



GOOD NEWS



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1988

AN ASSEMBLY (Pre-conference)

There were flowers and lavender table covers, and a lovely spring day, and doughnuts and coffee pots, and literature, and the Archives. Once again a fairgrounds building was transformed into a spiritual experience via the CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly.

Blessed (and few) are they who can look at a list of agenda topics and sit down to discuss all of them without an interpreter. Exhausted are they who tried to explain them to their groups! But the miracle has happened and here are the General Service Reps with their group's conscience on the issues.

This was their day. Some new GSRs thought the questions had come from the General Service Office that the AA fellowship was asking them. They heard people from our area tell our delegate what should be on next year's Conference agenda. Some of it will be. (It depends on the needs of the rest of AA). Even though the purpose of this Assembly is to report

a previously discussed and decided group conscience, and even though it's the GSR's job to give that report to the delegate to take to the Conference, some group consciences are completely opposite from others, and lots of people feel compelled to jump in and clarify things. It's a busy day.

This year we were reconsidering the need for pamphlets for the homosexual alcoholic and the Native North American alcoholic. In an area which includes San Francisco there are many "Gay AA" groups whose GSRs had much to share. Sometimes it's hard to hear that we are discussing the pamphlet, not the people. Sometimes we have chosen descriptive words that are considered insulting. It is a learning experience on a grand scale. We have learned that whether or not the Native Americans need a pamphlet, they certainly need the hand of AA, and we want to provide that somehow.

We were also considering ways to hold

The Bill W. Carl Jung Letters

Kusnacht-Zurich
Seestrasse 228
January 30, 1961

Mr. William G. W---
Alcoholics Anonymous
Box 459 Grand Central
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. W.:

Your letter has been very welcome indeed.

I had no news from Roland H. any more and often wondered what has been his fate. Our conversation which he has adequately reported to you had an aspect of which he did not know. The reason that I could not tell him everything was that those days I had to be exceedingly careful of what I said. I had found out that I was misunderstood in every possible way. Thus I was very careful when I talked to Roland H. But what I really thought about was the result of many experiences with men of his kind.

His craving for alcohol was the equivalent, on a low level, of the spiritual thirst of our being

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THIS IS A. A.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualification for membership is that they can't hold their liquor and don't want to learn how.

It has no rules, no dues and no fees. No nothing that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program except that it works.

The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim A.A. is a selfish program but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which every one blithely ignores. Members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing had happened and greeted accordingly.

Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and

survive magnificently. Nothing in A.A. is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made man. He made laughter, too. Perhaps he is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things run right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe He is pleased because we are trying to be nobody but ourselves. We don't know how it works, but it does, and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their A.A. investments.

It is good to be sober.

IT IS MUCH EASIER, MY FRIENDS, TO STAY SOBER THAN TO GET SOBER.

ANONYMOUS

PEGGY AND SANDY'S STORY

Hi,

My name is Peggy. I'm an alcoholic . . . My name is Sandy. I'm an alcoholic. We are sisters. I'm in my second year of continuous sobriety. Sandy is in her first. Our home group is the Manteca Fellowship, and we have the same sponsor.

When we came to AA, we had no problem with the first part of Step One. We had plenty of evidence that we were powerless where alcohol was concerned! However, we had some reservations about the second part, that our lives had become unmanageable. We thought we managed pretty well when alcohol wasn't involved. A series of events occurred in about a six-month period which showed rather dramatically just how unmanageable our lives really were, even though we did not drink. Briefly, here is what happened:

Sandy asked the State to return custody of her six-year-old son to her since both she and the child had been through extensive therapy and counseling. The social worker wrote a report suggesting more time was needed.

Our brother was in an automobile accident, hospitalized, paralyzed, & comatose.

Sandy fell, severely twisting her ankle

DEADLINES FOR MATERIAL	
Date	Issue
Dec 10	Jan-Feb
Feb 10	Mar-Apr
April 10	May-June
June 10	July-Aug
Aug 10	Sept-Oct
Oct 10	Nov-Dec

PEGGY AND SANDY'S STORY CON'T

and crutches were required. While Sandy was taking our mother to the hospital for a visit, our mother suffered a seizure and was hospitalized herself.

Our father required open-heart surgery, a quadruple bypass, and did not respond as was expected.

Peggy's twelve-year old son fell and broke his arm.

Peggy was hospitalized for major surgery.

Our Sponsor was with us during this trying period, telling us "Do the footwork"; "Do what you have to do"; "Do the best you can and leave the results in the hands of your Higher Power"; "Let go and let God"; "Remember Step Three." Following directions to the best of our ability, this is what happened:

After a series of meetings between Sandy, her sponsor and the social worker, he changed his report and returned custody of her child to Sandy.

Our brother regained consciousness after several days, was released from the hospital, and is receiving therapy, now partially paralyzed.

Our mother was released from the hospital with new medication and is doing well.

Our father was

HAS ANYONE SEEN "SOMEONE ELSE"?

We seem to have lost one of our most valuable members--Someone Else. Someone Else is missing; creating a vacancy in our organization that will be very hard to fill.

Else had been with us for many years, doing far more than the normal member's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results.

