

NIGHT CAP

Published monthly by the San Antonio Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity in local and Southwest Texas Area groups.

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76

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PEACE IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT . . .

... HOPE IS OUR GIFT!

grateful alcoholic. Years and from accounts which I people who were afflicted ease known as alcoholism. drunkards. I write this the knowledge born of ience, and with the hope still fuffer may find

I have been given. I hope that this narrative may be received as a gift of sharing for without giving of myself, I have learned, I cannot stay sober. I will now give to anyone who desires it, a glimpse of peace, love, and a deep compassion for those who struggle as I have done. I offer this also to suffering families who seek knowledge.

There are many pitfalls which I have traveled to reach sobriety: mountains of resentment, cold winds of loneliness, rocks and boulders made of anger, jealousy, and greed. These things also became a burden. I was in prison, by my own choosing, with no parole, sentenced by neither judge nor jury. That is in accord with the earlier statement that I am indeed free, and above all else, sober.

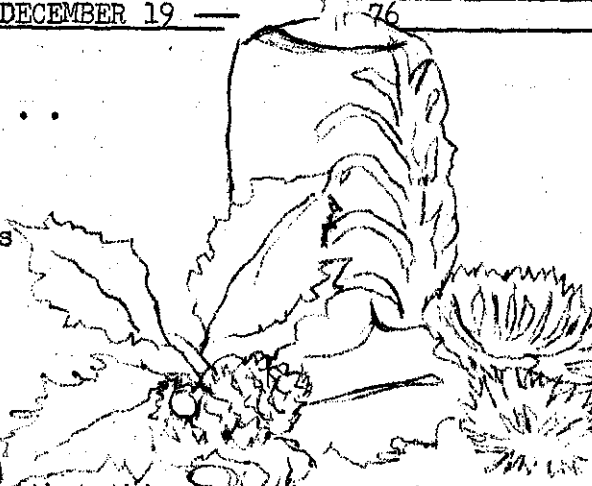
Sobriety means many things to me. It is a gift, which I open every day. Binding it is a ribbon of friends, loved ones - and a knot of mystery - for the gifts have not all been examined - a guiding hand must teach this infant to live in a sober world.

Sobriety is memory, knowledge of yesterday, and today, with no curtain of darkness. to be sober is to eat of food, glorying in the taste, and breathing in it's fragrance dispelled for many years by the vapors of liquor. I know now the meaning of love, for it is about me, and I carry it with me. I can speak distinctly, and each sentence I write is a complete thought. I know now the meaning of life, for I am able to give of myself, expecting nothing in return.

Briefly, I have tried to convey what my sobriety means, for I must grow more, and in so doing, more of my gifts will be revealed. It is with a generous heart I bestow upon those whose lives have been touched my drink, and upon those who still suffer, the gift of my sobriety.

THE GIFT

Yes, I am a ago, it is said, have read, many with this dis- were called paragraph with bitter exper- that those who the key which



EDITOR'S NOTE: We are especially pleased to present this charming article, originally titled "What Sobriety Means to Me" in this Christmas edition. Nelda W. has been blind for 32 years, and had 110 days of sobriety when she composed - and typed it, herself. It was sent to us by our good friend, Jeanne W., and I am so grateful that she was moved to share it with us. Thank you both for this beautiful and appropriate "gift" to all of us!

BLESS US WITH A TRUE SENSE OF SHARING ... LET THE SINGLE CANDLE OF HOPE
BURN BRIGHTLY ...

SPECIAL NOTICE

A tentative date of Saturday, January 18th has been set for the District 1 GSR Workshop to be held at the ARC, Southton Road from 9 am - 3 pm.

Lunch will be served in the dining room for \$1.50.

Not only are all GSR's - New and Old - invited to attend, but also all alternates, secretaries, committee persons, and all members of AA at large are urged to come so that they may not only familiarize themselves with the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous on the local level, but also to have an opportunity to meet representatives from the entire district. We will have further news in the next edition of the "Night Cap". but make your plans NOW to attend!

CHRISTMAS COMES AGAIN TO LIGHT THE WAY

San Marcos Group

From the San Marcos Group comes word that "Kitch" K. who celebrated his 29th year of sobriety July 7th, 1976 at the Episcopal Church on S.W.T. campus fell last month, at the Care Inn Nursing Home, and broke his hip.

"Kitch" is now in the Hays Memorial Hospital, and is recovering slowly. He is expected to remain there for at least two weeks more. All friends and acquaintances are invited to drop in and say: "Hi"!

And - say there - how about a "Get well" or Christmas card from those of us who may not be in that vicinity very soon. Just mail to:

San Marcos Group
PO BOX 276, or call (512)
392 - 3762 for more information

OUR CARE FOR EACH OTHER IS THIS TRUE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Central Service Office

Stuck for just the right gift for that very special AA on your Christmas list? How about trotting down to the Central Service Office and letting Beth J. show you some of the items that Santa's elves conveniently dropped by?

