

Links of Recovery

Jane's Story

Jane's story is the second in an occasional series of EVI twelfth step sagas told from three points of view in the links building the chain of recovery.

Jane:

I almost called Alcoholics Anonymous three years ago. I crawled into my roommate's room, looked up the EVI webpage on her computer, dialed six digits: 342-411 ... and closed the phone and wept and retched and drank. So when I woke up on January 1, 2007, knowing finally to my bones that something had to change, I knew where to go. This time I did one thing differently. I said the first genuine prayer of my life: Help me, help me, help me. 342-4113, and Send.

The woman who had the Diverter that day has a two-pack-a-day voice and sounded revoltingly cheerful. She asked how she could help me today. I said that I thought I might have a drinking problem, but that I couldn't possibly be an alcoholic because I was only 22 and had friends and all my teeth and no DUIs, although I didn't find it necessary to add that I didn't drive at all, or trust my friends, or that I had had one abscessed tooth already and stayed drunk instead of going to the dentist, or that I had known I needed AA by age 19. Tricia, God bless her, interrupted me gently: "We call those yets. You haven't done those things yet, but if you keep drinking, you will do all of them."

I also told her I didn't want to live like this anymore. I didn't know that was true until I said it.

Tricia and a 12th Step volunteer named Debra picked me up for a meeting. I remember that it was cold and black outside, but Debra and Tricia wore colorful scarves; that the woman chairing the meeting was much too young and pretty to be an alcoholic; that when it was my turn to introduce myself I stammered, "I-I-I'manalcoholic" and felt a brick lift off my chest; and that at the end they said, "Keep coming back; it works." After the meeting, I was surrounded by people offering phone numbers and rides to meetings later in the week. I remember that my hands were shaking. I thought this was because I was nervous.

I asked Debra to be my sponsor. We got right into the Big Book. I started praying, joined Downtown AM, and worked the Steps. I went to two or three meetings a day and got meeting directories filled with phone numbers, and I called those numbers when my head felt like it was filled with snakes and all I could think to make them sleep was to take a drink. Now I continue to work the Steps and attend meetings every day. I cannot express my gratitude to those women for being the hand of AA when I reached out for help. I work with Tricia at EVI once a week and I am my home group's Diverter coordinator, and thanks to God and to Alcoholics Anonymous, I know I am not too young or cute or smart to die of alcoholism and I am not dying today.

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October 2007

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EVI Office

1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
Monday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Drop by for a visit!

www.eviaa.org

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and more.

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2007

6:35 p.m. Open with Serenity Prayer. Quorum present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Open Positions: CPC Co-Chair, Diverter Co-Chair, Website Chair, Outreach Co-chair, Meeting Guide Co-Chair, Activities Co-Chair

Activities: Dawn voted in as Chair

Announcements:

There will be a workshop on CPC early next month in October.

Committee Vice Chair elections due this month will be held in October.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities Committee—Java Jive

Archivist—All's well.

Diverter—All's well.

Website—Shared graph re: statistics on website visits. Will have more of a report next month.

Meeting Guides—Chair rotating out, Ric will rotate in. New guides are out.

Newsletter—Still unavailable in printed form due to printer outage.

CPC – Robin, absent.

Grapevine—Chris present.

H&I— Need men volunteers for Alma workcamp. Pathways needs speakers. Elections at the end of the month.

Literature—Rich absent.

Office Coordinator—If you have a key to the door, please fill out papers and see Mary.

Outreach—Angel absent.

PI—Eugene Celebration booth a success, information getting to alternative schools.

Speaker Meeting—Gary said we “broke even.” Attendance low and probably due to the Eugene Celebration. Announce to homegroups the monthly speaker meeting.

Treasurer—Wes gave his usual thorough report. Much discussion was held regarding our finances. (a) Wes reiterated that “we are self-supporting through our own contributions.” (b) Grapevine committee budget of \$1,200 was voted in but we do not have the money to fund it. (c) We need to raise contributions. (d) We need to Finance Committee this in October. (e) Frank noted that 2,700 is needed, on average, every month to meet our expenses. (f) taking the budget back to groups is not working, we need to cover expenses. (g) Cress submitted that we announce at other meetings that [some groups] are not being represented and to get EVI reps for their meetings. (h) Steering Committee is trying to reduce expenses. (i) Bill H. noted that our situation is disconcerting at least and acknowledged Wes’s dedication, service and hard work. (j) Bill (Meeting Guides) suggested we put a monthly need or goal. (k) Wes suggested a service organization reach out to groups not being represented. (l) Bill H. noted that it is not all money, that service in EVI participation is limited. We also serve three districts as well as groups. (m) We need Outreach Committee to be more active and/or more participation. (n) It was noted we are not representing EVI at Area this month due to budget and will ask DCM to report.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa J., EVI Secretary & Edited by Newsletter Chair



Currently Available Service Positions:

Hospitals and Institutions has an ongoing and varied need for AA volunteers to bring meetings into facilities as well as people to serve on the H&I committee. See page 4 for contact information for various facilities and committee members, as well as to see which positions are open in the H&I committee.

