERHEARD: "I was once a very wealthy man," Most of my money went for booze, women, and high living. The rest I spent foolishly."

ALSO HEARD: "A lot of times I blacked out. The rest I don't remember."

Service Meetings Monthly Schedule

InterGroup/District 25 & 26			
Public Information	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 314 Worcester	4th Monday	TBD
District 25 (GSR's)	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	1st Tuesday	7:30 pm
Joint Corrections	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 314 Worcester	2nd Tuesday	TBD
District 25 - CPC* Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 314 Worcester	3rd Tuesday.	6:00 pm
District 26 (GSR's)	Local 60 Union Hall Mechanic St. Leominster	1st Thursday	7:00 pm
Steering Committee	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	6:00 pm
Intergroup Delegates	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 314 Worcester	4th Saturday	TBD
Area 30			
Grapevine Committee	Conference call (Number TBA)	3rd Wednesday	8:00pm
Literature Committee	Carter Methodist Church 800 Highland Ave. Needham	1st Monday	7:30pm
Eastern Mass. GSC	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	4th Wed.	8:00pm
Joint Public Information	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	1st Thursday	7:00pm
CPC Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	2nd Thursday	7:00pm
Archives Committee	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	3rd Thursday	7:30pm
Corrections Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Thursday	7:30 pm
Joint Treatment Facilities	St. Paul's 59 Court Street Dedham	3rd Friday	8:00pm

Is your Group Represented at the Inter-group Delegates Meeting?

If you don't attend you can't vote...

If you don't vote you don't have a voice..

Come find out what's going on in our area

2nd Thursday of the month St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Street Worcester 7:00-8:30PM

We counted 150 Groups in Worcester area only about 20 are represented, and only 8 show up at the Delegates meeting on a regular basis. Want to find out more? Call the Intergroup office 1-508-752-9000 or email the beacon beacon@aaworcester.org We'd be happy to answer your questions.

Your Anniversary

Can have an extra display!

In recent months, the GrapeVine Committee for District 25 has gone to anniversaries, set up the display board and had reps available to answer any questions people might have. They've also given away or ruffled GV subscriptions as part of the celebration.

Contact: gvd25chr@yahoo.com

W.A. I. Needs your help!

There are service positions that remain unfilled. Join us the 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00pm St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Street....come see where you can help! Please Join us !!

**The Halt-Line still has 12 hours of unmanned phone time....can you spare an hour? Available hours:
Mon 2-3, 3-4, 6-7 AM, 8-9, 9-10PM
Wed 2-3 AM 3-4 AM
Fri 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 PM
Call the Haltline Chair**

OPPORTUNITY

Any person who is a group grapevine representative or who is interested in being one, please contact the Grapevine chair of Area 30 at

Grapevine

P.O. Box 51411-
Boston MA 02205
or
grapevine@aaemass.org

Time Change

New Time 7:00—8:00 PM
Shrewsbury CANDLELIGHT Meeting is a 12 Step Meeting and a Traditions Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month at St. Anne's Church Route 9 Shrewsbury. Located in Separate building at rear of Church, enter down the front of the building

Al Anon - Al Ateen

The email address to request a packet and a meeting list for Al Anon is: LDCofMA@aol.com.

In Westboro

Al-Anon Family Groups of Massachusetts, Inc.
57 East Main Street, Suite 109
Westborough, MA 01581-1457
(508) 366-0556

web sites

for Massachusetts:

<http://www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org/>

US

<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/english.html>

Closed

IN THE WIND

Friday 8:00 - 9:00 PM
Holy Angels Church
1 Milford Rd **Upton**

Moved

TURNING POINT

Thursday 5:30 - 6:45 PM
Saint Mary's Church
Main Street **Shrewsbury**
CWBBSSNSH

Moved

Crozier Group (temporarily)

Monday 8:00 - 9:00 PM
St. Stephen's Church.
Cnr Hamilton & Grafton Sts.
Worcester

Webster

ALL Meetings formerly held at 275 Main St have moved. The daily 7AM meeting has moved to Church of Reconciliation at 3 N. Main St. Webster. All others have moved to 6 Mechanic St Webster See below for details.

Moved

The Monday night C12 meeting in **Whitinsville** (7:30 - 9:00 pm.) has moved from the Village Congregational Church to Trinity Church, 31 Linwood Ave. The time remains the same.

Format Change

UPTON CAPERTOWN

Saturday 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Upton Senior Center
Centennial CT
Open Discussion, Non-Smoking

Moved

The ARC (Addiction Referral Center) in Marlboro has moved from 110 Pleasant St. to 33 Main St. Marlboro

I am but one, but I am ONE;

I can't do everything,

But I can do SOMETHING;

What I can do, I ought to do,

What I ought to do, God helping me,

I WILL DO.

Moved

Early Risers

Sunday 7:00 - 8:00 AM
Church of Reconciliation
3 N. Main St.
Webster

Moved

First Day

Sunday 10:00 - 11:00 AM
6 Mechanic St.
Webster

Correction

Triton

Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
is still at
United Church of Christ,
Main St. **Webster**

Moved

Search For Serenity

Thursday 7:30 - 9:00 PM
117 Main St., 2nd Floor
(Use Side Entrance Pleasant St)
Spencer