



The Santa Barbara

April 2007

# MESSENGER

2007 Convention Update:

We have our theme for 2007: We AA's

Surrender to Win;  
we Give Away to Keep;  
we Suffer to Get Well,  
and we Die to Live...

We SURRENDER TO WIN. On the face of it, surrendering certainly does not seem like winning. But it is in A.A. only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit "bottom" in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety which we could never accomplish before. We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.

We are now looking for any interested artists out there to submit artwork logos for our theme. You can drop them at Central Office or email to the website: [www.sbaaconvention.org](http://www.sbaaconvention.org). The sooner the better - we'd love to have them by our next meeting, Thursday, April 12th, at Maggie's pre-school.

We are still needing some positions filled: Alanon Chair and Co-chair, Spanish Chair and Co-chair, SBYPPA Chair and Co-Chair, Gay & Lesbian Chair and Co-chair. Please, if you are interested come to our next meeting

Don't forget about the art auction - any interested artists that would like to participate, please contact Beverly J. at 845-6336. It was great last year and we want it to be even better this year.

Anybody interested in a volley ball tournament? Call Robbin B. at 969-5544

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!!

Robbin B.  
Public Information Chair

## FOOD-FUN-FELLOWSHIP



When we were setting up for the recent fundraiser breakfast I mentioned to a friend of mine that “I really love doing this stuff” and it struck me how very true that is. When I first got sober my Sponsor had me running around doing all kinds of ‘activity’ before we actually got into the ‘actions’ of the program. In my case that was a good thing. I really needed to be busy, because it helped me to stop thinking about myself for brief periods of time. It still does actually.

For me there is nothing like showing up early, seeing who else shows up too, and starting to get things set up, and. These events are always a group effort and half the fun happens before the event actually takes place.

What started as an empty room begins to come together as tables are unfolded and chairs are set up. There is usually a small amount of confusion and good-natured banter as everyone present attempts to set things up the way they KNOW is best. But somehow it always comes off, and eventually other people start to show up, and the hum of voices and laughter increases until it becomes a full-on party. To feel a part of that is truly a blessing.

A special thanks needs to be extended to the Ron and Gary who showed up and did the cooking. Hard to have a breakfast without someone doing that. Also, much appreciation to Steve and Randall and Earl and Alison and Robert and the rest (sorry- memory fails) of you who helped put it all together. Many hands truly make light work.

And thank you to all of you that showed up to support your Central Office at the breakfast. We not only made a little money, we had a heck of a lot of fun.

*Tim*

### Supporting Member Donation Coupon

I would like to become a supporting member of the Santa Barbara AA Central Office, and help it continue to carry the message and be there for the alcoholic who still suffers. I look forward to finding my monthly newsletter in the mail each month! Enclosed is my first contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . I will continue to donate this amount on a (circle one) monthly, quarterly, annual, other \_\_\_\_\_ basis.

I am already a supporting member. This is my regular contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: AA Central Office, S.M.C.  
1213 State Street, Suite H  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Every AA group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions. —Seventh Tradition (short form), reprinted by permission of AA World Services, Inc.

## History of AA/Oxford Group continued from February

When Jim first arrived in Akron he had been welcomed into the Firestone family, and had become fast friends with a son, Russell (Bud) Firestone. Bud had a very bad drinking problem and had already been sent to several hospitals to no avail. Jim went with Bud to still another drying-out place, on the Hudson River in New York, and stayed through the entire 30 day program. Then he took Bud to an Episcopal Conference in Denver to which the Oxford Group people had been invited. On the train East again after the party, he was able to introduce Bud to his old Oxford Group minister, Sam Shoemaker. Alone with Sam, Bud surrendered his life to God in a private car on the train. His life changed, and his family situation and marriage were saved.

“Now Akron was the place where AA was to be founded. Jim Newton had helped bring to the city the Oxford Group message of his alcoholic friend, Bud Firestone. The message led to Bud’s “miraculous” recovery which lasted for a time. The message and the recovery were broadcast to an interested community by a grateful father, Harvey Firestone, Sr., and by widespread press accounts.”

Clarace Williams was there, and joined the Oxford Group along with T. Henry Williams, and began regularly attending the meetings. About the same time, a lady named Henrietta Seiberling, the wife of John Seiberling of the Seiberling Tire and Rubber Company, found herself with personal and marital problems, and separated from her husband. She turned to the Oxford Group and attended the first meetings at the Mayflower Hotel. She went with a woman named Anne Smith, the wife of a well-known Akron surgeon who was in deep trouble with his drinking.

