

# DESERT REFLECTIONS

February 2010

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**Recovery: Step 2** Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

**Unity: Tradition 2** For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

**Service: Concept 2** The Al-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to the Conference and its service arms.

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**Sharing of Experience: We continue our monthly column for sharing of one Al-Anon's experience with the step, tradition or concept of the month. This month Joe G. shares on Step 2:**

When I first came into Al-Anon, I was quite a mess. I had been living with my alcoholic qualifier for quite some time and I had no idea how to control their drinking. Through my grief, I sought solace by phoning Alcoholics Anonymous in Los Angeles and a lovely individual suggested that I call Al-Anon. Then, via the internet, I got a list of meetings within my immediate area; and that day, I went to my first Al-Anon gathering.

As time went by, I remember sitting in different meetings and reading the Steps. When I read Step 2, I was exceptionally perplexed seeing that I had to believe in a Power greater than myself. At first this "Power" seemed to be connected to "A Higher Power" as mentioned in Step 3. Therefore, I knew the acceptance of this step would be a challenge, seeing that a God was something that I could not readily embrace. But I also knew that I desperately needed to be restored to sanity.

Through my reading of the various Al-Anon literatures and listening to members share within meetings, I eventually realized and accepted the fact that a "Power" did not necessarily have to equate to a religious God. With that realization, I then understood the power of a "Power." For me, the "Power" became something greater and for me that was the Essence of Love: Universal Love. Hence I now interpret Step 2: "Came to believe that The Essence of Universal Love can restore me to sanity."  
--Joe G.

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Submit information about Al-Anon/Alateen happenings in writing by the first Tuesday of each month: New meetings, meeting changes, coming events for calendar, other announcements and your personal sharing of experience for our new column. Call the editor or mail to the Center, attn: Newsletter Editor. **The address, phone, hours, and more of the Al-Anon in the Desert Center are given on the last page of this newsletter.** Appropriate flyers received will be inserted into the next newsletter.

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**Al-Anon in the Desert Center**  
(also known as the Literature Distribution Center, or LDC)

**Many thanks** to the individuals and groups, who have continued to support our District. A special thank you to our volunteers who give a couple hours of their time to work at the center during our open hours. Our volunteers for January were Betty Y., Brenda L., Duan M., Gretchen L., Joanne P., John H., Lisa D., LuLu V., Maria N., Michelle V., Monessa O., and Trudy Y.

**Literature Sales:** 186 pieces of literature were sold in January bringing in \$742.49 to our Center. We are continuing to order additional literature by the case to take advantage of the cost savings.

**Newcomer Meetings:** The Wednesday morning Newcomer's Meeting continues to bring in more newcomers to Al-Anon. The Thursday Newcomer's Meeting is also doing really well. Many thanks to our volunteers for leading the Newcomer's meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Thank you for letting us to be of service!

Joanne P. and Maria N.

### **District Representative's Report**

As we approach winter, I am reminded daily of the gift of wonderful weather that we share here in the desert. Gone are the gray overcast skies, as we get to see the beautiful blue skies and the snow on the mountains that surround us.

The upcoming months have many Al-Anon events and hope you can join us. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we will have an AA and Al-Anon couple sharing at our Friday night speaker meeting. The speakers will be Bob Z (AA) and his wife Betty Ann Z. (Al-Anon) from Woodland Hills.

Our AFG Convention (Al-Anon Family Groups) is being held in Ontario (just about an hour's drive from here) on March 26- 28<sup>th</sup> at the Double Tree Hotel. They have some great speakers lined up for the entire weekend. Hope you can join us.

Lois Wilson (founder of Al-Anon Family Groups) will be featured in a movie about her life on Monday, April 25, 2010, at 9:00 pm through the Hallmark channel. Please see your local listings for additional information.

The first weekend in June will be AA's Desert Pow Wow with Al-Anon participation. The Al-Anon luncheon speaker will be Stephanie from Granite Shoals, Texas and I will be leading the Friday afternoon (1:00 PM) meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Esmeralda Hotel in Indian Wells. Hope to see you there!

Cathy Satter, District 42 Representative

### **Outreach Report**

Outreach now has a committee and we had our first meeting on discussing our focus, which will be better connection with a professional community and the media, and a stronger presence in *The Desert Sun*.

