

# The Reprieve: District 8 AA



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

May 2018

Mason and Thurston Counties, Washington State

4 pages

## Meeting of the Month: Experience, Strength and Hope

I went to the meeting called Experience, Strength and Hope that is every Sunday afternoon at 3 at the Alano Club. There aren't many, if any, meetings at or about that time in our district, and for me, it's a good time.

It's a small meeting, just 6 on average, the organizer tells me, but I have been there when there were as many as 15 or 20. If you like to share, this meeting is one where you won't have to work hard to get your two cents in. And, after all, getting one's story out there — helpful to yourself and helpful to others at the same time — that's one of the wheels that AA turns on, isn't it?



The meeting proceeds on a reading of one of the stories in the back of the Big Book which, often, go unread or even unknown to the beginning AA.

This meeting, the story read aloud, everyone taking a turn at reading, was "Twice Gifted" on p. 470 of the Big Book. The two gifts referred to in the story's title was the gift of sobriety through AA and the gift of a liver transplant from the hospital so that, at 38, the young woman in the story had a new start on life.

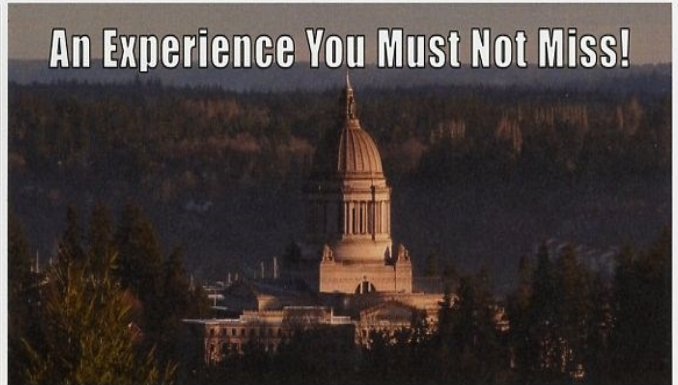
In gratitude for both, she points out that though she had physical gifts, the end result has been more spiritual than physical.

Even so, another sustaining thing about this particular meeting was a nice piece of home baked blueberry cobbler baked by the chair — a physical gift with deep spiritual implications.

Great meeting on a quiet Sunday afternoon. Thank you, AA, the greatest organization in the world that nobody wants to join! ▲



### An Experience You Must Not Miss!



## 2018 Capitol Jamboree - June 8th - 10th 2018

### Speakers - Workshops - Panels - Fellowship

#### 2018 Speakers:

**June G.**

Oxnard, CA

**Butch M.**

Toronto, Ontario

**Bob B.**

Minneapolis, MN

**Linda B. (Al-Anon)**

Minneapolis, MN

#### Events: Talent Show, Golf Tournament, Poker Run, and More!

To register for events, and for additional details, see the Capitol Jamboree website.

**Lodging Information:**

Hotel RL, Olympia

2300 Evergreen Park Dr. SW

Olympia, WA 98502

**Web: [redlion.com](http://redlion.com)**

**For the Jamboree Discount**

**Use Coupon Code: CAPJ0608**

**Tel: (800) RED-LION (800-733-5466)**

**For more information and to Register Online: [capitoljamboree.org](http://capitoljamboree.org)**

Capital Jamboree started as an annual event here in Olympia in 1992, a long time ago. Some of us weren't even sober then...some of us weren't even born then.

Reports from last year's jamboree are positive. Valorie B. says, "I volunteered to man the registration table, pretty much all day Saturday. In doing so, I was able to meet and greet a lot of people, orienting them to the venue and event schedule. There was quite a bit of "improvising" when things went awry — such as no record of registration or payment. We made

sure everyone was taken care of, even to the point of pitching in and donating for their entry.

Lael B. Says, "My first Capitol Jamboree was a few weeks before my first AA birthday, and I was absolutely enamored. I was lucky enough to hear Johnny H. talk about the Traditions, and they came alive for me. I've been a conference junkie ever since. Last year Rich B. blew me away, and I've become an Al-Anon fan from hearing their great speakers." ▲

# A Review of *When a Man Loves a Woman*



I love movies. Don't we all? In some ways movies have replaced and/or are superior to books as a source of knowledge. I grew up going to movies with my parents, standing in line at the old Wareham Theater for the 7 pm Saturday night movie, maybe *How Green Is My Valley* (1942)...ever see that one? Great stuff by the great director, John Ford, the story of a Welsh mining family.

Well, the movie at hand in this issue of *The Reprieve* is an oldie but not that much of an oldie. *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994) was made when a lot of us were still out there telling our story to every bartender and party guest who would listen, and maybe some of us weren't even born then! But it's a movie that is as relevant today as it was twenty-four years ago.

