



the

# groupvine

January 2006

A Publication of Central Intergroup of the Desert Serving Coachella Valley E-mail: [manager@aainthedesert.org](mailto:manager@aainthedesert.org)

## Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

35-325 Date Palm Drive, Ste. 134  
Cathedral City CA 92234

Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. & Sun.

**West Valley 760-324-4880**  
**East Valley**



**760-568-4004**

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Web site: [www.AAintheDesert.org](http://www.AAintheDesert.org)

[manager@aainthedesert.org](mailto:manager@aainthedesert.org)

**Intergroup Meeting**  
1st Thu. of month, 7 p.m.

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
3rd Thu. of month, 6 p.m.

**General Service, District 9**  
1st Sun. of month, 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall  
45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert

Mailing Address: P O Box 3684  
Palm Desert 92261-3684

**Hospitals & Institutions**  
Last Wed. of month, 6:30 p.m.  
Central Office of the Desert  
Mailing Address: P O Box 1843  
Palm Desert 92261

**Mid Southern California Area (MSCA)**  
P O Box, 51446, Irvine CA 92619-1446

The **General Service Office**, P O Box 459,  
Grand Central Station NY 10163

## No Exceptions Return to the Basics During the Holidays

Many A.A. members create an unnecessary mental hazard for themselves over the approach of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The newcomer, in particular, who has joined an A.A. group since the last holiday season is prone to spend some unhappy moments worrying about how to refuse a drink, and thus avoid a bender, when family and friends are participating in the Yuletide

celebration. The problem often seems very real to him despite all he may have heard or learned about the application of the 24-hour plan. Habit is still a strong factor and his custom has been to get cock-eyed, perhaps without intent, on Christmas Eve and then to continue the binge well through New Year's Day, provided his endurance holds out.

*Contd. On p. 6*



HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2006



**Central Office Activity  
(We are Responsible)!**

	November
Meeting Info	426
12 Step Calls	12
Visitors	238
Literature Sales	136
AI-Anon	34
Other 12 Step	14
Misc. / NA	79
Business	281
<u>Answering Service</u>	
12 Step	9
Meetings Info	72
Other	21
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,322</b>

**Thanks to all who are of  
service.  
It makes a difference!**

**We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.**

**Step 1  
Step 1**

“We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins AA unless he has first accepted this devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself, his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by any immense experience, this is one of the facts of AA life. The principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.”

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 21*

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Articles for the GroupVine must be received by the 15th of the month for consideration of publication in the following month's issue.

Please submit your material for *The Groupvine* to:  
Central Intergroup Office of the Desert  
35-325 Date Palm Drive, Suite 134,  
Cathedral City, CA 92234.  
E-mail: [manager@AAinthedesert.org](mailto:manager@AAinthedesert.org)

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Albert A.</b> | <b>1 Yr.</b>   |
| <b>Doug R.</b>   | <b>2 Yrs.</b>  |
| <b>Peter L.</b>  | <b>4 Yrs.</b>  |
| <b>Alan S.</b>   | <b>5 Yrs.</b>  |
| <b>Karen P.</b>  | <b>12 Yrs.</b> |
| <b>Brian P.</b>  | <b>22 Yrs.</b> |
| <b>Marita H.</b> | <b>24 Yrs.</b> |
| <b>Vera B.</b>   | <b>35 Yrs.</b> |

**Happy Birthday**



**November birthdays**

## New Fundraiser Promises Laughs, Entertainment for All

For many of us who were around in the 60s and early 70s, ABC's the Dating Game was a staple of American television and an icon of our flowering youth. We looked forward to every episode with youthful anticipation as three men vied for a date with a woman who was hidden behind the screen from their view. She asked questions specially prepared to reveal the romantic nature of each man and later chose the one with whom she would like to have a date. The couple was given either a night on the town or an expense-paid trip to some fun locale. The game was also played with one bachelor choosing from among three ladies.

It was truly Internet dating, BEFORE there was Internet dating.

This February, the Central Intergroup Office of the Desert is bringing it's own version of The Dating Game to the Desert, a fundraiser that offers a simpler version of the popular TV show, will feature four segments: two with one fella' and three bachelorettes; two with one gal and three bachelors. The show is about comedy—not dating, although participants are more than welcome to pursue a "date" should they choose.

To be in or just watch the show, simply buy a ticket for \$10 and show up at the door.