"Someone Else" can work with that group. Whenever there was a job to do, a committee to chair, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

~~~~~  
also released and has returned to work.

Peggy's son's arm healed.

Peggy recovered from her surgery; Sandy's ankle healed, and we are both back on the softball team.

We are very grateful to have a program called Alcoholics Anonymous that works even in times of adversity! We are grateful to our home group and our sponsor for their continuing support and prayers. Above all else, we give thanks to our Higher Power whom we choose to call God.

I can't, but We can!

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing super human, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things that someone else did?

We have already been turned down by:

CERTAINLY NOTIME  
NOTON YOURLIFE  
ILLDOIT TOMORROW  
I. WOOD LIKETOBUT  
NEVER SHOWSUP

When you have a chance to help, please remember we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

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California Chapter

(SPONSORSHIP) FRIENDSHIP is the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pouring all right out just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them. Keep what is worth keeping and with breath of comfort, blow the rest away.

GEORGE ELIOT

## IS OUR FOCUS ON "TRUSTED" OR "SERVANT"?

When a newcomer stumbles over "anonymity," we smile and do some kidding--lovingly. When a new secretary forgets the keys, someone is there to help. We wash pots and pull plugs after the meeting knowing the secretary really has a lot to handle. We've all been newcomers. Most of us have been meeting secretaries. We know what it's like.

As we take on jobs that require more experience and sobriety, we lose some of that support.

GSRs embroiled in arguments with their groups need to go to other GSRs, District and Area Committee members to find the understanding and "I remember whens" that encourage them to give it one more try. Maybe remembering what it's like to be a GSR is what it takes. The groups don't always have informed people, and so they cry "ego" and "politics." A DCM knows the reality. Ego?--or success at trying things the AA way? Politics?--or caring enough to give your best?

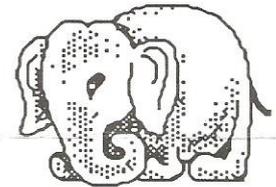
So if we're in service, we know we're giving the best we have. How can we look at a DCMC or Area Officer and shout "ego" and "politics"

from the microphone? Is stumbling over "Anonymity" any more intentional when we're spelling it rather than reading the Traditions? When an officer makes a small consistent error, rather than smiling and loving this growing person we freely say, "You are doing a lousy job."

A little reflection tells me that if I want to indulge my ego and be involved in politics, the last place I want to go is general service to Alcoholics Anonymous. When people are able to take my inventory freely, it doesn't inflate my ego one bit! So when I want

to criticize instead, I consider the following: was I available for this job or will I be in the future? Is this really wrong or just not my way? And most important, did I hire this person or did God do the recruiting? Delegates--and others--quite often come out of the hat!

Marion S.



### — 1988 Events —

- |           |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JUN 17-19 | AA PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM OF GS<br>Sheraton Anchorage Hotel<br>401 East 6th Avenue<br>Anchorage, Alaska 99501           |
| JUN 24-26 | NCCAA 41ST ANNUAL SUMMER CONF.<br>San Jose Convention Center<br>145 W. Santa Clara Ave., S.J.                           |
| AUG 14    | UNITY DAY, General Service &<br>Santa Clara Co. Intergroup<br>Milpitas Community Center<br>457 E. Calaveras Blvd., Mil. |
| SEPT 4    | TRI-COUNTY AA PICNIC<br>Hidden Valley Ranch, Fremont                                                                    |
| OCT 7-9   | NCCAA 41ST ANNUAL FALL CONF.<br>Redding, CA                                                                             |

## BILL W. - CARL JUNG

(Continued from Page 1)

for wholeness, expressed in medieval language: the union with God.\*

How could one formulate such an insight in a language that is not misunderstood in our days?

The only right and legitimate way to such an experience is that it happens to you in reality, and it can

only happen to you when you walk on a path which leads you to higher understanding. You might be led to that goal by an act of grace or through a personal and honest contact with friends, or through a higher education of the mind beyond the confines of mere rationalism. I see from your letter that Roland H. has chosen the second way, which was, under the circumstances, obviously the best one.

I am strongly convinced that the evil principle prevailing in this world leads the unrecognized spiritual need into perdition if it is not counteracted either by real religious insight or by the protective wall of human community. An ordinary man, not protected by an action from above

\*"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." (Psalm 42:1)

and isolated in society, cannot resist the power of evil, which is called very aptly the Devil. But the use of such words arouses so many mistakes that one can only keep aloof from them as much as possible.

These are the reasons why I could not give a full and sufficient explanation to Roland H., but I am risking it with you because I conclude from your very decent and honest letter that you have acquired a point of view above the misleading platitudes one usually hears about alcoholism

You see, "alcohol" in Latin is spiritus, and you use the same word for the highest religious experience as well as for the most depraving poison. The helpful formula therefore is: spiritus contra spiritum.

Thanking you again for your kind letter

I remain  
yours sincerely  
C.G. Jung

C. G. Jung, Letters, ed. Gerhard; Adler and Aniela Jaffe, trans.; R.F.C. Hull, Bollingen Series XCV, Vol. II: 1951-1961. Copyright 1953, 1955, (c) 1961, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975 by Princeton University Press. "Reprinted by permission of Princeton University Press."

## AN ASSEMBLY

(Continued from Page 1)

AA together as the overwhelming push comes from court referrals, treatment and correctional facility graduates, and other newcomers who insist on their right to discuss their addiction du jour and cause uproar in various meetings throughout AA. We told our delegate what works for us.

That's what we were looking for--what works for us. No great binding decisions will be reached as a result of this Assembly. We take what we need and leave the rest. Getting our group conscience tells us what we might need or have to share. And we keep coming back. It works.

Marion S.

Good Morning God; you are ushering in another day untouched and freshly new, so here I come to ask you God if you'll renew me too? Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday and let me try again dear God, to walk closer in thy way. But Father, I am well aware I can't make it on my own. So take my hand and hold it tight for I can't walk alone.



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