



# The Reprieve: District 8

"We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition."

Thu., June 14, 2018

Mason and Thurston Counties, Washington State

## A New Meeting

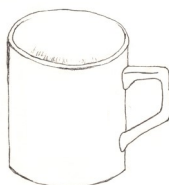
Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation: so says, in part, the long form of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So it was that last Tuesday, June 12th, ten members of AA gathered at the Affinity Senior Living Community on the west side of Olympia, 4701 7th Avenue., SW and held the first meeting of a group they decided to call OASIS 2. The new group met in the comfort of the facility's book-lined library and sitting room.

The group split off from OASIS, which has been held for years at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at 1601 North St., SW. OASIS stands for Olympia Area Seniors in Sobriety. Open to all ("you're a senior if you say you are") this group has grown to as many as 50 people, filling all the chairs around the big long table as well as a dozen or so more chairs lining the wall. Wonderful to see such enthusiasm but also somewhat difficult to hear everybody and certainly even a 75 minute meeting is not enough time for everyone to share who wants to share.

At this new meeting, everyone who wanted to share, did so. And a good meeting was had by all!

The next meeting of OASIS 2 will be at the same place and same time: Tuesday, June 19th. Please arrive promptly at 1 pm as the door is locked and someone must be at the door to meet you and let you in. Please bring your own Big Book and your own cup of coffee or tea – and a smile!



## SSSC Supports Us



The South Sound Service Center of Alcoholics Anonymous, 344 Cleveland Avenue SE (Suite K), Tumwater, exists to serve the administrative needs of the more than forty AA groups in District 8.

They house the archives of the District, and they provide printing services to our groups. Among other things they print the Meeting Schedules that we all depend on, and they sell the books and pamphlets that make up standard AA-approved literature – the Big Book

of Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the Daily Reflections, Living Sober, Language of the Heart, and many other titles. The numerous colorful and informative AA pamphlets are also available here.

The official literature of AA is vast. After all, this organization has been operating since June 10, 1935, 83 years! The archives of District 8 AA (ours) are digital and print and they, too, are vast. Nearly everything that is officially AA material is available in one form or another.

It is the job of the District Archivist, trusted servant Sue C., to manage these archives. She is shown here doing just that with an assistant.

Hours and phone number are posted on the door. The archivist isn't there every day: best to make an appointment. But the office is always open at the posted hours and an AA volunteer is on hand to sell books or pamphlets or other AA material to AA groups or individuals and to answer questions about AA literature or other AA matters. ▼



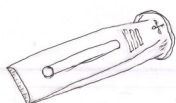
**The Reprive** is published monthly by District 8 of Washington AA for Mason and Thurston Counties. Contact the editor, Charley K., through their website [newletter@aadistrict8.org](mailto:newletter@aadistrict8.org) or phone him at 785-564-1118, leave a message and he will likely return your call the same day.

We appreciate your comments and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your contributions of articles.

There will be a print copy of each issue in your group's announcement folder. If you want the newsletter sent to your email, go to the District 8 website [aadistrict8.org](http://aadistrict8.org) and sign up. The newsletter will come to your mailbox as a pdf.

June K. assisted with the art and layout of this issue.

"The thin edge of the wedge."



**The 2018 Capital Jamboree was, by all accounts, a great success. Some 400 people attended to hear the four speakers (3 AA and 1 Al-Anon), attend the several panel discussions about working the Steps, a talent show, a poker run, and simply to hang out and schmooze with old friends and new in AA. At the end of the conference on Sunday morning after the last speaker, June G. of Oxnard, California, gave her presentation, everyone there stood, held hands, and said the Lord's Prayer together. That is truly inspiring to see and hear!**



This issue is dedicated to the memory of Dave A., a longtime active and sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous, who passed away on June 12. Our heart goes out to his widow, Barbara A., who is also active in AA. A Celebration of his life will be held on Sun., June 24, at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

# A Review of the movie, Days of Wine and Roses



So far as we know, there does not exist much in the way of official AA creative literature--whether of film or poetry of short story or novel or play. In the last thirteen issues of *The Reprive* (really the only issues of the District 8 AA Newsletter with that name), we have reviewed a number of movies. One more is reviewed in this issue. We think they are an important source for the AA member, whether newcomer or old timer, of knowledge about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Most of the films we have reviewed are available in

DVD at the Timberland Library. The ones we have reviewed so far are: *I'll Cry Tomorrow*, 1955; *The Man With the Golden Arm*, also 1955; *Come Back, Little Sheba*, 1953; *The Lost Weekend*, 1945; *When Love Is Not Enough*, 2010; and *My Name Is Bill W.*, 1989; and *When a Man Loves a Woman*, 1994; and now in this issue, *Days of Wine and Roses*, 1963.

Movies are not the Big Book, not the 12 & 12, not the Daily Reflections or Living Sober or Language of the Heart or any of the great and essential works that make up basis for the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous. But movies are literature, they presents truths about our lives, and they are a popular and important source of virtual reality that we believe every AA ought to have access to and, if at all possible, partake of. The form of the story, after all, takes up a large part of the Big Book itself. Anyone who sees the scene in *I'll Cry Tomorrow* where Susan Hayward, playing the true story of Lillian Roth, is living on the street and desperate, or Jack Lemmon in *Days of Wine and Roses* as a falling down drunken PR man... or sees Burt Lancaster stand up majestically at an AA meeting and say I am an alcoholic.

This summary of the plot is from Wikipedia:

San Francisco public relations executive Joe Clay (Jack Lemmon) meets and falls in love with secretary Kirsten Arnesen (Lee Remick). Kirsten is a teetotaler until Joe introduces her to social drinking. She is reluctant at first, but after her first few Brandy Alexanders, she admits that having a drink "made me feel good." Despite the misgivings of Kirsten's father (Charles Bickford), who runs a San Mateo landscaping business, they marry and have a daughter, Debbie.

