

This Agnostic Learned to Believe in Miracles

Maybe you can identify... When I got to AA (an over-educated and under-informed agnostic) I had lots of opinions about the nature of “miracles” and those “religious types” who professed them. Often I would expound upon the subject at meetings. It seemed that things that occurred that agreed with my will were good, and things that didn’t were bad... and if they conformed with my will and I never anticipated them I called them “miracles” and if they didn’t conform big time I called them @\$% (as in @\$% HAPPENS!)

The first miracle I became aware of was after about a year sober... I didn’t want a drink. The obsession was lifted. The next few miracles were financial in nature. Being a materialistic drunk, they got my attention first.

You know... like when an unexpected check arrives in the mail for \$250 and I just got a bill from my mechanic for \$280. I as getting my needs taken care of. (Of course, I would have preferred to have hit the lottery for a half million.)

These “financial miracles” were easier to measure and to recognize... other miracles, like hearing what I needed to hear at a meeting only became recognizable when I developed the tiniest bit of humility. Years passed and I got very busy in AA, becoming convinced that I would only know how to handle situations which used to baffle me if I paid attention.

Then I became what this agnostic can only call “God Conscious.” I started to see good stuff everywhere! Gratitude and faith were developing and my prayers were beginning to take the form of THANKS, rather than HELP. I was becoming convinced that my Higher Power really did want the best for me as well as for all of his other kids, too! I could see how H.P. had always been there, not only since I got sober...

Today, coming up on 22 years, I rely on H.P., the steps and the fellowship. I have found a way of life that really works and just like you... I AM A MIRACLE!

Bill O. - Eugene, OR



June 2008

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EVI Office

(541) 342-4113

1259 Willamette Street

Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Monday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.eviaa.org

Meeting schedules, business meeting
minutes, and more.



Changed

Tuesday Alvadore Fireside Big

Book Study - Now Open mtg

Tues. 7:00-8:00 pm

Alvadore Christian Church

11th Step Meeting - Name Chng

Saturday 9:00-10:00 am

350 Pearl St. - Eugene

Serenity on Sunday - Location

Sunday 7:00-8:00 pm

3633 Gilman Road,

Gilham Community Church.

Grateful We Aren't Dead

Name/Time Change:

Now Monday - Friday

8:00-9:30 at JESCO 340 Blair

Formerly 5 separate mtgs:

Mon: Phys., Mental, Spiritual

Tue: Tues Beginners Group

Wed: Together We Can Group

Th: New Young People's AA

Fri: Candlelight Group

Up the River Group - New Time

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm

37570 Row River Rd.

Dorena Store

Cancelled

Came to Believe.

Monday 7:00 pm

Marcola Christian Church

Dexter Women's Book Study

Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm

Put the Plug in the Jug

Prohibition, in theory, outlawed the sale of liquor. The law was evaded by bootleggers who made bathtub gin and whiskey from homemade stills. I started drinking at the tail end of that era, around 1933, when I was thirteen or fourteen years old and living in Oregon. I joined the army in 1939, met a girl, and got married. The base pay at that time was \$21 a month, hardly enough to support a family and a booze habit. My drinking continued to get worse and became more important than my marriage. My wife eventually kicked me out. I was given a hardship discharge, and I tramped around logging camps, usually lasting one or two paydays, before the booze won out again. This went on for nine or ten years.

The cops arrested me for nonsupport in 1946. The sentencing alternatives were one year in the penitentiary or five years' probation. The judge put me on probation. I was to contact the probation officer regularly and not use alcohol or be around other people using alcohol. I had already been blacklisted from purchasing alcohol in liquor stores in Oregon. This hadn't stopped me before from crossing the state line, so I continued to tramp all over the country.

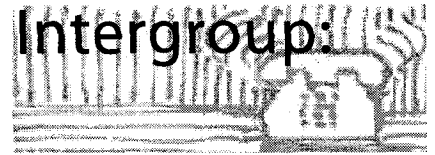
I'd just been fired for being drunk on the job and was heading down a logging road for a bottle when the cops caught up with me in November 1948. The day they picked me up, I was in Eugene coming down from a bad drunk lasting several days. I came to while standing in front of a men's clothing store window and didn't like what I saw looking back at me. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I asked God to please help me get over this terrible drinking habit.