**Come be a part of the fun.**

**Raffle**

# THE DATING GAME

**Dance at 9:30 p.m.**

**February 4, 2006, Palm Desert Community Center, 7 p.m.**

Dozens of Raffle Prices Including: A color television, stereo system, cd player and more. Every ticket purchased is given one raffle ticket, with additional tickets are available for purchase.

## **NEW MEETINGS & MEETING CHANGES**

### **Indio — Elmer's Men Stag**

Wed. 7:00 PM, 81539 Hwy 111  
Was OPEN now CLOSED Meeting

### **Palm Springs --- By The Book**

Thursday 7:00 PM --- Closed Book Study  
1020 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs

### **Rancho Mirage (from Palm Desert)**

Fearless and Thorough Book Study  
Tuesday 6:30 PM NEW LOCATION  
41750 Rancho Las Palmas Dr.

### **Palm Springs [ Changed Day ]**

Double Header --- Speaker meeting  
2100 Racket Club, Palm Springs  
SUNDAY 6:30 (Was Thurs. 6:30)

### **Morongo Valley – New DAILY Mtgs.**

6AM --- PARADISE  
49126 Laurel, Morongo Valley

### **Cathedral City --- Spanish Speaking**

7:00 PM Thursdays Women's Meeting  
Perez Plaza – 68845 Perez Road #25

## *November Website Usage*

<i>Total Hits</i>	<i>18,504</i>
<i>Total Visits</i>	<i>2119</i>

*Please visit us at:*  
[www.aainthedesert.org](http://www.aainthedesert.org)

**S O B E R**  
**Simply Observe**  
**Bill's Exemplary**  
**Recovery**

## **Thoughts for the Day provided by a loving alcoholic**

### **Decisions**

We must never be blinded by the futile philosophy that we are just the hapless victims of our inheritance, of our life experience, and of our surroundings -- that these are the sole forces that make our decisions for us. We have to believe that we can really choose.

c. 1967 AAWS, *As Bill Sees It*, p. 4  
With permission, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

### **Progress**

As I peel away the layers of day-to-day expediency, I realize that my zigzag, erratic, and inconsistent course was in the general direction of progress all the time. . . Throughout this whole adventure, the only consistency I have maintained is an absolute and total faith in AA, come what may. Happiness happens when results exceed expectations. Maybe this is working after all. Deep down, there is also a warm, small ball of faith, always there, never dimmed, unexplainable, asking nothing, but giving much. To define it or try to bounce it would distort or destroy it. It just is, that's all.

c. 1985 The AA Grapevine, Inc., *The Best of the Grapevine* (Vol. 1), pp. 187-88

## VOLUNTEERS – Central Office

Thanks for your service in November

Ann T.  
Barbara  
Bob B.  
Brenda F.  
Charlie B.  
Cindy G.  
Colt S.  
Dallas E.

Dennis R.  
Emil M.  
Jim D.  
Joe S.  
Kathleen  
Luther W.  
Marita H.  
Nancy M.

Nicole  
Pat R.  
Patty P.  
Peter L.  
Phillip F.  
Roger E.  
Ron N.  
Ryder

Sari H.  
Sasha L.  
Steve P.  
Therese A.  
Tom C.  
Tracy H.

### GROUPVINE Newsletter Subscription Form

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Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the Subscription form with your annual subscription fee of \$20 to the address on the front of the GroupVine for your Central Intergroup Office.

Don't miss an issue, have the

**GROUPVINE**

delivered to your mail box each month.

### Tradition 1

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

## Tidbit

"You're an old-timer if the phrase 'cold turkey' suggests holiday leftovers rather than hangovers to you."

*Contd from p. 1*

### **Prolonging the Accounting**

Having very likely spoiled Christmas for the entire family, the alcoholic is usually bothered by remorse but not yet ready to face the unpleasant facts and the only escape seems to be to remain drunk for a few days longer. He rationalizes something in this manner: Isn't it the time of year to celebrate and won't employers be more lenient than usual if the job is neglected? Besides, aren't the members of the family a little intolerant of a chap's right to have fun when others are enjoying the season's good cheer?