*continued on page 3*

## A Letter to the Editor

As a long-standing member of Alcoholics Anonymous, (I went to my first meeting in the summer of 1988) I have often heard and agree that the most important person at a meeting is the newcomer.

So that got me thinking what is the most important thing a person can do at a meeting? Well this member believes it is listen. Listen.

Whether you go to several meetings a day, a couple of week, or get by on a meeting here or there depending where you're at in your recovery, most meetings are only an hour in duration. Believe it or not but there was a time when a telephone had to remain attached to a wall or a fixture. We could not simply put them in our pockets and head out the door. Do we really need to check our phone every 5 minutes? Can we turn our phone off and leave them in our car or our backpack during the meeting?

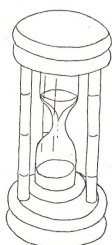
The fellowship is a vital part to our program. But meetings are not the place to catch up with your friends this should be left to the meeting after the meeting or before while catching a quick smoke in the parking lot. When you're trying to have a conversation with the people around you it distracts from what's going on in the meeting.

If you truly are listening for the message you will be engaged in every person's share. You will try to make eye contact with the person sharing giving them a smile or a slight nod to let them know you are paying attention. friendly nonverbal gesture's such as these can really go a long way with your fellow alcoholics.

So this is only my opinion but may I suggest you show up early, silence the phone, use the restroom beforehand, grab your coffee take a good seat and listen for the message.

Keep coming back. I have been doing so for 30 years and God willing this September I will have 5 years of sobriety. Thank you, Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

[Sent by a local member who asked to remain anonymous.]



## A Review of Days of Wine and Roses continued from page 2

Joe and Kirsten slowly go from the "two-martini lunch" to full-blown alcoholism. Joe is demoted due to poor performance, and is sent out of town to work on a minor account. Kirsten is alone all day, and finds drinking the best way to pass the time. While drunk one afternoon she causes a fire in their apartment that almost kills her and Debbie. Eventually Joe gets fired and spends the next several years going from job to job.

One day, Joe walks by a bar, sees his reflection in the window, and realizes in horror that he hardly knows his own face. He goes home and tells Kirsten that they must stop drinking, and she reluctantly agrees. Seeking escape from their addiction, Joe and Kirsten work together in Mr. Arnesen's business and stay sober for two months. But the urge is too strong, and after a late-night drinking binge, Joe destroys his father-in-law's greenhouse and plants while looking for a stashed liquor bottle.

Joe is committed to a sanitarium where he suffers from delirium tremens while confined in a straitjacket. After his release, Joe finally gets sober for a while with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, a dedicated sponsor named Jim Hungerford (Jack Klugman), and regular AA meetings. He explains to Joe how alcoholics often demonstrate obsessive behavior, pointing out that Kirsten's previous love of chocolate may have been the first sign of an addictive personality, and counsels him that most drinkers hate to drink alone in the company of sober people.

Meanwhile, Kirsten's drinking persists, and she disappears for several days without contacting Joe. She is eventually located at a nearby motel, drunk, but when Joe tries to help her, he instead ends up drinking again. When their supply runs out, Joe happens upon a liquor store that closed for the night, breaks in, and steals a bottle, resulting in another trip to the sanitarium stripped down and tied to a treatment table. Hungerford appears at his side and warns him that he must keep sober no matter what, even if that means staying away from Kirsten.

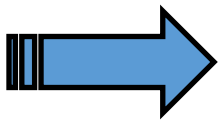
Joe finally gets sober, becomes a responsible father to Debbie, and holds down a steady job. He tries to make amends with his father-in-law by offering him payment for past debts and wrongs, but Mr. Arnesen accuses him of being indirectly responsible for Kirsten's alcoholism. After calming down, Arnesen says that Kirsten has been disappearing for long stretches of time and picking up strangers in bars.

One night after Debbie is asleep, Kirsten, shakily sober for two days, comes to Joe's apartment to attempt a reconciliation. Joe replies that she is welcome back anytime, but only if she stops drinking. Kirsten refuses to admit she's an alcoholic, but does acknowledge that without alcohol, she "can't get over how dirty everything looks." Kirsten sadly advises Joe to give up on her, and leaves. Joe fights the urge to go after her, and looks through the window down the dark street as she walks away. When Debbie asks "Is she going to get well?" he answers gently, "I did, didn't I?" Again Joe looks down the street, the bar's flashing sign reflecting in his window. ▼



Left, a display of some of the books for sale at the South Sound Service Center in Tumwater.

No better and easier way for a newcomer to discover that we are not a glum lot!



# 2018 AA District 8 BBQ



**Sunday June 24th  
Noon - 4:00 PM  
Priest Point Park  
Shelter #3**

Join us for the annual AA District 8 BBQ Picnic! Fellowship, BBQ, Sobriety, and hopefully some sun at Priest Point Park.

Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided by AA District 8. Please bring chairs, as seating on-site is limited.

This is a potluck, please bring based on your last initial:

**A - H: Appetizers I - P: Side Dishes Q - Z: Desserts**

Any questions? Contact Monte A. at [activities@aadistrict8.org](mailto:activities@aadistrict8.org) or 619-937-8918



**A Poem by Ben O.**  
It's life that kills.  
Yet death gets all the credit.  
Let life take its toll.  
Live strong, with honor.  
Spread the manna of compassion  
through service.  
Before your time comes,  
let go all.  
Then at the closing bell,  
you've nothing to lose.