I was sentenced to the Oregon State Penitentiary, and it was suggested that I go to AA meetings there. I hadn't heard of Alcoholics Anonymous before. I went to meetings every Sunday, then held in the shower room, dripping pipes and all. Admittance, acceptance, and action were some of the first principles I was able to grasp. I soon learned I belonged there. So you see, God did show me a way. I had been given hope of a sober life.

The following May of 1949, I was paroled and was to start work in Astoria. When I arrived, I found that the boatmen had gone on strike. My parole officer sent me to the second job on my list, in Hood River where I was raised. The company asked me to hire a man to work with me on the end of a power saw, an insult to me since I had been felling timber by hand for years. But the man I hired wanted to get over his drinking problem, and I had the book Alcoholics Anonymous. So we started the first AA meeting in Hood River in 1949.

Please remember to let us know if your group changes its schedule. To submit changes of any kind, please notify the EVI office. Thanks!

EVI Business Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2008



6:30 Open with the serenity Prayer, followed by introductions

Old business - Open service positions

At large steering committee member, Treasurer co-chair, Newsletter co-chair.

New business-Gene suggested EVI look into publishing "Meeting in a Pocket" booklets.

Reports

Activities-Dawn R. Jazz/Spaghetti night was a success. Thanks to Tommy Rae and band, will do it again next year at this time. 3rd annual softball and root beer kegger, May 26, will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. July 4 Picnic will be at Armitage Park this year. Sept 27 will be the 5th annual Java Jive.

Archives-Issac-Preparing mobile archives for founders day.

Web site-Teffany-All fine, couple things added, newsletter going up as well as tri-fold meeting directory. There are no personal phone numbers.

Meeting directories-Rick-Order of 2200 sent out, to be delivered in 10 days, \$500 paid, \$534 due. Tri folds are done, Kudos to office volunteers.

Newsletter-Tanya-all going well, could use co-chair, included in this issue is new EVI birthday envelope.

PI/CPC Will-Had a workshop and are getting things started. 100 packets for physicians-any AA members going to see their doctor can take a packet which explains about AA.

Diverter-Myron-Will be updating next month. Be sure to call volunteers when transferring. All shifts covered. 12 step list has doubled and more are welcome. Meeting time must change, ideas open.

Grapevine-no report

H&I-Brenda-new co-chair, Jennifer. A veteran is starting up the veterans meeting. Forest work camp closed, also CCC.

Local jail reduced. No new applications, Serbu needs volunteer, Pathways is closing.

Literature-Printed copy of top ten sellers, working on pamphlets. Taking literature to Assembly, looking for volunteers to staff.

Office coordinator-Tricia-Fully staffed, volunteers need to call diverter to inform them when switching, all is well.

Outreach-Rebecca-Business meeting next Sunday 4 pm. Putting together literature and other info, check on various group business meetings.

Speaker Meeting-Gene-June meeting will feature Brad from Corvallis.

Treasurer-Angie-Consistent format, although no thermometer, reorganized like Profit and Loss, doing well.

Steering Committee- Birthday envelopes, Frank checking into heating situation, Open house planning, Rick is new bookkeeper.

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Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.eviaa.org

Meeting schedules, business

meeting minutes, and more.

Save a bookmark!

EVI News:

Emerald Valley Intergroup's monthly newsletter for the AA community in Lane County.

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.

Contributions are gratefully accepted for consideration for publication. Submissions are due by the last Monday of each month. To submit articles or event information, mail them or drop them off at the EVI office c/o E.V.I. News. Please include a contact phone number.

Submissions and comments may be sent by e-mail to:

EVINews@comcast.net

Submitted by Kurt J.

Edited by Newsletter Chair

Contributions.

