

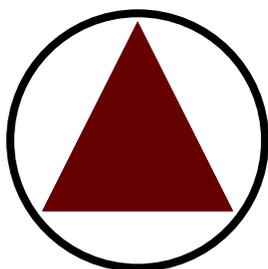
October 2007

Java Journal



Announcement

The Benton City, Thursday night Ridge riders meeting is being dropped from the schedule. This 7pm group is no longer meeting.



Inside this issue:

It Doesn't Work	1
Magic	2
Try Something New In Sobriety	2
Recovery Websites	3
Contact Information	4
Events Calendar	4

"It Doesn't Work"

Sent to the Java Journal from a local recovering alcoholic. Copyright unknown.

One of the saddest statements I have ever heard is, "I've been to A.A. and it doesn't work." There is no way I can count the number of times over the past couple of decades I have found an alcoholic coming off a drunk who made that statement. Just today, one of my protégés called to tell me of a man, holed up in a cheap motel room, he was asked to locate and see if he could help him.

My protégé was successful in locating the suffering alcoholic and did what he had been instructed to do on a Twelve Step call. He told him some of the story of his drinking and how he had come to know it to be an illness over which he had no control nor did the medical profession have a solution.

The suffering alcoholic finally said, "You're going to try to tell me about A.A. aren't you?"

Jake said, "That is where I found my Solution."

The sick one said, "I have gone to A.A. meetings for the last eight (8) months and did what they told me to do. It doesn't work for me."

Jake asked, "Did you take the Steps with a Sponsor who had been blessed with a spiritual

experience as the result of having taken the Steps?"

The sick one said, "I think I did but the main thing they told me was just keep coming back and you'll be OK. When I asked what else I should do, I was told, 'Don't drink and keep on going to more meetings.' I did what they told me to do and A.A. just doesn't work."

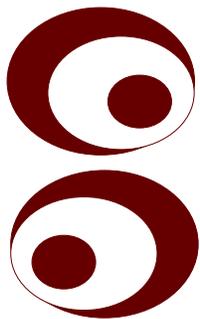
A member of Alcoholics Anonymous found me near death in 1964 and told me he could help me. He said to me, "I understand. I have been where you are and I want to help you if you will let me." I was willing to do anything. He took me to his A.A. Club and began sobering me up on Orange Juice with some honey mixed in it.

When I began having Delirium Tremens, they added some Bay Rum to the mixture. There were no treatment centers in our area at that time and hospitals would not admit us for alcoholism. We either shook and sweat it out in jail or at an A.A. Club. By far, most of them made it to the end sober or they still are. I wasn't one of them. I saw an opportunity to return my ego to its earlier level by getting involved in a new and exciting profession and so I

went for it. Sixteen (16) years after my last drink; eleven (11) years after my last meeting, on a day without a cloud in the sky, I thought having a beer would be a good idea, so being in a very dry county, I drove seventy (70) miles for a Six-pack. It took me two (2) years to make it back to Alcoholics Anonymous very, very drunk.

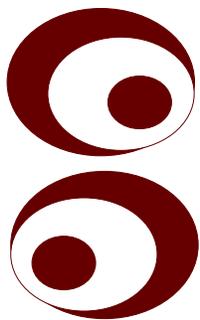
But what a difference thirteen (13) years can make! There were no alcoholics laying around the Club with dry heaves. There were no blood shot eyes, sweating faces, no vibrating bodies, the aroma of alcoholism was missing. There was no orange juice in the refrigerator nor honey near the coffee pot. There was no Bay Rum in the file cabinet. It was no longer needed because almost everyone had gone to "treatment" and been medicated through the process of what is termed "de-tox." They had missed those wonderful Golden Moments of the misery, suffering and pain of sobering up. At first, I thought the new approach was good but then I began to see the results. There was less and less commitment to the

(Continued on page 3)



It relieved me somewhat to learn that in alcoholics the will is amazingly weakened when it comes to combating liquor, though it often remains strong in other respects.

Page 7, The Big Books of Alcohol Anonymous



"Magic" ("remarkable influence producing surprising results"-Oxford Dictionary)

Sent to the Java Journal from a local recovering alcoholic. Copyright unknown.