Public Information needs people for various volunteer functions.

Grapevine Committee needs help.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions. Contact Mary K.

The Activities Committee needs volunteers to help plan and staff events. There is no minimum sobriety requirement, and the time commitment is flexible. Call Denna

EVI Treasurer Co-Chair, Literature Co-Chair, Meeting Guide Co-Chair, and Outreach Co-Chair positions are open, please attend the next EVI business meeting if you are interested.

Addresses for Group Contributions

Contributions for Districts 6, 19, 20, and 33 may also be sent to the below address. Please indicate the district on the envelope.

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
1900 NE 3rd Street, Suite 106-172
Bend, OR 97701

AA General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459

Links of Recovery

Debra:

I am on the 12th step list and on New Year's Day I received a call from a fellow AA member, Tricia, whom I had never met. She was on the diverter and was looking for someone to go with her to meet with a young woman who had called AA for help. It turns out that I'd had one of these difficult "growth" years and had been especially eager to engage in 12th step work. I do believe its true - when all other measures fail, work with another alcoholic will save the day.

I met Tricia at the EVI office and we drove over to pick up our prospect, Jane. It is always awesome to do a 12th step call and was really neat to do one with someone I hadn't met before. We shared our experience, went to a meeting and got her hooked up with rides to go to meetings that first week. I took her to a meeting a few days later and offered her sponsorship. She took me up on it and we proceeded to work the steps together. She knew absolutely nothing about AA or the 12 steps, which is really unusual so it was exciting for me to work with a really fresh person. When I take someone through the steps, I take me, also.

Jane has remained sober, is engaged in service work and is sponsoring others. The two of us were able to pay a 12th step call on a newcomer not so long ago. This is how this thing works. The joy is being able to show up. It's just what we do. The magic is in the process, it's not something any one of us can contain or hang onto or intellectualize. We were willing to show up and share our lives, and so was Jane. There is really no other experience like a 12th step job and whether or not people pick this thing up and run with it is really between them and God. We are granted the gift of willingness, we have to be able to receive the gift and walk toward the light of a new life. It's an awesome thing for me to be able to reach out and connect with others in whatever stumbling or graceful way that I am able to.

It's funny, I was asked to write this not too long after Jane told me she wanted to get a different sponsor. So, I've had more opportunity to reflect on this whole experience and what it has meant to me. I know to look at my part, to examine my job as a sponsor and I know to let go of my ideas of how things should go, of outcomes, of ego. I am grateful to have the gift of these steps, to know humility, to continue to delve deeper into my relationship with God and with others through an ever more honest and authentic practice of this program. To put myself out to other people is something I never used to be able to do. I thank AA for the opportunity to be part of life!

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Contributions:

September 2007

Group Contributions (month/ytd)

Attitude Adjustment .00/731.00
As Bill Sees It 20.00/40.00
Autumn Group 100.00/250.00
Cottage Grove Gratitude 60.00/160.00
Cottage Grove New Beginnings .00/70.00
Cottage Grove Noon .00/.00
Downtown AM Group 268.80/1917.52
Early Firehouse Group 200.00/231.18
EASYPAA .00/60.00
Fresh Start at Noon. 25.00/70.00
From the Heart .00/100.00
Get Well Group .00/60.00
Gratitude Group, Venetta .00/.00
Host of Friends .00/338.00
How It Works, Tuesday .00/100.00
How It Works, Women's .00/100.00
Last Chance Study Group .00/60.00
McKenzie River Group 20.00/50.00
Monday Men's Stag 135.00/135.00
Monday Night Get Well Group .00/.00
Monday Noon Stag .00/287.00
Monday PM St Jude .00/.00
New Beginnings .00/49.00
New Freedom. 50.00/175.00
New Freedom 2 .00/.00
One Day at a Time .00/166.50
Pass It On: .00/29.32
Physical Awakenings .00/100.00
Recovery by The Big Book .00/.00
Saturday Step .00/822.09
Search for Serenity 55.00/ 277.32
Serenity at Noon .00/90.00
Sober Awakenings .00/700.00
Sobriety for Life .00/164.25
Spiritual Approach 50.00/75.00
Stairway to Sobriety .00/125.00
Sunday Morning Big Book .00/850.00
Sun. Night Wom's Step Stdy 34.27/347.69
Sunday Sunshine .00/150.00
Sunlight of the Spirit 20.00/45.00
Thurs. Men's Book Study .00/292.00
Thursday Night Voyagers .00/30.00
Thursday PM Rush Hour. 39.00/180.00
Try God Group .00/1875.11
Tuesday Beginners .00/50.00
Tuesday Night Book Study .00/50.00
Tuesday Night Young People .00/100.00
Veneta Gratitude Group .00/195.00
Vets and Friends .00/100.00
Wednesday Beginners .00/30.00
Wednesday Night Men's 200.00/800.00
Women's Courage to Change .00/123.00
Women's Monday Night.00/100.00
Women's Road to Recovery .00/348.90