Andy Garcia plays Michael, an airline pilot. Meg Ryan plays Alice, the mother/stepmother of their two children and, well, the drunk in the family. They live in San Francisco and they have a good solid marriage until Alice goes over the edge with her drinking and first thing you know, she's not a very attentive mother and she can't even take a shower without falling drunkenly through the glass door. She goes to rehab with Michael's blessing and that's where the real story begins: what happens between people in a relationship when one changes and the other does not?

Alice in rehab becomes closer to her friends there than she is to her husband, and especially she becomes close to another man, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman. [See sidebar.] Michael joins Al-Anon and learns about how to be in a relationship with an alcoholic and bear up under it (at least) but not soon enough to prevent their marriage from getting so rocky that he considers moving to Denver.

That's really an al-anon story and it's fair to say that this is as much an Al-Anon movie as it is an AA movie. To find out how it all comes out go down to the Olympia Timberland Library (or the one in Lacey or Tumwater) and check it out on DVD. Or maybe you know someone who owns a copy.



## Some other notes about *When a Man Loves a Woman*

Adapted from Wikipedia.

Philip Seymour Hoffman struggled with drug addiction as a young adult, and relapsed in 2013 after many years of abstinence. In February 2014, he died of an overdose. Remembered for his fearlessness in playing reprehensible characters, and for bringing depth and humanity to such roles, Hoffman was described in his New York Times obituary as "perhaps the most ambitious and widely admired American actor of his generation".



The director is one of the few positions in movie production that requires intimate involvement during every stage of film production. Thus, the position of film director is widely considered to be a highly stressful and demanding one. It has been said that "20-hour days are not unusual". The director of this film is Luis Mandoki, left, a Mexican film director working in Mexico and Hollywood.

He lives in Mexico City with his wife and three children.

"One reason I don't drink is that I want to know when I am having a good time."  
—Nancy Astor

APRIL 2018

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
MEETING SCHEDULE  
DISTRICT 8, AREA 72  
Hoodsport, Lacey, Mallock,  
Olympia, Rainier, Shelton,  
Tumwater, Union, YelmSouth Sound Service Center  
344 Cleveland Ave SE #K  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
Open MONDAY – FRIDAY  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

www.aadistrict8.org

24 HOUR TELEPHONE  
teléfono de 24 horas  
(360) 352-7344

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Reuniones en español se Tienen los días  
Martes, Jueves y Sábado vea la hora en la lista  
de horario. Literatura en español disponible  
en el centro de servicio.

## How much work does one of these little printed 8 panel schedules do?

Every newcomer and anybody else who wants one is given a schedule of meetings with the signatures and phone numbers of some of the members of their own gender present at the meeting the newcomer is at. Usually this is offered by the convener at the beginning of the meeting but if they forget it should be asked for.

The newcomer is urged to make calls and get to know some of the other men or women in the group who are willing to be helpful. How many newcomers make these calls is anybody's guess: like nearly everything else in AA, records are not kept. Some members report rarely receiving a call, others report receiving many calls.

Whatever, the schedule is a useful tool in drawing the newcomer into the group. The schedule of meetings is a necessity for anyone wanting to be active in AA. Thurston and Mason County are blessed to have something like 150+ meetings a week! (There are probably at least a few more as there are some meetings that are not listed that are open to all comers, and there are also some meetings that are private.)

An address is given for every meeting, so your GPS or Google Maps can give you directions; if you don't have one of these marvels of modern technology, almost any member can tell you how to get to a meetings and, often, will offer to take you to it.

The chant repeated in unison by the group at the end of nearly every meeting, I AM RESPONSIBLE WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP, I WANT THE HAND OF AA ALWAYS TO BE THERE. AND FOR THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE...this is taken very seriously.

Not long ago we heard a story from an old timer friend that years ago he was standing in an early morning bar, hands shaking as he chugged down a glass or two of "the hair of the dog that bit him" the night before and the janitor noticed him and said, "I'm taking you to a meeting!" The friend looked surprised and then agreed to go. And, he reports, he has not had a drink since, nearly forty years ago now.

If you have any questions go to the Alano Club at 120 E. Olympia Street in Olympia – where many of these meetings are held – and ask at the counter and you will be given the information you need.



### Our Mother, who art in Heaven? —an inquiry—

AA is a conservative organization, and with good reason: change that comes too quickly can ruin a good thing. It's hard to change back! But should an organization like ours change at all? Well, it has to, to survive. If I were an historian of AA I could cite instances of change, no doubt.

But simply as an active meeting goer, fairly active in the Program generally, I question some of the readings that we do at meetings where it's all about Him.

"We are like men who have lost their legs..." "Our hats are off to him..." and so on.

And maybe like some of you, males or females, I have when asked to read these aloud to the group, added a few changes of my own... We are like men or women, or we are like people... or our hats are off to them, or him or her...