MAGIC" happens: when we put pen to paper; in writing Step One; in writing Step Two; in writing Step Four; in writing Step Six "list"; in writing Step Eight "list" and our "plans and "heat factor"; in writing Step Ten "when we retire at night"; in writing ... letters, journalizing ...;

"MAGIC" happens: when we learn to hear: by learning to listen ... with undivided attention; by listening at meetings; by listening to the new members; by listening to the older members; by listening to the "middle" members; by listening to tapes; by listen-

ing, when one alcoholic shares with another alcoholic; by listening to a Step One and Two review; by listening to a Third Step Decision; by listening to a Fifth Step; by listening to a review of Step 6; by listening to Step Seven; by listening to someone's Step Eight list, plans, and heats

"MAGIC" happens: when we learn to share: share Step One with another member; share our conceptions or the "vision" of Step Two with another member; share in doing the Third Step with another member; share in the Fifth Step; share at meetings; share one alcoholic with another alcoholic in the Sprit of the 12th Step;

"MAGIC" happens: when we learn to "see": see the similarities amongst ourselves (rather than the differences); see others "catch fire" with this process and recover; see the Changes Wrought in others; see our own life's "manifestations" change; see that this process REALLY WORKS!

"MAGIC" happens: when we DO the ACTION: when we DO the Steps - ALL of them; when we DO get a sponsor and commit to that relationship; when we become an ACTIVE member of the Group; when we ACTIVELY try to help others, especially alcoholics; when we ACTIVELY try to RECEIVE and DO God's Thinking.

2007 District 4 Gratitude Banquet

**This Is Gonna Be Great!
Fun, Food, and Fellowship
Coming Soon to a Venue Near You
call 946-7313 to find out how you can help**

Try Something New In Sobriety

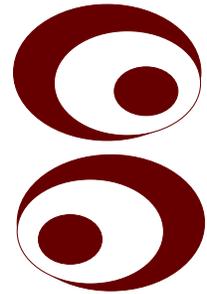
If you ever find yourself in Portland early on a Saturday morning, try this meeting out... it's terrific!

11th Step Group, Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Portland Alano Club (in the loft) at 909 NW 24th Ave.

This meeting opens in the usual manner with How It Works, the Traditions, and the Preamble. But then progresses into 20 minutes of meditation (not to worry, it's guided for the first few minutes).

After the meditation is finished, the group continues by sharing in the usual manner.

What a great way to start your morning and your weekend!

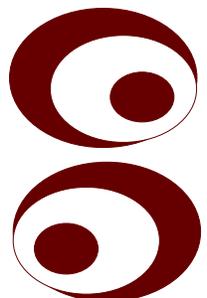


Subscribers' Choice Recovery Websites

We've received several favorite websites from some of the Java Journal Subscribers. Check them out and see what you think:

- www.12stegradio.com
- barefootsworld.net/aaworkstepsintro.html
- www.thejaywalker.com
- silkworth.net
- www.anonymousone.com
- www.dickb.com
- www.onlinealano.org
- www.recoveryresources.org
- anonpress.org
- www.ppgaadallas.org

The information on these web sites represent the views of the contributors of the websites and do not necessarily reflect those of AA as a whole or those of District 4 or of the Java Journal.



"It Doesn't Work" (continued from 1st page)

Group and the action necessary for long term emotional sobriety was being ignored.

There were very few Big Book Study or Speaker meetings but a large number of "Discussion/participation" meetings where everyone was given an opportunity to talk about whatever was on their mind whether or not they knew anything about alcoholism or recovery from alcoholism. There were even non-alcoholics participating in these meetings. This newer approach of learning to live with alcoholism was beginning to prove to be a dismal failure.

I heard a tape of Joe McQ. and later attended a weekend of Joe McQ. & Charlie P. presenting their "Big Book Comes Alive" program. It then became very clear why so many were returning to the bottle. Not only were we without sick alcoholics laying around the meeting places, there was so little Program in our meetings, it was almost hidden from the newcomers. No wonder so few were finding more than a few months of physical sobriety.

They were denied what is required for long term emotional sobriety.

Without the sick alcoholics laying round the meeting place, I had to find a place where I could again see and smell alcoholism. I needed a frequent reminder of where I came from and what was waiting for me if I didn't continue to pay the price for emotional sobriety. Over the years since I have been blessed to have been given another opportunity to survive the deadliest disease known to mankind, I have volunteered in many wind-up places where those coming off a drunk are present and available to talk with. Again and again, I heard that sickening statement, "I went to A.A. and it doesn't work."

Of course, they are right. Alcoholics Anonymous does not work! We MUST WORK IT! But they were not told the truth. My Basic Text reads, "Rarely, have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path" The "Path" being the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in a book

titled "Alcoholics Anonymous." My Basic Text does not read, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of don't drink and go to meetings..." It reads, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs."