The difficulty of coming through the holidays unscathed can be intensified for the new recruit to A.A. ranks by lack of understanding of the alcoholic illness on the part of relatives or friends. Without realization of the catastrophe they may bring about and often acting from the most hospitable motives, sometimes augmented by the few snorts they have indulged in themselves, these good people occasionally don't accept the A.A. member's first statement that he is just not drinking. They proceed to give him the insidious argument that Christmas or New Year's only comes around once a year and certainly a drink or two on such an occasion can't possibly hurt anyone. Perhaps for a moment his guard is lowered and John Barleycorn, always alert, gets in a swift one. In my personal experience in A.A., which includes four of these holiday seasons, the argument of the special occasion has been trotted out several times, by people who, I am certain, wish me well and who, furthermore, have good reason to know I have not handled liquor successfully for a long time. (At other seasons of the year it doesn't occur to them to even offer me a drink, much less argue that I should take one.) I then have to quietly remind them that I am an alcoholic and that the calendar date has no bearing on that fact. In my experience, this explanation suffices and, still a

little puzzled perhaps, they at once become absorbed in their own drinking processes.

### **No Exceptions**

When Pearl Harbor came and, much later, when V-E and V-J days arrived, there were some timid souls who made dire predictions that the effect of such emotional events would be disastrous to the A.A. membership. Their fears were not well-grounded because the majority of members had so completely adopted the 24-hour plan of living. At the start of each of these days our minds, by long habit, had been made up not to drink on that particular day just as they had been for many days previously. Why then should we make any exception over war or peace? And, by the same token, why make any exception of Christmas or New Year's? It is fundamentally as simple as that. In approaching Christmas then, there are, it seems to me, two important ideas to keep constantly before us: (1) We aren't going to have any fun if we take the first drink; and (2) we must make up our minds to refuse that drink before it is even offered to us (preferably at the beginning of each new day). If we adhere to those two simple principles we can have a really magnificent time over the holidays.

Certainly there is no need for us to be grim about our inability to hoist a few. For once, we will know what is going on about us and there are always many holiday parties in our groups or with our closest A.A. friends, where good cheer abounds without the adjunct of the was-sail bowl. This year also, it seems, we can look forward to "Peace on earth" and we, who belong to the great company of A.A., should understand better than most the Christmas message, "Good Will Towards Men."

Abbott T.  
Manhattan

©Grapevine, December 1945

8:52 AM  
 01/04/06  
 Cash Basis

**Central Office of the Desert  
 Profit & Loss YTD Comparison  
 November 2005**

	Nov 05	Jul - Nov 05
<b>Income</b>		
Anonymous Contributions	59.00	421.00
Birthday Contributions	58.00	472.75
Convention Contributions		
Desert Pow Wow	0.00	1,500.00
Gratitude Dinner Income	0.00	4,692.90
Maad Dog Daze	0.00	1,880.60
Unity Day Picnic Income	0.00	130.00
<b>Total Convention Contributions</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,203.50</b>
Group Contributions	4,742.18	20,877.31
Interest	101.01	504.39
Intergroup & Service Contrib.	28.05	245.05
Literature Sales - Taxable	1,845.59	10,029.77
Medallion Sales	935.10	3,921.63
Printing Income	30.26	147.07
Sales Tax Rec'd	228.18	1,176.48
Sobriety Card Sales	94.00	552.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,121.37</b>	<b>46,550.95</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Answering Service	88.80	449.45
Computer		
Consulting Fee	0.00	815.45
Dial up	0.00	120.00
Website	0.00	169.99
<b>Total Computer</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,105.44</b>
Depreciation		
Depreciation - Computer	15.95	79.75
Depreciation - Copier	51.99	259.95
Depreciation - Furn	31.75	158.75
Depreciation - Leasehold Improv	35.26	176.30
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>134.95</b>	<b>674.75</b>
Literature Purchase	516.80	5,137.90
Manager Education	119.83	119.83
Medallion Purchase	0.00	954.92
Newsletter Expense	58.26	1,332.20
Office Expense	97.78	596.53
Office Supplies	120.11	681.86
Payroll Expenses		
Insurance	357.00	1,785.00
Salaries	3,000.00	15,000.00
Taxes & Payroll Accounting	682.50	3,412.50
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>4,039.50</b>	<b>20,197.50</b>
Postage	0.00	185.19
Rent	880.00	4,325.00
SalesTax Pd.	0.00	1,651.00
Shipping, Transport, Storage	100.00	502.26
Special Events		
Fundraiser Show	969.00	969.00
Gratitude Dinner Expenses	630.02	1,667.63
<b>Total Special Events</b>	<b>1,599.02</b>	<b>2,636.63</b>
State Filing Fee	70.00	70.00
Tax Preparation	0.00	600.00
Utilities	413.61	1,976.10
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>8,238.66</b>	<b>43,196.56</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-117.29</b>	<b>3,354.39</b>