Some changes I thought desirable to take note of the fact that many, many women are in AA, and that a good number of them inhabit the planet... about 50%, I think.

So why don't we consider changes to this? Or have we, or are we? I'm just asking.

Not long ago at a meeting on the road I was asked to read the men have lost their legs thing. I asked, mildly and with some humor in my voice, at least, if I could make those gender changes. No, I was told firmly. That would be changing the format, and we don't do that. Why? Because AA works the way

it is.

No question that AA has worked for me, a man. And no question that it has worked for thousands of both genders. But could it work better? Can we honor AA and still ask to improve it?

This isn't a political question, even though a lot of politicians have gone south because of the so-called Me-too protest/movement. The movement toward equality for women in all our affairs (practicing these principles in all our affairs, right?) is a good thing for all our society in and out of AA. It's good for men as it is for women. If women are reacting to oppression by men, and surely it is, wouldn't it be a good thing, gentlemen, to be relieved of the burden/character defect of oppressing others?

Would any of you like to share on this?

In any case, our hats are off to you, whether you're a him, or a her. ▲

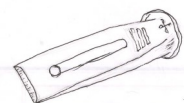
**The Reprive** is published monthly by District 8 of Washington AA for Mason and Thurston Counties. Contact the editor, Charley K., through their website [newsletter@aadistrict8.org](mailto:newsletter@aadistrict8.org) or phone him at 785-564-1118, leave a message and he will likely return your call 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 new Grapevine is out. The Grapevine, the snazzy and snappy little colorful 6x9 magazine that they call "AA's Meeting in Print" brought out its June issue just a few days ago. If you subscribe it arrives in your snail mail box in a black plastic wrapper, just like porn mags do (so I'm told), but believe you me, this is no porn mag. It is a solid meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, usually about 60 pages long and with a dozen or so stories and articles by alcoholics and for alcoholics.

This issue has a special section on "sober travel" with stories about going to meetings in faraway places like Ireland and Greece. "Attending meetings in different places has stretched my experience with surrender and acceptance in ways that I can only describe as profound," Karla S. of San Francisco writes in her article, "Wherever I Go," and Adam K. of

Bayside, New York who in his article, "AA Everywhere" says "Once I was the loneliest man on earth, who nobody could understand. It's amazing to see the global action of our Fellowship at work."

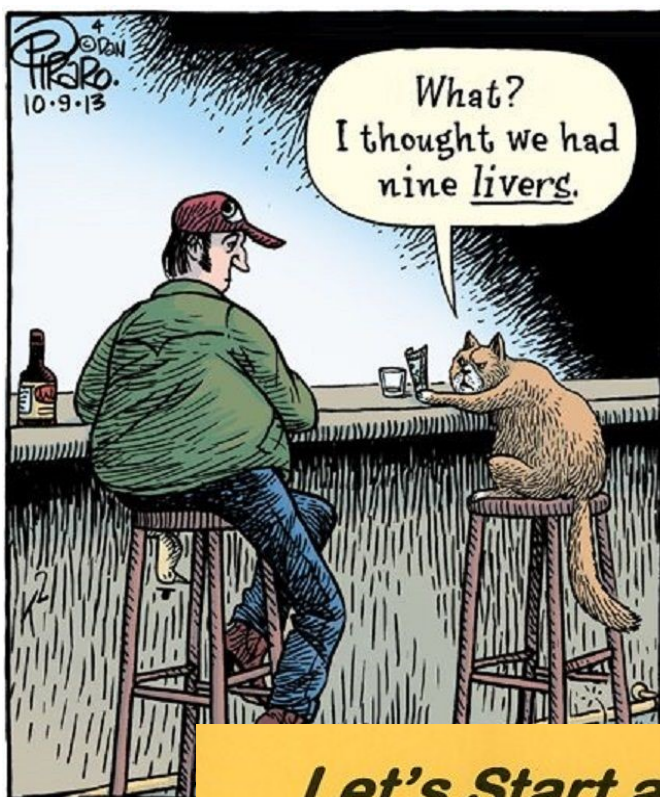
And so it is. In every issue there is an invitation for you to send in your own AA story. For their writing guidelines and their complete editorial calendar, go online to [www.aagrapevine.org/contribute](http://www.aagrapevine.org/contribute)

You can subscribe by going online to [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) or by sending a check or money order for \$28.97 (for one year, 12 issues) to AA Grapevine, Inc., 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10015.

Just a reminder, the next District 8 GSR School is coming up on Saturday May 26th at 9:00 AM. This will be held at:

1000 Cherry St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Directions can be found here: <https://goo.gl/maps/RcphPcZrgSB2>



**Let's Start a New Meeting, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**The Second OASIS Tuesday 1pm**

**Affinity of Olympia 4701 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW**

**Bring: Coffee, Big Book & a smile**

**Be Prompt Keyed entry ~ Open Meeting**