

# THE NIGHT CAP

Published monthly by the San Antonio Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local and South-west Area groups.

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VOLUME

DECEMBER 1978

NUMBER EIGHT

## WHY - THE URGE TO DRINK AT CHRISTMAS?

At this time of year, inside and outside of AA circles the question is asked, "Why celebrate the birth of Christ with drunkenness?" If we go far enough back into history we realize that this is a dual festival, a combination of pagan harvest rituals at the same time as religious ones.

For the adult American, perhaps the drinking is a substitute for Santa Claus! Remembering back to my childhood, Christmas was that Magic Time when all my wishes were granted. Everybody loved me and wanted to make me happy on that day because I was a child, and joy and excitement reigned. As I grew into adolescence the cause for excitement changed from the Christmas trees to parties. But the Magic Time was still there to some degree. But then, as the years went by, somehow the Magic seemed to be slipping away. Things were never quite as wonderful as I wanted them to be. The Child within still expected Santa Claus but he never quite arrived. Of course, since the Child demanded it, excitement there must be. And so I looked for my answer where I had always looked for answers - in the bottle. And as always, instead of answers I found disaster, often a ruined Christmas for myself and those around me.

Slowly and painfully, I have finally come to accept that for me there just ain't no Santa Claus. However, this does not dictate that the Christmas Season holds no joy or happiness, but rather that it must be a different kind.

We have learned in AA that the only real satisfactions in life come through giving. If we busy ourselves with plans for making others just a bit happier during the Holiday Season, we may avoid that awful, empty feeling of great expectations unfulfilled. We in AA are truly fortunate that there is so much to do in this direction at Christmas. There will be many activities at the clubs, the State Hospital and all the ways in which we try to reach out to other alcoholics. There is work for everyone and everyone is needed. Perhaps, in this way, we may capture a bit of the REAL spirit of Christmas - that of hope and love and sharing. For, in truth, is this not the spirit of AA itself?

December 1972 issue of the NIGHT CAP)

-- Emilie H. -- (Reprinted from the

PEACE IS NOT A SEASON ... IT IS A WAY OF LIFE.

CONVENTIONS:

To start your Holiday Season off in the brightest manner possible - and keep it bright with memories to sparkle and shimmer right thru til the New Year; here are a couple of baubles just right for your AA Christmas Tree!

YOUNG MINDS IN AA

December 1 - 3 "Young Minds in AA" will meet at the "Redwood Lodge", Lake Whitney. Excellent meetings have been planned and you can expect a special brand of "caring and sharing".  
Conference Chairman - Tom S., Austin

For room reservations call Redwood Lodge, 817-694-3412.

Border Conference

Our favorite "Yuletide" conference! Just right for the newcomer who wants to know more about the AA fellowship.  
December 1, 2, and 3, 1978.

A weekend of fun and fellowship on the Mexican Border combined with some of the finest AA in the Southwest Texas Area.

The registration is just \$15.00. All meetings are held in the Conference room of the Del Rio National Bank, 523 S. Main.

For more information write:  
Conference Chairman  
P.O. Box 1442  
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Write soon!!

HOSPITAL ZONE:

The Groups responsible for taking meetings to the Villa Rosa Groups' Tuesday evening Open Speakers' Meetings for the month of December are:

December 5 & 19 - The 24 Hour Group

December 12 & 26 - Group 12

Groups responsible for taking meetings to the Sally Groups' Wednesday evening Open Speakers' Meetings for the month of December are:

December 6 & 13 - The Broadway Group

December 20 & 27 - Grupo Del Sol

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The Park North Group holds Open Discussion Meetings each Friday at 8 p.m. in the basement cafeteria of the Park North General Hospital, 4330 Vance Jackson Rd.

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The V.A. Hospital holds Beginners Discussion Meetings every Thursday evening at 8:15 p.m. in Room E-136, Audie Murphy V.A. Hospital.

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YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA  
DAY BY DAY

Living on clouds, hiding in thought,  
Life's not life with the things I bought.  
The trials that made my life so pale.  
They are not gone, but I won't fail.

Now I'm stubborn, I won't sway.  
I'll keep my head clear dy by day.  
We won't lose it, you or I.  
No matter how we used to fly.

An uphill climb? No, downward slope.  
There's no one here can call me dope.  
When troubles come now, I say nay.  
I'm keeping it clean, day by day.

- Tony C. -

MAY THE WARMTH OF THE SEASON SURROUND YOU - GIVING YOU HOPE, BRINGING YOU PEACE AND TEACHING YOU LOVE.

STAT'S: 10/15/78 - 11/20/78

AA - 198                      PIC - 3  
 Information - 132  
 Alanon - 45      Student - 9  
Total Calls: 387

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PIC: 10/15/78 - 11/20/78

John A., Ed B., Norma W., Carl C. John H. and Ken C. participated in presentations made to Churchill High School, Pease Middle School and the Community Alcohol Rehabilitation Program.