Total Group Contributions:

1,268.07/ 12,472.03

Individual Contributions

Anonymous: .00/63.20
Faithful Fivers: 220.00/1,825.00
Other: 45.20/379.06

Total Contributions (ytd): 14,739.29

October Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee, 6:30 PM
 Tue District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Teffany H.
 Tues District 33, 7:00 PM, Lauri S.
 Wed District 19, 5:30 PM, Martha S.
 Thur Speaker Mtg. Committee, 7:00 PM, Vicki
 Sun Activities Committee, 6:00 PM, Sylvia
- 2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting, 6:30 PM
 Wed District 6, 6:30 PM, Rhonda
 Sat Answering/Diverter, 10:00 AM, David W.
- 3rd Thur Outreach Committee, 6:30 PM
- Last Thurs Grapevine Committee, 5:30 PM
- Last Wed H&I Committee, 6:00 PM
 (All meetings are held at the EVI Office, unless otherwise noted.)

AA Meeting Changes:

New

- 6:45 AM Men's Meeting - N. Park Community Church 3484 Harlow Rd.
 Tuesday & Thursday 6:45-7:45 am - Literature, Men's, Steps & Trdns.
Alvadore Fireside Big Book Study - 8th & B St., Alvadore, OR
 Tuesday 7-8:00 pm - Big Book, Closed, Handicap Access
(Unnamed)
 Saturday 12-1:00 pm Courage to Change Bookstr. 18th & Pearl, Eugene

Cancelled

- LCC Main Campus
 Thursday 11:30-12:30 pm
- Saturday Creswell Group
 Saturday 7:00-8:30 pm 401 S. Fronth St., Creswell

Changed

- Franklin Fellowship - Name & Location Change - See Alvadore Above
Young People's Meeting - Name Change: Formerly - Rebellion Dogs
 Thursday 8-9:30 pm Jesco Club
- Follow the Directions
 Sunday 6-7:00 pm Jesco Club (upstairs) Time Change: From 6:30 to 6

EVI News:

EVI News is about, by and for the members of the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article, event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets, which are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.) EVI News reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length, language and editorial policy. Submissions and comments may be sent by e-mail to: EVInews@comcast.net

People:



ACTIVITIES
 Dawn
 ANSWERING SERVICE
 Mike B.
 ARCHIVIST
 Johanna
 BOOKKEEPER
 Kurt J.
 COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)
 Robin.
 DIVERTER COORDINATOR
 Mike B.
 E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS
Meeting Directories: Bill A.
Newsletter: Tanya E. Luther
Website: Bill
 E.V.I. OFFICE MANAGER
 Mary K. Co-Chair: Tricia S.
 E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING
 Gary, Janet
 E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE
 Chair: Bill H.
 Co-Chair: Tim A.
 Secretary: Lisa
 Treasurer: Wes H. Co: Angie
 At-Large: Cress B.
 At-Large: Frank K.
 At-Large: Linda K.
 At-Large: Kurt J.
 GRAPEVINE
 Chair: Gus Co-Chair: Chris
 HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS (H&I)
 Chair: Annie
 Co-Chair: Denise N.
Cooperation with Treatment Facilities Chair:
 Brenda K. **Co-chair open**
Hospitals Chair: Open position
 Johnson Unit: Jill, David L.
 VA Reintegration Center: Ron W.
 Scott W.
Corrections: Lee H. **Co-chair open**
 Alma Work Camp: Lee H.
 C.C.C. Women: Paula L.
 Melody
 C.C.C. Men: Bob S. **Co-coord. open**
 Lane County Jail (Men): David W.
Co-coordinator open
 Lane County Jail (Women): GayLynne M.
 Hallie E.
 Serbu Detention: Jack **Co-coord. open**
Treatment Centers:
 Carlton House: Jeremy Mark
 Pathways: Harold B.
 Serenity Lane:
 B.T.G.: Karen S.
 Fri. Speaker: Mark Leisha
 S.N.L.: Cathy
 W.F.T. Friday: Denna Marci
 LITERATURE
 Rich Co Chair: John G.
 OUTREACH
 Bob S., Mary K.
 PUBLIC INFORMATION
 Deb B.

