

September  
2008

# Java Journal



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## Dr. Bob's Farewell Address

Given at:

AA's First International Convention

Cleveland, Ohio

July 30, 1950

"My good friends in AA and of AA, I feel I would be very remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to welcome you here to Cleveland, and not only to this meeting but to those that have already transpired. I hope very much that the presence of so many people and the words that you have heard will prove an inspiration to you - not only to you, but may you be able to impart that inspiration to the boys and girls back home who were not fortunate enough to be able to come. In other words, we hope that your visit here has been both enjoyable and profitable.

I get a big thrill out of looking over the vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months, and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little

to do with our actual AA work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service". We all understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing: None of us would be here if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts on our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.

Dr. Bob succumbed to cancer on November 16, 1950.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Manna Mc, 9/21  
with 2yrs



**S. Solutions**  
**T. To**  
**E. Every**  
**P. Problem**  
**S. Sober**

## "A Buck Doesn't Cut It Anymore"

(from a pamphlet that was not funded by AA)

AA Economics

Most people are creatures of habit and act according to what they think is right. A dollar contribution to the AA basket was considered appropriate in the 1960s, and some people still think it's appropriate today.

The fact is that today's dollar buys only what 16 cents did in the 1960s, when a dollar was still a dollar.

A basic principle of AA is that it will always be self-supporting through its own contributions. According to this principle, each individual group is committed to paying a fair monthly rent for meeting rooms to avoid accepting charity from churches or other landlords.

The AA service bodies that suffer most from inadequate funding are THE AA INTERGROUPS. The Intergroups rely on contributions from local groups for their funding. The collections in the AA baskets are even below what the local groups need for their own expenses.

As a result, very little money is now being sent to the Intergroups to support key 12 STEP functions such as:

- Publishing meeting lists of local AA meetings.

- Maintaining a telephone answering service to handle questions from those in need of information about AA or AA meetings.
- Coordinating and providing meetings in jails, hospitals, and institutions.

These things don't just happen. They cost money. Many of us are sober today as a direct result of a call made to an Intergroup office.

AA of course welcomes all regardless of what each one can afford to contribute. This should never change. Many of us were flat broke when we walked into our first AA meeting and we well understand being without money.

The important thing is to "keep coming back." Not having money should never stop anyone from going to meetings.

The subject of money has always been downplayed in AA. But, as time moves on and we become sober in the truest sense, it follows that we assume financial responsibility for the welfare of our group and of AA as a whole.

We're certain that as soon as our members realize the severity of the AA shortfall, those who can will take pride in substantially increasing their contribution.

For those who can well afford it, a \$2.00 contribution (or more) can go a long way to ensuring that an AA meeting will always be there when we need one.

## Is The Big Book Really Outdated?

*This article is from the website  
[www.ppgaadallas.org](http://www.ppgaadallas.org)*

Very often, a newcomer is told, "Don't waste your time with the Big Book. It was written back in the 1930's and has never been brought up to date. We know so much more now." Of course, that type of statement is made by a person or persons who have never bothered to put the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous to the test

as did the Authors of the Big Book nor those of us who have accepted that challenge.

If we take a moment and look at what Alcoholics Anonymous is really about, we will readily recognize that a particular problem, alcoholism, is what drove us to this Fellowship in search of a way to avoid death or permanent insanity by drinking. And it would appear from some of the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Is The Big Book Really Outdated?

(Continued from page 2)

oldest historical writings that alcoholism has been around since the early days of mankind. In that great spiritual history book the Bible, King Solomon wrote his observations of alcoholics in Proverbs 23. What he witnessed is no different than the manner in which alcoholics react to alcohol today.

And the recovered members of Alcoholics Anonymous state that the God of their understanding, that they found as the result of taking the Steps by the Big Book, has proved to be the Solution to their alcoholism as well as all their other problems. We can be quite certain that the God of our understanding has not changed in recent years.