The progenitors now assume their roles. A kindly and missionary-oriented couple, the Williams, had been impressed with the Oxford Group message, and had a home to offer for a meeting place. A gifted and compassionate lady named Henrietta Seiberling, who had mastered some of the Oxford group principles, had her eye on using the biblical principles to help her good friend, Dr. Bob Smith, with his drinking problem. Add to this mix the efforts of his wife Anne, who assembled books and spiritual readings and principles from the Bible, the Oxford Group, and various other Christian writings, all the while praying for a solution to her husband’s seemingly hopeless drinking problem. The talented and very alcoholic surgeon became the focus of all these efforts. He did a lot of spiritual reading, attended a lot of meetings, but remained drunk.

Now all the earlier seeming coincidences converge, and this story merges into the facts we all know from our AA literature.

Onto this scene landed the “rum hound” from New York, moved by what both Bill Wilson and Henrietta Seiberling felt was the guidance of God. Bill had recovered from his disease, and was determined to stay sober by seeking out and helping another drunk. The “rum hound from New York”, (Bill’s self-description when he made the fateful phone call to Henrietta), “just happened” to bring to Akron some solutions heretofore never assembled in one place and delivered by just one person.

1. Some important knowledge about the disease of alcoholism accumulated through the work of Dr. Silkworth at Towns Hospital in New York.
2. An important spiritual solution to the problem that had been passed from Dr. Carl Jung to Rowland Hazard and then on to Bill by Ebby Thatcher.
3. A validation of this spiritual solution by the scholarly studies of Professor William James.
4. A linkage between the problem of alcoholism, and this solution that God could and would solve the problem if a relationship were sought with Him by using the Oxford Group’s practical program of action, which was already proven by the results experienced by Rowland and Ebby when they followed the Oxford Group program.

In Akron, T. Henry and Clarace Williams and Henrietta Seiberling were attending Oxford Group meetings at the Mayflower Hotel and elsewhere. Dr. Bob Smith also attended with his wife, Anne. He shied away from talking about his problem publicly, and continued drinking. In her concern for Bob, Henrietta suggested to T. Henry that if they could set up a smaller, more private meeting perhaps Bob might feel more at ease and be able to make a confession in the Oxford Group fashion, and a commitment to sobriety. T. Henry’s home was chosen for this special meeting and these meetings started on a Wednesday in April of 1935—just one month before Bill Wilson came to Akron. These meetings were usually led by T. Henry, Henrietta, or Florence Main, and at one of these Dr. Bob was able to confess that he was a secret drinker and needed help as he could not stop. This was the very place that was to become the home to the “about to begin” Alcoholic Contingent of the Oxford Group.

We can now see how all these characters contributed to putting Dr. Bob and Bill at a meeting in Henrietta Seiberling’s home in the Gate House of the Firestone Estate, and make possible the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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The following was written by Fulton Oursler, an early friend of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **I Wish I Were An Alcoholic**

There are times when I wish I were an alcoholic. I mean I wish I were a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, it has been my privilege to meet many people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars and lesser lights on stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I've broken bread with kings, Ambassadors and ministers; and I say that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any person I've indicated.

I asked myself why I considered so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in AA. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few. The AA people are what they are, and they are what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor, an awareness of the universal truth.

They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they found their restoration they are as sensitive as ever; responsive to the beauty and the truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions.

They are possessed of a sense of universal truth that is often new in their heart. This fact that this 'at-onement' with God's universe had never been awakened within them is the reason they drink.

They have found a power greater than themselves, which they diligently serve. And that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on the land and sea; it makes you know that God is charming, because the AA people reflect his mercy and forgiveness.

They are imaginative, and that helped make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imaginations onto greater efforts. Others guzzled only to block out unendurable visions that arose in their imaginations. But when they found their restorations, their imagination is responsive to new incantations and their talk abounds with color and might, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed of a sense of humor. Even in their cups they have known to be damnably funny. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek their escape in the bottle. But when they find their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to laugh at themselves, the very height of self-conquest. Go to their meetings and listen to their laughter. At what are they laughing?

At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

(Fulton Oursler was a magazine editor, religious author, and Hollywood screenwriter, and was an early Oxford Group member and friend to AA. He passed away in the year 1952. His official relationship with AA is as follows: Sept. 30, 1939, the very popular weekly Liberty Magazine, headed by Fulton Oursler, carried a piece titled "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey (who was influenced to write the article by Charles Towns).

It generated about 800 inquiries from around the nation. Oursler, author of "The Greatest Story Ever Told", became good friends with Bill W. and later served as a Trustee and member of the Grapevine editorial board.

In Oct. 1949, Dr. William D. Silkworth and Fulton Oursler joined the Alcoholic Foundation Board.

History of AA/Oxford Group continued...