The Public Information Committee is always in need of "new talent", and yours' might be just the bright new face they've been looking for! If you would like to share in this aspect of AA service contact John H. (828-3742)

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IN MEMORIAM:

Elizabeth Tolleson, wife of Jimmy Tolleson, San Antonio, Nov. 26, 1978

Forrest (Alex) Alexander, San Antonio, October 30, 1978

Warren Emery, San Antonio, November 8, 1978

Anthony Fitzsimmon, San Antonio, November 8, 1978\*

The Central Service Office would like to thank all those who have made memorial donations. These gifts are deeply appreciated and will enable AA to further carry the message.

TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHTS UPON THE HAPPINESS SHARED.

\* A Special " Thank You " from Bill F. to all his friends in AA who were such great comfort to Bill and his mother following the recent death of his father.

Your kindness and caring were deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten.

CHANGING TIMES:

Meetings at Kerper House, 1635 W. Mistletoe, formerly held on Monday evening are now being held on Wednesday at 8:15 p.m.

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Young People in AA meet Thursday and Sunday evenings at 8:15 p.m. at the Downtown Group.

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Len N. has been elected District Committee Member of District 1B. Mary L. will serve as Alternate.

Richard R. is the newly elected Alternate of District 1C. Jaun R. will continue as the District Committee Member.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet on Tuesday December 5 at 7 p.m. in the Central Service Office.

The CSOC and District 1 meetings will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at Club 12, 102 Thames Blvd.

AROUND THE AREA:

Lots of changes this month due to all the Holiday activities - mark your calendar early so you won't miss a single party. If you don't find your Group's activity listed call your secretary or GSR for information.

The Goliad Group, 537 Avondale will hold an Open House, beginning at noon, December 17. An Open Speakers' Meeting will top off the evening at 7:30 p.m. (There will be no monthly barbeque this month.)

An ' Alkathon ' will also be spon-

AROUND THE AREA: ( Continued from Page Three )

sored by the Goliad Group beginning at 6 p.m. December 24, and lasting until - ? Lots of great speakers, and good food. Plenty of fun for everyone!

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Groups in the Metropolitan Area will join the SASH GROUP in sponsoring the hospital's annual Christmas party on Monday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

Bob S. will chair the brief meeting featuring Jack S. as the speaker which begins the evenings festivities; a bountiful buffet supper will follow, and the evening will climax with a dance. Live music will be provided by the SASH combo

Individual gifts for patients will be provided by the hospital's Volunteer Service Organization, but Area Groups are once again asked to donate one or two copies of the " Big Book ", " Twelve and Twelve ", or the " 24 Hour Book" for the hospital library. Individuals are also encouraged to contribute books.

Financial contributions are also being accepted to help defray expenses. For further information contact Frank Fridrich, Secretary-Treasurer or Libby Slaughter, GSR ( 534 - 8811, ext. 441 ) or Bob Smith, 674-5555.

Bob S., Food Chairman will contact individual Groups for donations of food to round out the menu.

You may order your Group's copies of "The Big Book" (\$5.65) from the Central Service Office, as well as "Twelve and Twelve" (\$4.00) and the "24 Hour Book" (\$3.75)

Let's all join in making this the most memorable party of the season for new-comer and old-timer alike!

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SASH MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:

December 4 - The Lytle Group

December 11 - "Skeeter" Shillings,  
Southwest Texas Area

December 18 - Annual Christmas Party

December 25 - There will be a meeting!

The Valley High Group wishes everybody a Happy Holiday extending an invitation to join them on December 19 at 7 p.m.

Scotty A. will chair the Open Speakers Meeting which will be followed by a party featuring plenty of great food!  
Great People! People! Great Time!

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The 24 Hour Service Group will host an Open House beginning on Christmas day and lasting through New Year's Day.

Plenty of opportunity for everyone in the area to drop in and chat with friends while enjoying the Christmas atmosphere and delicious " munchies ". Other groups are urged to participate with donations of food.

The Sahara Group will be closed Christmas Day.

The Downtown Group hopes you'll stop by whenever you're in the mid-town area for a bracing cup of coffee. Enjoy their Christmas decorations and have a friendly visit... Take ten from all that hustle and bustle!

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Group 12 will hold Open House throughout the holidays. Stop by any afternoon or evening from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day to enjoy the beautiful decorations and happy spirit. Buffet at 5PM daily.

A Special Christmas Eve Meeting will be held at 11 p.m., George B. will be the featured speaker for what promises to be one of the most joyful meetings of the Season.

Club 12 will hold its traditional dance on New Year's Eve. All members of AA in the area are invited.

