

# The Gateway

April 2011

District 14

HMB Area 48

New York

**District 14: Altamont, Duanesburg, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Schenectady, Scotia**

*“Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination.” Big Book - page 162*

## What about faith in aa?

This opening blog is to announce that I certainly have faith in Alcoholics Anonymous (aa). In this blog, I simply define that faith as a belief, based on my own experience, that Alcoholics Anonymous enabled me - more than 18 years ago - to dredge myself out of seemingly overwhelming life difficulties. Because the experience was within the rooms of A.A., my focus was on quitting drinking for good. That phase of the experience began at once and has continued every since. I believe the basis for the faith and for the successful experience was, initially, diving into the A.A. program from every possible angle: (1) Incessant meetings. (2) Treating the Big Book as containing "the" program. (3) Recognizing that the phrase "rarely have we seen a person fail" had a second part "who has thoroughly followed our path." (4) The path meant learning how to "take" the Twelve Steps. (5) Procuring the help of a sponsor. (6) Making the A.A. fellowship the principal activity of my life - meetings, outings, comradeship, birthday parties, dances, retreats, camp-outs, commitments to service, seeking out newcomers to help, enlarging my knowledge through Big Book seminars and all kinds of A.A. conferences and seminars. (7) Making the finding of a newcomer to help and sponsor into recovery the main reason for my intense involvement. (8) Eventually realizing that all these busy-busy activities were filling my hours, keeping me away from sordid places, putting me in a fellowship of people who neither judged your past nor considered drinking anything but trouble, and giving me a purpose in life which seemed to have slipped through the cracks.



Dick B, faithinaablog, September 1, 2004

## Pass it on...

Share your stories of experience, strength and hope; group anniversaries; jokes; and other AA related news!

### Step 4

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

### Tradition 4

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

### Concept 4

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.



## LOVE AND TOLERANCE

*The deception of others is nearly always rooted in the deception of ourselves.... When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God*

AS BILL SEES IT, p.17

When I was drinking, I deceived myself about reality, rewriting it to what I wanted it to be. Deceiving others is a character defect-even if it is just stretch-

ing the truth a bit or cleaning up my motives so others would think well of me. My Higher Power can remove this character defect, but first I have to help myself become willing to receive that help my not practicing deception. I need to remember each day that deceiving myself about myself is setting myself up for failure or disappointment in life and in Alcoholics Anonymous. A close, *honest* relationship with a Higher Power is the only solid foundation I've found for honesty with self and with others. p. 117

## As Bill Sees It

### “The Coming of Faith”

In my own case, the foundation stone of freedom from fear is that of faith: a faith that, despite all worldly appearances to the contrary, causes me to believe that I live in a universe that makes sense.

To me, this means a belief in a Creator who is all power, justice, and love; a God who intends for me a purpose, a meaning, and a destiny to grow, however little and haltingly, toward His own likeness and image. Before the coming of faith I had lived as an alien in a cosmos that too often seemed both hostile and cruel. In it there could be no inner security for me.

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When I was driven to my knees by alcohol, I was made ready to ask for the gift of faith. And all was changed. Never again, my pains and problems notwithstanding, would I experience my former desolation. I saw the universe to be lighted by God's love; I was alone no more.

1. GRAPEVINE, JANUARY 1962
2. LETTER, 1966



## We are NOT a glum lot...

TO THE MAN MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF at a party, his wife said, "The trouble with you is, you don't know your limit."

To which he replied, "I do know my limit. The trouble is, I get drunk before I reach it."

...Then there was the doctor who told the lush that he had arthritis when the drunk told him he got stiff in a different joint every

# Current District 14 Trusted Servants

**D.C.M.**...(District Committee Member).....**Kathy H.**

**Alternate DCM/Records** .....**Tammy D.**

**Treasurer** .....**George D.**

**Bridging the Gap** .....**Gerry W.**

**Cooperation with the Professional Community** ..**Brian J.**

**Corrections-Men's** .....**Wilbur S.**

**Corrections-Women's** .....**Chris G .**

**Functions** ..... **Fred C**

**Newsletter Editor** .....**Patti G.**

**Public Information** .....**John C.**

**Special Needs** .....**Debby W.**

**Secretary**.....**Alice M.**

**Treatment** .....**Mike H.**

## Notes....

**The Bridge Center...** in Schenectady is now holding a men's speaker meeting on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in speaking at this meeting please contact

Gerry Wurtzel at 331-9729 or [gwurtzel1@yahoo.com](mailto:gwurtzel1@yahoo.com)

**Schenectady County Jail \*\*\*** Meetings need volunteers...

**Women's Jail Meeting** - Chris G.  
**Men's Jail Meeting** - Wilber S.

Contact any District 14 Committee member or your group GSR for more information.

**HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**COME TO THE MEETING! OPEN TO ALL A.A. MEMBERS...**

**May 16, 2011 ... 7:35 PM—9 PM... Scotia United Methodist Church**





# HMB 2011 Convention November 4-6, 2011

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future  
- Let it Begin With Us"

### Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

542 Route 9  
Fishkill, NY 12524  
(845) 896-6281

Http://www.holidayinn.com

Single Rooms: \$75 per night (plus taxes) / Double Rooms: \$109 per night (plus taxes)

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

Please use Group Code "HMB".

Hotel Reservations MUST be secured by October 4, 2011.

### Friends • Fellowship • Meetings & Speakers • Panels & Workshops

Pre-Registrants  
will Receive an Extra  
Free Bottle Ticket for  
an Archive Item!

Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night  
Saturday Night Banquet  
Hosted by the Hudson Valley Cluster  
(Districts 3, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17)

Pre-Registrants  
will Receive an Extra  
Free Bottle Ticket for  
an Archive Item!

For More Information: Lori W. (518)387-1923 / Deb D. (845)331-0213

# Serenity of the Catskills

### In the City of the Hills

Saturday, October 22, 2011

5 pm Meet & Greet

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Speaker

John K.

Northeast Regional Trustee

Holiday Inn Oneonta

5206 State Highway 23 ☼ Oneonta, NY 13820  
Honesty <sup>2</sup> Open-Mindedness <sup>2</sup> Willingness

Registration form available

contact d14news@yahoo.com



### Upcoming Events

- 5/15/2011 Area Assembly (D14 to provide breakfast only)
- 5/20-5/22/2011 NE Regional Forum – Sturbridge, MA
- 6/11/2011 District 14 Unity Day—Central Park, Schenectady
- 6/18/2011 Fellowship Day Western Cluster
- 7/29-31/2011 NY State Convention SENY (Tarrytown)
- 8/19-21/2011 NYS Informational HMB (Latham)
- 9/10/2011 Election Assembly Eastern Cluster
- 10/15/2011 Area Assembly Central Cluster
- 11/4-6/2011 HMB Convention—Hudson Valley Cluster—(Fishkill)
- 11/20/2011 Fellowship Day Western (TBA)
- 2/2012 NERAASA-Crowne Plaza, Albany (we host)

## Contributions to A.A. as a Whole

Tradition Seven:

*"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."*

No A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. Collective poverty initially a matter of necessity. Fear of exploitation. Necessity of separating the spiritual from the material. Decision to subsist on A.A. voluntary contributions only. Placing the responsibility of supporting A.A. headquarters directly upon A.A. members. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve is headquarters policy.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Please remember to use your group # when sending contributions.

### District 14

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Schenectady, NY 12301

### HMB Area Association

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118 Polar Plaza

Amsterdam, NY 12010

### General Service Office

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

### Capital District Central Office

575 Broadway, Room 128-130

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