Many items of jewelry, stationary, and books are in stock, and you may find the very thing for that hard to please Mister or Ms.

Two year planning calendars with the "Praying Hands" motif on the cover are pocket size and show you a whole months schedule at a glance. \$1.25.

Antique bronze pendants or key tags are always a thoughtful gift, and the tags may be registered so that they may be returned simply by dropping them into a mailbox. These are embossed with the Serenity Prayer on one side, and "Praying Hands" on the other and sell for \$3.00 each.

For new, and old members brass or sterling silver pocket pieces are

and always welcome reminder of our gratitude for our sobriety. Brass pieces are \$5.75.

STAT'S: 10/19/76

AA	116
ALANON	42
PIC	8
STUDENTS	9

WHEN WE BELIEVE IN PEACE WITH OUR BROTHERS - THEN WE WILL KNOW CHRISTMAS

PIC

Public Information Meetings:

A Public Information Meeting will be held on December 5th at 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church parish hall in Cotulla, Texas. A special film on Alcoholism will be shown after the meeting, and the admission is free.

Ben A. will be Chairman of the meeting and the speakers will be: Buddy B. and Roy H. (AA); and Joy G. (Alanon)

The San Antonio Public Information Meeting for December will be held at Christ the King Church, 2610 Perez, at 5 p.m. on the 26th in the cafeteria.

Following the short meeting which will feature Dr. Gene S. (AA) and A.R. C. (Alanon) as speakers, we will enjoy a delightful Fiesta with food provided by our Spanish-Speaking groups, and plenty of lively music for dancing!

- Ben A -

THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT ...
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS.

S.A.S.H. PARTY

The S.A.S.H. party will be held on Monday evening December 20th at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the usual fine food and festivities!

This year the Hospital Committee is asking that your group donate one or two "Big Books" for the hospital's patients rather than some other gift that might be used - and quickly forgotten. Your group's gift could make a lasting impression, and the memory of it's thoughtfulness linger long after the tinsel has been re-packed. Individuals may also contribute books.

The Central Service Office has a plentiful supply of "Big Books" for \$.5.65.

So, come to the party - and bring a copy of the AA message with you! Let's make this S.A.S.H. party a really memorable one for all.

THE GIFTS WE GIVE EACH OTHER ARE THE
ECHOES OF HIS ETERNAL GIFT

AROUND THE AREA:

The Bandera Group will host the District 1' Round Robin at 5:00 p.m. in St. Christopher's Episcopal Church on November the 28th, immediately following the GSR meeting which will begin at 4:30 p.m.

* * *

The Kerrville Women's Group now meets twice on Tuesday at 2 and at 8 p.m.

* * *

The Universal City "Happy Hour " Group has been closed.

FOR LITTLE MIRACLES, GREAT LOVE AND
WONDROUS BLESSINGS - WE GIVE THANKS

CHRISTMAS GENTLY COMES TO US LIKE SILENCE IN THE SNOWEY FIELDS ... FILLING US WITH JOY IN ALL THE SMALL AND SIMPLE WAYS WE SHARE OUR WONDER AND OUR LOVE.

ROUND ROBBIN SCHEDULE

December 1976:

Lytle - Wednesday, the 1st

Hondo - Thursday, the 9th

Karnes City - Friday, the 17th

Pleasanton - Saturday the 25th

January 1977:

Floresville -Wednesday, the 5th

Hondo - Thursday, the 13th

Karnes City - Friday, the 21st

Pleasanton - Saturday, the 29th

The District 13 meeting for all GSRs and secretaries will be held on Saturday the 29th of January, 1977 at 7 p.m. in Pleasanton Hall. Y'all come !

CHRISTMAS IS A JOURNEY OF THE HEART. A RENEWAL OF THE SPIRIT. A PAUSE IN OUR LIVES TO REKINDLE LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP. THIS DAY A NEW SPARK OF HOPE IS BORN IN EACH OF US.

BOX 4-5-9

Good News For Groups:

Does every member of your group get the benefit of BOX 4-5--9's worldwide sharing? Prepared and edited at your G.S.O., this bulletin goes out six times a year to relay personal and group experiences of AA everywhere. A single copy is sent to each group, Loner, International list and General Service Conference members listed with the G.S.O., and other interested AA's may subscribe at the individual rate of \$1.50 a year.

Single copies at 15¢ each are also available.

But note the special bulk rate - \$3.50 for a full year of 10 copies of each issue. At this easy-on-the-treasury price (only about 6¢ per copy), your group can afford to give every member a window on the whole world of AA, seen through the pages of BOX 4-5-9.

Enclose check, or money order, and make payable to :

BOX 4-5-9
AA World Servicess, Inc.
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, N. Y. 10017

I WISH YOU THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS PEACE - THE GLIMPSE OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS HOPE - THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS LOVE. I WISH YOU THE TRUE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS LOVE BORN WITHIN US.