The evening will begin at 8 pm. The Walker Colt Band will entertain for your dancing pleasure. Admission will be \$3.00 per person at the door.

AROUND THE AREA: ( Continued from Page Four )

Join your friends seeing out the old year - ringing in the new... Safe, Serene, and Sober!

The Haven will again sponsor their Annual New Year's "Talk-A-Thon". The evening will begin at 7:30 PM New Year's Eve and last until ?

Hourly Open Speaker's Meetings featuring the best of local speakers will be interspersed with half-hour intermissions allowing everyone plenty of time to enjoy the delicious refreshments and to mingle with friends.

And - you won't want to miss the Midnight Mystery Speaker!

Where-ver you're going - what-ever your plans ... The Haven can be one of your stops on New Year's Eve.

I am wishing for you this day a Happy Christmas. I would send you Those Gifts which are beyond price ... I wish you all laughter and Pure Joy and a Merrie Heart ... The fragrance of flowers, the sweet associations of Holly and Mistletoe and Fir, The memory of deep woods, of peaceful hills, and of the mantling snow which guards the sleep of all God's creatures.

#### CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE:

To make your Christmas Shopping just a little easier make the Central Service Office your first stop.

There's always a full supply of excellent literature as well as favored jewelry that will just suit that hard to please AA, Alanon or Alateen.

Bracelets, pendants and charms in several styles will say " Merry Christmas " to the ladies, and there are lighters, paperweights and key chains for all the gentlemen on your list.

Silver or bronze Serenity Coins make fine stocking stuffers and what about a " Praying Hands Pen " for your favorite Group secretary ( who's always losing hers! = )

Memo Boards and Praying Hands Two Year Pocket Calendars make great gifts for all those active members on your list who may need help in organizing "one day at a time".

Need a suggestion? Give us a call - or better yet - stop in for a soothing cup of coffee and take your time browsing.

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\$&c\_ \$&c\_ \$&c\_ BUCK = A - MONTH \$&c\_-\$&c\_

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FILL OUR HEARTS WITH A GENTLE LONGING FOR THE BEST THAT IS WITHIN OURSELVES.

FILL US WITH UNDERSTANDING FOR THE NEEDS AND CARES OF OTHERS.

BRING OUT THE LOVE IN US TO SHARE OPENLY WITH ONE ANOTHER

AND SHOW US THE WAY TO PEACE

IN ALL OUR TODAYS - WITH NEW HOPE FOR ALL OUR TOMORROWS.

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May this be the Merriest Christmas, the Cheeriest New Year. The Editor and Staff of THE NIGHT CAP.

FINANCIAL CENTER  
 SAN ANTONIO  
 CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
 RECEIVED NOV. 17, 1978

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	15.00	165.00	Open Door	0	155.00
Audubon	0	70.00	Park North	0	150.00
Broadway	0	220.00	Reality	0	35.00
Callaghan	0	20.00	Reliance	0	60.00
Downtown	30.00	200.00	SASH	20.00	65.00
First Step	0	0	Santa Fe	0	60.00
Ft. Sam Houston	20.00	240.00	Sahara	0	10.00
Frontier	10.00	90.00	Serenity	15.00	130.00
Goliad	0	90.00	St. Agnes	0	15.00
Group 12	75.00	700.00	Sharing	0	0
Grupo Del Sol	0	20.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Grupo Unidad	0	110.00	Stepping Stones	75.00	315.00
Highlands	20.00	220.00	Sunset	15.00	205.00
Hope	0	14.00	The Haven	0	85.00
Kelly AFB	0	90.00	Triangle	0	0
Kingsboro	0	15.00	24 Hour	10.00	90.00
Laurel Heights	10.00	160.00	Universal	0	50.00
Marymont	7.50	75.00	VA Hospital	5.00	15.00
Northeast	20.00	110.00	Valley Hi	0	140.00
N. San Pedro	60.00	160.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	275.00
Northwest	20.00	220.00	Wesley	0	35.00
Northwood	0	230.00	Windcrest	75.00	180.00
			Young People	0	0

19 GROUPS ..... \$555.00  
 BUCK-A-MONTH ..... \$115.33

AREA

Bandera	0	0	Women's Serenity	0	60.00
Bridge (N.B.)	0	100.00	Lytle	0	8.00
Canyon Lake	0	5.00	New Braunfels	0	10.00
Floresville	10.00	60.00	Pearsall	0	100.00
Hill Country Grp.	0	20.00	Pleasanton	0	30.00
Kerrville	0	92.00	Seguin	0	0

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
 Ken M. for Mother of Jim W.  
 Art & Mary Lou C. for Warren E.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
 J. R. S.  
 Jan G.  
 Aloysus A.

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BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM  
 DETACH AND MAIL

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, Tex., 78205  
 Please enter my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH for \_\_\_\_\_ months.  
 Donation is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_