Our volunteers on the committee are Joanne P., Nancy T., Sue K., Pat H. and Vicki J. Thank you so much for these willing members.

We have a health fair in Sun City to prepare for on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. to twelve noon. We need help for this event greeting people, answering questions and handing out our pamphlets and meeting list. Four hundred people are expected to attend this event.

We are also talking to the county about an event for 30 "at risk" children ages 11 to 13. This will be coming the last week of March.

We continue our monthly meeting with Desert Sands Unified School District (USD) student assistant program, Palm Springs USD networking meeting and the Riverside County Drug Court family night. Thank you to Kim and Bob for their help with two of these meetings. I attended a speaker meeting for CAMFT (California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists). They were very happy to hear us and be reminded of Al-Anon here in the desert. I will be following up with this organization.

We have a great start in carrying our message of hope here in the desert.

In gratitude,  
Barbara P., Outreach Coordinator  
And  
Joanne P., Outreach Co-Coordinator

### **Area Information Service (AIS) Report**

First, thank you all for the opportunity to serve. The Al-Anon Information Service, as I understand it so far, is basically a liaison between the Checkmate Answering Service and us. I am looking into other information services that we might do that do not overlap with Outreach.

Unfortunately, because of a mistake by the telephone company, we were without a functioning hotline or meeting information telephone numbers for at least two months—possibly longer. With Cathy's help, I was able to fix the glitch and we are again up and running. I have every hope that Verizon will be crediting us for the time our lines were down. At any rate, I'm working on it.

In the meantime, the 12 step phone list that Checkmate uses is very much out of date and I would so appreciate everyone's help to get it updated. I will be giving your GR's a form to take back to meetings. If you are interested in speaking to people who have called for help, please put your name, phone number, city, and available times on the list. Checkmate will try to match city, gender, times and other information with the person seeking help. I am also working on a rotation system with Checkmate so that the same people are not called over and over again while others are not called at all.

Yours in Service, Duan M.



**Remember** your birthday donations to Al-Anon in the Desert. Send a check to the Center, Attn: Treasurer, payable to *Al-Anon in the Desert*. Note on the check "Name - Birthday - XX years." \$1.00 per year is recommended. More or less is acceptable, of course.

## CALENDAR

### Al-Anon in the Desert

#### **Speaker Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every odd month  
7-9 p.m. St. Margaret's Karns Hall  
Hwy 74 at Haystack, Palm Desert

#### ***Desserts welcome!***

#### **Friday, March 19**

Betty (Al-Anon) and Bob Z. (AA)  
Woodland Hills

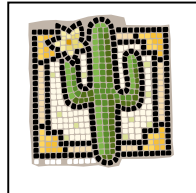
Speaker meetings are recorded and CDs are available at the Center (LDC) for \$5.00 each.

**SPEAKER MEETING COORDINATORS NEEDED FOR 2010. Kathy and Pat retired in January. We need YOU. Call Kathy or Pat today.**

**District meetings** - District officers and Group Representatives  
(Open to all members to attend)

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m.  
41750 Rancho Las Palmas Dr. Bldg. H  
Rancho Mirage

**Next meeting March 9, 2010**



### Other Al-Anon events

**Sat., Feb. 13** - District 57's 3rd Annual Alathon, Lakewood, Calif. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cathy S., District 42's new DR, will be a guest speaker. GO and cheer her on! (See attached flyer.)

**March 26-28** - 34th Annual Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) Convention, *Dancing Our Way Through Recovery*. Doubletree Hotel, Ontario Airport, Ontario, Calif. (See attached flyer) To register on-line, go to: <http://store.afgconvention.org/index.php/cPath/31>

**Sat., May 15** - SCWS Area Assembly Meeting, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fullerton Senior Citizen Center, 340 w. Commonwealth, Fullerton, Calif.

**2013 July** - Al-Anon International Convention with AA Participation - Vancouver, Canada.

### Alateen

**Sat., March 6** - PRAASA Alateen meeting and sponsor workshop. For further information, go to: (<http://www.praasa.org/prasa/>)

**Summer** - The Southern California Alateen Convention (SCAC) is held every summer. The 2009 convention was held in June at the Univ. of Riverside. Watch for further information about when and where the 2010 convention will be held.