AKRON - MAY 11, 1935

We can find no references anywhere to indicate that Bill Wilson considered or made any conscious effort to locate an Oxford Group member when he made his desperation phone call in the Mayflower Hotel in Akron. Henrietta Seiberling wrote as follows:

“Bill looked into the cocktail room and was tempted and thought, ‘Well, I’ll just go in there and get drunk and forget it all and that will be the end of it!’ “

Instead, having been sober five months in the Oxford Group, he said a prayer. He received guidance to look at a ministers’ directory board and a strange thing happened. He put his finger on one name--Tunks. The Rev. Walter Tunks was Harvey Firestone ‘s minister, and Firestone had brought Buchman and thirty Oxford Group members to Akron for ten days in gratitude for their help for his son, Russell, a drunkard.

Out of the act of gratitude of this one father, this whole chain started.

R.R.

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Meetings that need BODIES!

**Grateful Group**

Mon. night at 8:00pm

**Success Meeting**

on Wed. at 8:00 pm.

Both meetings are at

4575 Auhay Dr.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

My name is Anna and I am an Alcoholic. It took me a long to say that and mean it! However, by the grace of my Higher Power (which I call God), I have admitted complete defeat and that I am powerless.

My story is one of “self will run riot” and I always knew I could do it my way. My insanity took me places I never thought a human could possible go.

On February 24th 2005, I started a journey in my life that I had craved for 30 plus years. I enter my (God Willing) last hospital and institution because I had reached the end of a life that had “truly” become unmanageable. Like others, I tried everything else and was knocking on deaths door. Although the thought to keep taking my own life always seemed like a way out of this misery, something told me to hang on and that maybe life was worth living.

I completed a 28-day program, and it was suggested to stay another 2 weeks. I had started to see that my life was starting to look a little brighter every day so I stayed. It was also suggested that I complete an out patient program, which lasted another 30 days along with out side meetings, having a sponsor, taking commitments and being of service. I took all there suggestions because what “I” had been doing was “not” working anymore and what they were suggesting seemed to be working for others and in me. One of the many commitments I participated in was spreading the message in Hospitals and institutions. I had become so grateful to others that had taken the time tell me their story and maybe just give me a piece of something that I could relate to. I needed that small bit of faith they had, if nothing more than just for that moment. I am so blessed that I have the opportunity to give to others what was so freely given to me. When I share my experience strength and hope with others, I give a little bit more of myself, which could possibly save another life from this disease.

Anna (Ania) D.



### March Birthdays

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Heidi.....       | 1  |
| Rosie B.....     | 1  |
| Kathleen M.....  | 2  |
| Jacklyn W.....   | 2  |
| Burby.....       | 2  |
| Patsy A.....     | 3  |
| Dominic.....     | 3  |
| Michel W.....    | 4  |
| Scott J.....     | 6  |
| Joe W.....       | 7  |
| Judy Mac.....    | 9  |
| Randy F.....     | 9  |
| Scot M.....      | 11 |
| Carmel D.....    | 14 |
| Kim M.....       | 14 |
| Tony A.....      | 14 |
| Bob D.....       | 14 |
| Carmel D.....    | 14 |
| Debbie M.....    | 19 |
| Judy M.....      | 21 |
| Bob S.....       | 21 |
| Richard K-G..... | 23 |
| Jonathan B.....  | 25 |
| Dave F.....      | 27 |
| Rita R.....      | 27 |

The Messenger is published monthly by:

23rd District Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous  
1213 State Street, Suite H  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

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sbaa@santabarbaraAA.com

## Submissions Needed

The Messenger needs your submissions and letters. We especially seek submissions on the step or tradition associated with the month of the same number. For the fifth month, May, we need writing on Step 5 and Tradition 5. Send submissions to [DinahMason@aol.com](mailto:DinahMason@aol.com)

## Central Office Statistics

During March your Central Office had:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| AA information calls.....          | 980   |
| Al-Anon Referrals.....             | 72    |
| Referrals to other programs.....   | 53    |
| 12-step via answering service..... | 68    |
| Out-of-town visitors.....          | 15    |
| 12-step via office.....            | 14    |
| Office walk-ins.....               | 875   |
| Hits on our Web site.....          | 1,020 |

## Service Meetings

General Service Representatives (GSR) 1st Monday at 6:00pm meet at:  
Holy Cross Church Hall 1740 Cliff Dr. Behind the Church

IGRs (Intergroup Representatives) meet at 6:00 P.M. the second Tuesday each month at First Presbyterian Church, 21 E Constance, in Santa Barbara.

H&I (Hospitals & Institutions) meets at 6:00 P.M. the second Monday each month at the Central Office.

PI (Public Information) meets the fourth Saturday of each month.

Call 687-7673 for more information.

22nd ANNUAL Santa Barbara Convention Committee -2nd Thursday of Month, 6:00 PM @ 3523 Modoc Rd. Commitments Available!