May 2008

Group Contributions (month/yttd)

6:45AM Stag .00/311.20
ABC Group 35.40/35.40
Attitude Adjustment 353.91/1,439.36
Autumn Group .00/50.00
Cottage Grove Gratitude .00/10.00
District 19 .00/100.00
Downtown AM Group 129.20/817.46
First Dexter Group .16/.16
Friday Night Stag .00/500.00
Get Well Group .00/60.00
Great Fact Group 70.00/70.00
How It Works 200.00/300.00
McKenzie River Group.00/35.00
Monday Mens Stag .00/59.80
Monday Noon Stag .00/170.52
New Freedom .00/250.00
New Freedom 2 50.00/50.00
One Day at a Time .00/120.00
SAG .00/75.00
Saturday 11th Step Meeting 12.00/12.00
Saturday Morning Steps .00/252.00
Sat Night Women's Stp Stdy 97.29/97.29
Serenity Lane 15.00/15.00
Serenity Seekers West .00/210.00
Sober Awakenings .00/300.00
Sober Chicks .00/20.00
Sobriety For Life .00/150.00
Springfield Men's Stag .00/45.00
Sunday Morn Big Book .00/515.00
Sunday Night Wm's StpStd .00/63.87
Thurs Men's Book Study .00/52.66
Thurs PM Rush Hour .00/60.00
Try God Group .00/1,820.00
Unknown 20.20/39.20
Veneta Gratitude Group .00/84.00
Wednesday Beginners .00/30.00
Wednesday Men's Noon 150.00/150.00
Wednesday Nt Mens Stg 197.20/509.20
Women's Courage to Change 160/160.00
Young People's Book Study 37.50/37.50
Total Group Contributions
1,627.86/9,176.62

Individual Contributions

Anonymous: .00/3.50
Faithful Fivers: 145.00/290.20
Other: 21.55/106.40

Total Individual Contributions

166.55/779.78

Total Contributions (yttd):

4 10,076.75

Put the Plug in the Jug

Continued from page 2

My family had returned, and I found that I was really using what I had heard at meetings in prison. Some sayings come to mind: "Take the cotton out of your ears, put one in the jug and one in the mouth." "If you don't like AA, we will gladly refund your misery." "Stinking thinking will get you drinking." "AA is an honest program." "Uncover, discover, discard." "Before making big decisions, sleep on it twenty-four hours." "Let go and let God."

I didn't carry more than fifty cents with me; that would buy a pack of cigarettes or a pair of gloves. I just didn't trust myself to carry more money or to go to town by myself. I didn't trust me.

In late November, during my first sober winter in Hood River, we got snowed out of the woods. I received permission to move to Eugene so I could work year-round. There was one local meeting a week then. Clayton C. and I started the Monday Night Springfield Group in 1952, and it was the only meeting in Springfield until the end of 1965. The group is still running with thirty-two current members, and I attend it regularly, as health allows. At that time we had a good answering service. We would put our name on a list and we would get Twelfth Step calls. It worked well. I continued to do Twelfth Step calls and go to meetings, staying active in the program. I was granted a full pardon from the governor in 1956 and received permission from the warden to return to the prison once a month, carrying the message there for about thirty years.

I quit logging in 1958 and went into carpentry. I got hurt in 1960 and went to vocational school and began electrical appliance work which I did until 1978. I also silver-smithed for eleven years. After divorcing in 1978, I went to Yuma, Arizona every winter for about ten years. There I met a gal who came into the program when we met. It was a nice marriage, but she later became ill with cancer. We spent about three years in Canada before she passed on in 1988.

I married again in 1990 to a woman I'd known for twenty-six years, who has been sober for thirty-four years and is active in recovery from alcoholism. We've been happily married ever since. We enjoy sharing our recovery with other alcoholics from all over the state, as well as regular visits from friends and relatives.

I've had two sponsors. Curt H. from Astoria was my sponsor while I was in the joint in 1948. He has since passed on. He was also the first Oregon delegate to New York. My second sponsor is Brick S., with fifty-one years sober. Unfortunately, he's not able to get around much anymore.