Our real problem is ego driven sponsorship with very little if any real concern for the welfare of the newcomer. Proclaimed members of our Fellowship who have never taken the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous will assume the responsibility for the life of a newcomer and will proudly announce the number of "sponsees" they have. As one of my dear friends said, "The manner in which we now fail our responsibility to the newcomer borders on slaughter." The demise of our sense of responsibility to those seeking help for alcoholism is one of the greatest tragedies of our time in history. It works only if we work it!

Central Office is Moving
 Help would be sooooo appreciated

You can call Jan P. (547-3967) with any questions

On Saturday, October 21, 2007 we're packing boxes @ 8390 Gage Blvd., Suite 202, at 10 a.m.

On Saturday, October 27, 2007 we're moving from 8390 Gage Blvd., Suite 202, to 102 E. Kennewick Ave @ 10 a.m.

AA's Newsletter for the Greater Tri-City Area

Central Office
8390 Gage Blvd, Suite H
POBox 6675
Kennewick, WA
Hours: Mon & Wed 6:00–8:00 pm
Tue & Thur 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Central Office Questions: Jan P. (509) 547-3967 (h)
or 554-7507 (c)
Java Journal Editor: Colleen S. 528-4171 or
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AA Hotline (509) 735-4086

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Please Contact The Java Journal Editor With the Following Info:

- Birthday announcements: send your name, sobriety date and years sober. Please provide info 3-5 weeks prior to your sobriety month;
- Events, announcements, fellowship information, Journal corrections;
- Your email if you would like to receive the Journal in your inbox once a month.

Ham On Wry *Reprinted with Permission from the March 1986 Grapevine*

LIGHT BULB DEPARTMENT--Before AA: How many alcoholics does it take to change a light bulb? Two. One to screw it in, the other to take inventory. Or, now that we're in the program: How many AA's does it take to change a light-bulb? Nine. One to do the actual job, and the other eight to identify with his experience.

Calendar of Events

Potato Feed. Proceeds go to the Alano's Childrens Christmas Fund. Kennewick Alano Club. 4-6 pm. Baked potato with ALL the fixins, \$5.00/plate. Call to volunteer or w/questions...Sharon 582-5465 or Kristen 366-3410	Sept 23
13th Annual High Desert Round-Up, Spirit of the Universe. At Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, OR. Three sport centers, relaxing massages, day spa, swimming, golfing...and of course AA workshops and speakers. For more information: highdesertroundup.com	Oct 5–Oct 7
Chapter 5 Pot-Luck and Speaker Meeting St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1609 W. 10th Ave, Kennewick. 6pm dinner, 7pm speaker. Speakers to be announced.	Oct 14
Spaghetti Feed Proceeds go to the Alano's Childrens Christmas Fund. Kennewick Alano Club 4-6 pm. \$5.00/plate. Call to volunteer or w/questions...Sharon 582-5465 or Kristen 366-3410	Oct 21
15th Annual Sponsorship Conference. Tacoma, WA, La Quinta Hotel. To register: www.sponsorshipconference.com	Oct 19–Oct 21
2007 District 4 Gratitude Banquet Location is not yet known. Many home groups have volunteered to help. More are still needed. Call Diane H. with questions or if you or your home group can volunteer: 946-7313	Nov 10
Annual Hawaii Convention "The Spiritual Life is not a Theory. We have To Live It!" Honolulu at the Hawaii Convention Center. To register: www.lava.net/~hconv/	Nov 14–Nov 16
Bake Sale. Proceeds go to the Alano's Childrens Christmas Fund. Kennewick Alano Club 8-11 am. Call to volunteer or w/questions... Sharon 582-5465 or Kristen 366-3410	Dec 9
Alano Childrens Christmas Party Kennewick Alano Club. Details to be announced. Call to volunteer....Sharon 582-5465 or Kristen 366-3410	Dec 16
Christmas Alkathon Starting at 12 noon on Christmas Eve till 12 midnight on Christmas night. At the Alano Club in Spokane, 1700 W. 7th Ave. Contact Paul B w/questions: events-coordinator@area92aa.org	Dec 24–Dec 25
New Years Alkathon and Dance. Starting at 12 noon on New Years Eve and continuing till 12 midnight on New Years Day. At the Alano Club in Spokane, 1700 W. 7th Ave. Contact Paul B. w/questions: events-coordinator@area92aa.org	Dec 31–Jan 1
WACYPAA XI The Western Area Conference of Young People in AA. Doubletree Hotel Riverside at 2900 Chinden Blvd, Boise, Idaho. To register and for information go to www.wacypaa11.org or contact Casey (208)713-0302	Jan 18–Jan 20
44th International Women's Conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. Speakers, workshops, panels, etc. For more information: intl womensconf.org	Feb 14–Feb 17