. . . I WISH YOU THE GOOD FEELING OF CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR 'ROUND. I WISH YOU THE JOY OF TODAY, THE SHARED LOVE OF YESTERDAY. THE HOPE OF TOMORROW . . .

The 1st Step Group has an open speaker's meeting on Sunday at 11 a.m. As an added incentive a morning coffee is offered from 9 A.m. to 1 p.m. The group also holds an open participation meeting on Wednesday at 8:15 p.m. and an open discussion on Saturday at 8:15 p.m., with the exception of the last Saturday of the month which is an open speakers' meeting.

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The Haven holds meetings three times a week at times varied enough to suit almost anyone's schedule. Tuesday evening at 8:15 an open discussion meeting is held. An open speaker's meeting is also held at 10:15 p.m. on Friday, and on Sunday afternoon another open speakers' meeting is held at 5:00 p.m. So - take yourself ... take a friend ... take a crowd ... and take in The Haven!

* * * * *

HELP! HELP! HELP! The Harmony Group and the V.A. Hospital Group are in need of your support. Be sure to bring along your smilin' face and come on out!

* * * * *

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet on December the 7th at the Central Service Office, 7 p.m. The C.S.O.C. will meet at 7 p.m. on December 12th at Club 12, 102 Thames. The STARR (Intergroup) meeting will be held immediately following the Committee's meeting at 8:15 p.m.

* * * * *

The 24 Hour Group will hold it's regular monthly dinner November 30th. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day the Group will be holding Open House all day for all members of AA in the area - their families and friends. Drop by 1203 Fredricksburg Road, and stay awhile to renew old friendships and begin a few new ones.

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The Goliad Group, 1004 Avondale will hold their monthly barbeque December 19th at 6:00 p.m., followed by an open speakers' meeting at 7:30 p.m. All other Sunday meetings are held at their regular time of 8:15 p.m.

* * * * *

Club 12 will hold Open House Christmas Day - complete with a gen-u-ine Ho! Ho! Ho! type Santa Claus for all the kinds (like you and me). Stop to nibble the Christmas " Goodies "; and you can always BLAST SANTA if all you found in your Stocking were the bills!

* * * * *

The traditional New Year's dance will be held at Club 12 beginning at 8 p.m. Come early and linger late to enjoy the bountiful buffett, good music, tapping toes and table hopping ... see the new Year in with the "beautiful people" - and a tear or a smile.

* * * * *

COME TO OUR ALKATHON

Downtown Group 809 E. Euclid - around the clock speakers on the hour from Friday, Dec 24, 8 p.m. and ending Sunday, Dec 26, 8 a.m. Good speakers, Good food, good Fellowship. Meet old friends and make new. Everybody welcome!!!

FINANCIAL CORNER

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

GROUP	NOV.	TO DATE	GROUP	NOV.	TO DATE
Alamo Heights	\$15.00	\$165.00	Northeast	\$30.00	\$120.00
Audubon	10.00	100.00	Northwest	25.00	275.00
Bethany (Killeen)	-0-	3.00	Northwood	-0-	135.00
Boerne	-0-	15.00	Pilgrim	35.42	44.42
Brees	25.00	140.00	Reality	-0-	100.00
Bridge (N Brnfels)	20.00	110.00	Reliance	-0-	50.00
Broadway	-0-	90.00	San Pedro	20.00	100.00
Court House (Brnsvle)	-0-	11.00	San Marcos	-0-	10.00
Downtown	-0-	60.00	SASH	5.00	15.00
Feel Free (Lockhart)	-0-	-0-	Santa Fe	30.00	105.00
Floresville	5.00	10.00	St. Agnes	-0-	5.00
Ft. Sam Houston	40.00	310.00	Seguin	5.00	54.00
Frontier	20.00	200.00	Serenity	10.00	110.00
Goliad	-0-	90.00	Sharing	-0-	-0-
Group 12	150.00	550.00	STARR	12.10	220.70
Guidance	-0-	70.00	Stepping Stones	-0-	180.00
Grupo Esperanza	3.00	9.00	Sunset	-0-	120.00
Harmony	-0-	12.00	Trinty	-0-	40.00
Highlands	20.00	220.00	The Haven	-0-	55.00
Hill Country	-0-	20.00	Twenty-Four Hour	10.00	120.00
Hope	-0-	10.00	Grupo Unidad	-0-	60.00
Kerrville	-0-	50.00	Universal City	-0-	40.00
Women's Serenity (Kerrville)	10.00	46.00	Unity Group (Monterrey, Mexico)	-0-	40.00
Killeen	-0-	3.00	Valley Hi	30.00	165.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	130.00	V. A. Hospital	-0-	95.00
Lytle	-0-	10.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	275.00
Luling	12.00	74.00	Wesley	-0-	10.00
Mary Mont	-0-	80.00	Windcrest	-0-	180.00
Grupo Montano (Seguin)	-0-	16.00	Woodlawn Heights	-0-	55.00
New Braunfels	-0-	-0-			
NAS Hospital (Corpus Christi)	-0-	15.00			