Continued on Page 6

Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee, 6:30 PM
Tue District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Richard T.
Tues District 33, 6:30 PM, Lauri S.
Wed District 19, 5:30 PM, Brenda K.
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.)

Fellowship Events

Movie Night - An EASYPAA Production - Amazon Comm. Center

Friday June 13th 7:30-11:30 - 2700 Hilyard St.
Movie starts at 8:00, followed by fun, games & a meeting
Suggested Contribution \$3, Popcorn, soda and candy sold
Contact Eric

Sunlight of the Spirit - 8th Annual Women In Recovery Brunch

June 14th, 2008 - Red Lion, Medford, OR
Beth

Luau - EASYPAA Presents 2nd Annual

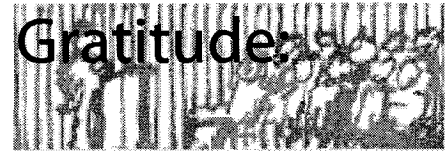
Sunday July 20th, 1:30-6:00 pm, 2025 Washington Street
Delegate's Post Conference Report at 2:30
Huli Huli Chicken, Kalua Pork, Games, Hula Hooping, etc.
Dinner tickets pre-sold for \$7. Eric

ORCYPAA Campout 2008 - Cottage Grove

(Oregon Conference of Young People in AA)
June 20-22nd - \$20 early registration, \$25 late.
Shwartz Park, 34909 Shoreview Dr., Cottage Grove
Contact Leah M.

EVI Presents: Independence Day 2007 Picnic - BBQ - Potluck

July 4th - 3:00-7:00 pm - Fun & Games with Family
Emerald Park Shelter #2 - 1400 Lake Dr., Eugene
Hamburgers, hotdogs, and refreshments provided
Volleyball, Croquet, Children's games, Raffle



Currently Available Service Positions:

Hospitals and Institutions has an open co-chair position, CTF co-chair, as well as 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.

The EVI Office can use people to answer phones and perform office functions. Contact Tricia.

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

Bookkeeper, CTF Co-Chair, H&I Co-Chair, Outreach Co-Chair, and Newsletter Co-Chair, Archivist Co-Chair, Office Co-Chair, Treasurer 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

People:

ACTIVITIES

Dawn Sandra E.

ANSWERING SERVICE

Mike B.

ARCHIVIST

Isaac

BOOKKEEPER

Kurt J. *Open position*

COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Lyndee R. Spencer

DIVERTER COORDINATOR

Jane W.

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting Guides: Ric H.

Co-chair open

Newsletter: Tanya E.

Co-chair open

Website: Tefany

Alan U.

E.V.I. OFFICE MANAGER

Tricia S.

Co-Chair: Elizabeth

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Gary, Gene

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Tim A.

Co-Chair: Wes H.

Secretary: Lisa

Treasurer: Angie

At-Large: Frank K.

At-Large: Kurt J.

At-Large: Lee

At-Large: Ted

GRAPEVINE

Chair: Gus

Co-Chair: Chris

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Brenda K.

Co-Chair: *Open position*

Corrections: Annie O.

Co-chair open

Lane County Jail (Women): Rose B.

Co-chair: Karla B.

Lane Cnty Jail (Men): David W.

Co open

C.C.C. Women: Melody

Co-chair: Denna S.

C.C.C. Men: Bob S.

Co-coord. open

Alma Work Camp: Lee H.

Co-coord open

Pathways: Joe N.

Co-coord. open

Serbu Detention: Jack

Co-coord. open

Cooperation with Treatment Facilities:

Jeff C.

Co-chair open

Carlton House: Mark Z.

Co-coord. open

W.F.T.: Jacquie C.

Johanna

Serenity Lane:

Fri. Speaker: Richard

Co-coord. open

B.T.G.: Tim A.

Co-coord. open

S.N.L.: Greg D.

Co-coord. open

Shelter Care: Hank

Angela D.

Hospitals: *Both chair & co-chair positions open*

Johnson Unit: Jill

, David L.

VA Reintegration Cntr: *Both positions open*

LITERATURE

Bill A.