So, since the Problem, Alcoholism, hasn't changed and the Solution, God as we understood Him, hasn't changed, what is so new? And what method of dealing with alcoholism has produced more recovered alcoholics than the Twelve Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous? There isn't anything that can begin to touch the success of the Program

of recovery as outlined in the Basic Text for the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Unfortunately, many who seek help for their alcoholism bet their life on the Fellowship and meetings rather than the Program, i.e. the life giving Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous protected by the life saving Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. That has proved to be a fatal mistake for hundreds of thousands of alcoholics. Rarely, if ever, do the alcoholics who apply and live by the Program ever return to drinking. Very few of those who bet their life on the Fellowship and meetings ever stay sober. And all the new information that we now know only compounds the fatality rate of alcoholics who seek shelter within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. An intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father is our only hope for a happy and purposeful sobriety. The real purpose of putting the Twelve Steps to work in our lives is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us, not to impress folks with our wit, ideas, opinions, philosophy and the nature of our issues in meetings.

**Assume right attitudes toward life.**

Stop being an escapist or a surface-liver as these attitudes can only cause in harmony in your life. Face life squarely and get down below the froth on its surface to discover its verities and realities. Solve the problems that life sets before you, and you will find that solving them contributes to your inner growth. Helping to solve collective problems contributes also to your growth, and these problems should never be avoided.

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## AA's Newsletter for the Greater Tri-City Area

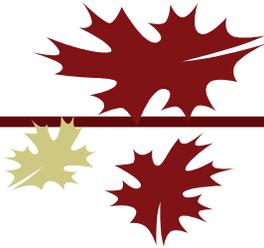
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## Please Contact The Java Journal Editor With the Following Info:

- Birthday announcements: send your name, sobriety date and years sober;
- 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 January 2007 Grapevine*

DURING ONE OF MY DRUNKEN GEOGRAPHICS, my eight-year-old son became concerned when he learned that my wife and I would be driving two separate cars to our new town, several states away. Anxiously, he asked me, "How will we keep from getting separated?"

"We'll drive slowly, so that one car can follow the other."

Not reassured, he persisted, "Yeah, but what if we *do* get separated?"

Becoming impatient, I said, "Well, then I guess we'll never see each other again."

"Okay," he said. "I'm riding with Mom."

Richard M., Golden, Colorado

## Calendar of Events

<b>Answering Services Committee</b> Help needed to carry the cell phone. Meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Alano Club at 6:30 pm. Call Robert S. w/questions 205-1657	Sept 24
<b>Archives Committee</b> Help needed to assist with gathering historical information and memorabilia of our local AA. Meets the 1st Saturday of the month at the Alano Club at 1pm. Call Bob V. with questions: 948-5067.	Oct 4
<b>Special Events Committee Meeting</b> Help needed for planning fellowship events such as the Gratitude Banquet, Fourth of July Picnic, New Years Party, etc. Meets the 1st Monday of the month at the Alano Club at 6:45. Call Joseph A. w/questions at 539-5256	Oct 6
<b>Central Office Meeting</b> This monthly meeting includes all committee chairs for the District 4 area. Any/all AA members are welcome! If you're interested in getting involved (just a little or a lot) or need a service position, please come and check it out. 6:45pm, Alano Club (downstairs), Kennewick	Oct 13
<b>October 2008 Assembly</b> Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley, WA. Contact persons: Craig H (509) 979-5338 or Kit W. (509) 559-5100. Also see fellowship calendar at <a href="http://www.area.92aa.org">www.area.92aa.org</a>	Oct 17—Oct 19
<b>20th Annual Mount Baker Roundup</b> Bellingham, WA. Guest Speakers, Dance, Banquet, etc.. See <a href="http://www.mountbakerroundup.org">http://www.mountbakerroundup.org</a> to register or to get more information.	Oct 31—Nov 2
<b>Hermiston Oyster Feed</b> More information to come...	Nov 1
<b>Gratitude Banquet</b> St Joseph's Catholic Church (Dillon Hall), Pasco. More information to come...	Nov 8