Links of Recovery

Tricia:

Out of all the days in the year, January First wins the title for “Most Notorious Morning After”. While much of the country was grabbing the Advil, and regretting their New Year’s Eve antics, I was attempting to be the “Hand of AA.” On that morning, I was the EVI phone diverter for our group, “Attitude Adjustment”. I had taken the phone lines a few times and enjoyed trying to pass on my experience, strength, and hope. On this Monday, I got a few calls, and one of them was from a young lady named Jane. I spoke with a frightened, shaky, Jane, who told me her story, but wasn’t quite sure if she had a problem with alcohol.

She told me briefly of her drinking history, and more specifically of her disastrous New Year’s Eve. It was too soon for Jane to contemplate that she might be an alcoholic, but she was willing to listen and attend a meeting. As Jane didn’t drive, I arranged to pick her up and take her. I ended the conversation by repeating the phrase that always helps me, “It will get better.” For the remainder of the day, I felt satisfied because something I said had Jane willing to go to a meeting. I called my sponsor, Annie, and she gently reminded me that I should not go on a 12 Step call alone, due to safety reasons. “Oh yeah, thank God for those that have gone before us, and are willing to pass on what was given so freely to them.”

I went down the 12 Step phone list, and called Debra, who agreed to meet me and pick up Jane together. We did, and the three of us went to a meeting. As of this day, Jane is still in the program, and is now volunteering with me at the EVI Office on Thursdays. It has been a gift to watch Jane grow, immerse herself in the program, and reach out her hand to that next phone call. “Yes, Jane, it does get better!” How glad I am that we alcoholics are willing to answer that phone, work at the office, and reach out our hands.

Jane W. , Debra B. & Tricia S. - Eugene, OR

Echoes in the Valley

I thought not drinking for a month was about as possible as holding my breath for a month.

Ibid. [speaker; Thursday, August 2, from Oakridge.]

(On egotism) You erect a statue to yourself, and spend the rest of your life being a maintenance man for it.

Ken P., Sober Awakening

When I go to a meeting, I feel like somebody added a quart of motor oil to my brain. All the clattering and knocking in my mind quiets down.

Todd, Sober Awakening

Submitted by Martha S. - Eugene, OR

Rule 62:



Ham On Wry

AN ATTRACTIVE GENTLEMAN, in his nineties, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. He’s very well-dressed, smells of good aftershave, has a flower in his lapel, and presents a very cultivated image. Seated at the bar is a lady in her middle eighties, also well-groomed and attractive. The gentleman notices the lady, makes a beeline for the stool next to her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, “So, tell me, do I come here often?”

Chuck B., June, 2005

TWO MEN ATTENDED A FUNERAL. One of them knew the deceased as a drinking buddy; the other questioned him about the corpse.

“What killed your friend?” he asked.

“Oh, booze killed him.”

“Did he ever try that AA business?”

“Oh, no!” replied the friend with surprise. “He wasn’t really all that bad.”

Anonymous, March, 2005

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT the alcoholic who thought a different relationship was the best way to control her drinking?

She switched from Scott to Randy.

Dennis H., February, 2005

A WEALTHY CEO was slumped in his chair after a five-martini lunch when his phone rang. Answering it, his assistant said, “Sorry, Mr. Jones is unavailable right now. He’s out from lunch.”

February, 2005

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Faithful Fiver Pledge:

- I pledge \$5 per month to support EVI and service work in my community.
- I'm feeling grateful. I can send _____ per month.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution monthly.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution quarterly (\$15 each).
- I will mail or drop off my contribution once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

When you acknowledge my contribution, please list me as (first name, initial or nickname):

Receipt

“Faithful Fivers” are individuals who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. A Faithful Fiver pledge is recognized by a mailed subscription to the EVI Newsletter. We will post your nickname on a board in the EVI office. We don't remind you or otherwise keep track of your contributions, and we will send the Newsletter whether or not you remember to send in your pledge. You may contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly. If you check the “Receipt” box, we will send you a receipt at the end of the year. If you would like to save EVI postage, write “No news” next to your address, and pick up your copy of the Newsletter at a meeting or at the EVI office.



Stamp