Diana

OUTREACH

Bill H.

Rebecca

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Deb B.

Co-chair open

Planning an AA event?

Get the word out more effectively by getting your flyer posted on the E VI website and in the newsletter. Email a copy of your flyer to eviwebmaster@q.com and evinews@comcast.net

AA History in the Emerald Valley

The EVI Archives Committee is seeking written histories and old photographs of AA in our area. Call the office or drop by if you have anything to share!

Do you have PI experience?

EVI News is seeking stories about experience in Public Information.

Put the Plug in the Jug

Continued from page 4

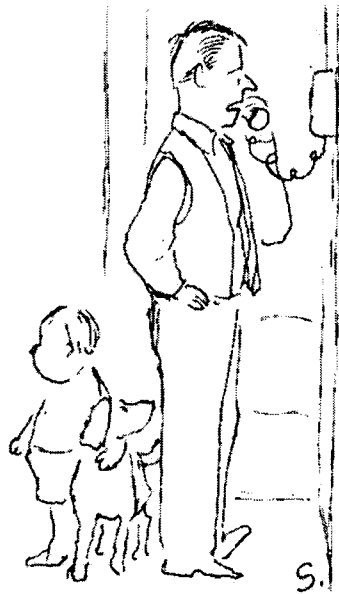
All I brought with me when I came to the Fellowship was a very abused body and a warped mind. There comes a time when you will get on your knees with a choice to pray or puke. Today, I am very grateful for God and all the people in AA. They have listened to me and they have shared with me, reaching out with a single sense of purpose.

I believe that after I asked God to show me how to get over my drinking habit, he showed me. From there, I think it's up to me to follow the AA program and the Steps to the best of my ability.

One day at a time, I celebrated fifty years of sobriety on November 14, 1998, with 250 members of AA in attendance; that's quite a contrast compared with the eight members who shared at my first meeting. The Mill Creek AA Group in the penitentiary will hold its fifty-fifth anniversary in May 1999. It is the third oldest institutional AA meeting in the nation. I will return to where the first seed of AA was planted, so that I may share my experience, strength, and hope with other suffering alcoholics--just as I have been taught, and as others have done before me.

*Clyde E. - Eugene, Oregon
September 1999*

Reprinted with permission from The Grapevine



"There's a dog and a kid following me around the house. Are they mine?"

Jack P.

Reprinted with permission from *The Grapevine*

Yesterday... Today and Tomorrow

THERE are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. YESTERDAY has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back YESTERDAY. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. YESTERDAY is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible adversaries, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. TOMORROW is also beyond our immediate control.

TOMORROW'S sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds--but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in TOMORROW for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day--TODAY--. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities--YESTERDAY and TOMORROW that we break down.

It is not the Experience of TODAY that drives men mad--it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened YESTERDAY and the dread of what TOMORROW may bring.

LET US, THEREFORE, LIVE BUT ONE DAY AT A TIME.

Anonymous - July 1945

Reprinted with permission from *The Grapevine*



Short Takes

"The cleaning woman found three empty bottles behind the bookcase in your den," snapped the wife to the homecoming husband.

"Thash ridiculous," replied the soused spouse. "I never bought an empty bottle in my life!"

D.S. - San Mateo, California
September 1958*

W. C. FIELDS is reliably reported (at least three people sent this in) as saying that the reason his coats all had two large pockets was that one held a bottle of medicinal brandy in case he saw a snake and was scared. The other held the snake.

March 1969*

Oldtimer: "How long you been in A.A.?"

Newcomer: "Two months."

Oldtimer: "Take it easy, bub, you're not even dry behind the ears yet."

Newcomer: "I'm not interested in 'behind the ears'; what I want to do is get dry 'between the ears.'"

March 1947*

Age seldom improves with whiskey.

A. L. Moragne

September 1958*

Strange that so many people who took their whiskey straight seem to want their AA very much diluted.

September 1960*

*Reprinted with permission from *The Grapevine*

GET THE NEWS!

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

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

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401