### ***Traveling??***

For U.S. and global conferences go to [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members) ; for SCWS conferences, go to [www.scws-al-anon.org](http://www.scws-al-anon.org)

### Alcoholics Anonymous events with Al-Anon participation

**March 5-7** - Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) with **Al-Anon and Alateen participation**, Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles. For further information, see [www.PRAASA.org](http://www.PRAASA.org).

**April 1-4** - 33rd Annual San Diego Spring Round Up AA Convention with **Al-Anon/Alateen Participation**. For further information, see: [www.sandiegospringroundup.com/](http://www.sandiegospringroundup.com/)

**April 2-4** - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual OCAA Convention with **Al-Anon participation**, Hilton, Costa Mesa, Calif. For further information, see [www.oaac.org](http://www.oaac.org).

**May 28-31** – 25<sup>th</sup> Annual South Bay Roundup with **Al-Anon participation**. Marriott Hotel, Torrance, Calif. For further information see:  
[www.southbayroundup.org/](http://www.southbayroundup.org/)

**June 3-6** – AA Desert Pow Wow with **Al-Anon Participation**, Esmeralda Resort, Indian Wells.

**July 1-4** – AA International Convention with **Al-Anon and Alateen Participation**– San Antonio, Texas. Early registration now available. For further information see:

<http://www.aa.org/subpage.cfm?page=199>

For details about the Convention Center, parking areas and hotels, go to:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/convfac/>

### **Non-Al-Anon Event**

A television movie has been made from a book about Lois W., the co-founder of Al-Anon and wife of Bill W., the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. *When Love is not Enough* is scheduled to be aired April 25 on the CBS network (9 p.m. EST). This is not an endorsement, just information—Donna D.

### **NEW MEETINGS**

**AL-ANON: Fridays, 8 a.m.** KIS Fellowship Hall, 66595 Pierson Blvd., Desert Hot Springs. For additional information call Danielle S. 760 272 0992 or Jane L. (see attached flyer)

**ALATEEN: Beginning March 4, Thursdays 5:30 p.m.** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 125 W. El Alameda, Palm Springs. (meeting will be held in the small building in the back, on the West side) (see attached flyer)

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# *Desert Reflections*

District 42 Newsletter

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## **Al-Anon in the Desert Center**

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 1364, Palm Desert, CA 92261

**Location:** 73441 Fred Waring Drive, #2, Palm Desert, CA 92260

**Phone:** 760 341 6202

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**24-HOUR HOT LINE: 760 674 9554**

District Representative	Cathy S.
Office Coordinators.	Maria N. & Joanne P..
Treasurers	Dora P. & Linda R.
Secretary	Jim B.
Public Outreach Coordinators	Barbara P. & Joanne P.
Area Information Service	Duan M.
Newsletter editor	Donna D.

### **Southern California World Service (SCWS) officers:**

Delegate: Sandie E., Claremont

Alternate Del.: David B., Sherman Oaks

Chairman: Jayme P., Cypress

Recording Secy. Amanda C., Lake Arrowhead

Treasurer: Heidi T., Santa Clarita

Alateen Coordinator: Lea R., Ventura

### **Useful websites**

**Al-Anon in the Desert:**

[www.alanoninthedesert.com](http://www.alanoninthedesert.com)

**So.Calif. World Service:**

[www.scws-al-anon.org](http://www.scws-al-anon.org)

**World Service Office, Virginia Beach:**

[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

**WSO "Members" site:**

[www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members)

**The Members site now offers several BLOGs, as well as e-CAL electronically Conference-approved Literature.**

### SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

One-year mail subscription \$10.00

E-mail subscription \$4.00.

Send check payable to *Al-Anon in the Desert* with subscription form to: Al-Anon in the Desert Center, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1364, Palm Desert, CA 92261

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### GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FORM

FOR  
Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

FROM (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

One-year mail subscription \$10.00

E-mail subscription \$4.00.

Send check payable to *Al-Anon in the Desert* with subscription form to: Al-Anon in the Desert Center, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1364, Palm Desert, CA 92261