## Recovery Trivia

Q. What was the name of the first women's recovery house in Santa Barbara?

A. See next month's Messenger

Answer to last month's question:

Q. What year was the first International AA Convention held?

A. 1950 at Cleveland

## Donations by Group March 2007

|  | Mar 07          | Feb 07         | Jan - Mar 07     |
|--|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 001 Sunrisers                          | 154.00          | 0.00           | 154.00           |
| 003 Eye Opener                         | 220.00          | 0.00           | 410.00           |
| 004 Monday At A Time                   | 379.20          | 0.00           | 379.20           |
| 006 Start Your Week Right              | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 008 Beginner's Group                   | 0.00            | 0.00           | 20.00            |
| 010 Foundation Group                   | 0.00            | 55.00          | 111.00           |
| 011 Sundowner Group                    | 528.00          | 32.00          | 1,116.00         |
| 013 New Pair Of Glasses                | 0.00            | 0.00           | 30.00            |
| 014 El Montecito Saturday Night        | 0.00            | 0.00           | 100.00           |
| 020 Cambridge Group                    | 0.00            | 0.00           | 60.00            |
| 022 There Is A Solution                | 0.00            | 44.00          | 44.00            |
| 023 For Women Only                     | 138.00          | 0.00           | 138.00           |
| 028 The Mother Group                   | 0.00            | 0.00           | 60.00            |
| 034 Women of Change                    | 112.00          | 0.00           | 112.00           |
| 035 12 & 12 Study, Tues.               | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 045 Alternative Group                  | 80.00           | 0.00           | 135.00           |
| 051 Men's Group At St. Mary's          | 0.00            | 173.00         | 173.00           |
| 053 Both Oars In The Water             | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 055 Staying Alive                      | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 062 Do The Steps Or Die                | 33.00           | 40.60          | 216.00           |
| 067 Rigorous Honesty                   | 200.00          | 0.00           | 368.00           |
| 068 Stepping Stones                    | 29.55           | 61.75          | 149.26           |
| 071 The Loft                           | 0.00            | 250.00         | 250.00           |
| 076 11th Step                          | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 079 Harbor Group                       | 310.00          | 0.00           | 1,024.20         |
| 091 New Life                           | 0.00            | 0.00           | 232.00           |
| 094 Questions & Answers                | 0.00            | 39.80          | 39.80            |
| 097 Almost Saints                      | 0.00            | 0.00           | 790.00           |
| 099 Sink Or Swim                       | 0.00            | 80.00          | 80.00            |
| 100 UCSB Discussion                    | 0.00            | 55.00          | 55.00            |
| 112 Montecito/Carpinteria              | 0.00            | 0.00           | 112.00           |
| 113 Sought Through Prayer & Meditation | 22.00           | 10.00          | 51.00            |
| 114 Schooner Group                     | 0.00            | 0.00           | 97.00            |
| 115 Eleventh Step Meditation           | 35.61           | 0.00           | 47.61            |
| 117 Way Of Life                        | 0.00            | 0.00           | 50.00            |
| 118 Speaker Connection                 | 0.00            | 231.58         | 231.58           |
| 120 Sat. Morn. Home Boys               | 0.00            | 125.00         | 291.60           |
| 122 Came to Believe Candlelight        | 0.00            | 0.00           | 60.00            |
| 133 Action Participation               | 0.00            | 0.00           | 500.00           |
| 139 It's A Hell Of A Deal              | 0.00            | 408.00         | 408.00           |
| 144 Back To Basics, Young People       | 78.00           | 0.00           | 78.00            |
| 156 Start Your Day Right               | 300.00          | 250.00         | 550.00           |
| 164 Men Who Have Lost Their Legs       | 0.00            | 0.00           | 435.00           |
| 170 Barefoot Group                     | 70.00           | 45.00          | 196.50           |
| 177 Key Group                          | 0.00            | 0.00           | 420.00           |
| 181 Keep Coming Back Group             | 0.00            | 0.00           | 403.80           |
| 183 Summerland, Thurs.                 | 0.00            | 316.80         | 316.80           |
| 201 Birthday Donations                 | 55.00           | 0.00           | 79.00            |
| 202 Supporting Members                 | 925.00          | 654.00         | 3,578.00         |
| 204 Memorial Fund                      | 125.00          | 0.00           | 225.00           |
| 210 Convention Income                  | 0.00            | 0.00           | 3,156.75         |
| 211 Rent Received                      | 125.00          | 0.00           | 250.00           |
| 212 Special Events                     | 1,150.00        | 0.00           | 1,150.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>5,069.36</b> | <b>3271.53</b> | <b>19,334.10</b> |

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