THE BEACON

The light at the end of the tunnel

Worcester Area Intergroup . 100 Grove Street . Suite 314 . Worcester, MA 01605





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Should AA... Rewrite The Big Book?

At this summer's AA General Service Conference in New York, delegates from across the U.S. and Canada will vote on some important issues.

Our delegate, Jan W., would like your input. Here are two of them:

- Does AA need an "approved study guide" for working the steps?
- 2. Is the Big Book **too complicated**, and need to be rewritten?

For example...

The Big Book currently says: Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps.

Suggested change: Many of the stories we share in this book describe the experiences that we had as AA's founders. What we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you want what we have— and are willing to work hard to get it—then you are ready to get started.

Go to https://aaemass.org/area30/ to tell Jan your thoughts. Once there, scroll down to Delegate's Survey for the 72nd General Service Conference.

If you want your opinion heard, act fast. The deadline is 5 p.m., April 17.





Happy & Sober Spring!

The Worcester Area Intergroup Office is now Mask Optional. HOWEVER, if you have NOT been vaccinated or are not feeling well please consider wearing a mask to help keep our employees and their families safe. We will continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available.

Progress is continuing on our Outreach Project to get Contact information for all the Groups we cover. I have created an app that you can download and use whenever you need to change any info about your group: https://www.jotform.com/app/220764569916165).

You can even use it if you visit another group who has not heard about it or not sent it in yet! (HINT- we need people to go to meetings and spread the word!). AS AL-WAYS – all information submitted is kept confidential and only accessible to office employees. We NEVER give out anyone's info!)

Reminder – if you need more than 10 of any item, such as books, pamphlets, etc., please check with us first to make sure we have enough. GSO is out of several books due to labor and materials shortages. Even some medallions are on backorder!

The Worcester Area Intergroup is looking to fill the following positions: Alternate Secretary, Corrections Chair, and possibly Social Committee Chair. Please email me at officemanager@aaworcester.org if you are interested, or if you have any questions!

Brandy H.

WAI Office Manager



The Beacon
Published monthly by
Worcester Area Intergroup
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Worcester, MA 01605
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Editors: Cyber Sot
Digital Drunk

THEIR STORIES; THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE.

ARTICLES CAN BE SEVERAL PARA-

THE BEACON NEEDS WRITERS TO SHARE

ARTICLES CAN BE SEVERAL PARA-GRAPHS, OR SEVERAL HUNDRED WORDS. ANY TOPIC IS A GOOD TOPIC IF IT TIES TO YOUR SOBRIETY. THE DEAD-LINE IS THE 25TH OF THE MONTH.

BEACON@AAWORCESTER.ORG

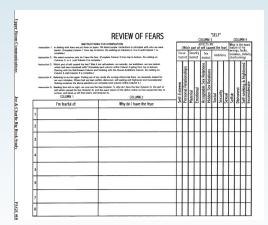
beacon@aaworcester.org

April 2022

Step 4



Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.



One Woman's 4th Step Story:

From Just Answering Questions... to Just Using the Grid

When I wrote my first step four I used the Eddie O version.

My sponsor liked it and I did what she suggested. (Most of the time.) Truthfully, I could not make any sense of the grid in the Big Book in the chapter How It Works.

My mother drank when she was pregnant with me, and all my other siblings as well. Because of that, I have some deficits that aren't visible or readily apparent. I can't add numbers in my head. I have no sense of direction. I know how to get to familiar places with no problem.

Thank God for GPS. Likewise, when seeing grids or crossword puzzles, they make no sense to me. After they are explained I can "get it".

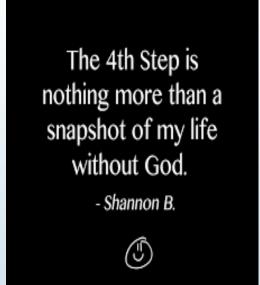
I believed this was doing a fearless and searching moral inventory by answering the

questions as best I could. Years later, I learned this wasn't the case. I was fortunate to attend 12 Step meetings and listen to the Joe and Charlie tapes with groups of AAs whose insight was invaluable to me.

At the present time, I am writing another Step 4 using that incomprehensible grid. It feels like real progress. There is an AA saying, "more will be revealed," that is ringing true for me.

Maybe I was meant to write my Step 4, now, in this way, because now I am ready.

- Beth H.







		ructions for Completion e flaws in our make-up which caused our	REVIEW OF FLAWS (optional)
	FLAW	Give your best example of this specific flaw in your life.	
1			
2			

The Fourth Step:

"Let me count the ways."

In 1850, in her book **Sonnets from the Portuguese**, poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote a line that has been copied, plagiarized, and parodied in a gazillion Valentine's Day cards: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."

But no matter how many different ways you can come up with to show how much you love the light of your life, there are still more ways to do the 4th step... that is if you believe every single "expert" out in the wild and wooly digital world of AA Internet guru-hood.

When I typed "How do I work the 4th step?" Google came up with 3,400,000,000 answers (in 0.76 seconds). Since that is a ridiculous number, I refined my question: "How do I work the 4th Step in AA?"

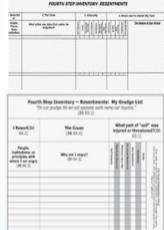
In only 0.61 second, Google gave me a much more manageable number of hits: 1.54 BILLION. When I looked for worksheets and books in Google images I wore out my finger just scrolling through them.

In the years that I've been hanging around the rooms of AA I have worked nine different 4th steps, each in a different way with different goals and following different directions.

Like many AAs, I looked at 4th Step Workbooks and Worksheets, many of them promising to be the "right way, the "only way" or even the "same way" Bill and Bob did them. A friend told me of one he had found that was filled with page after page of questions. They ranged from "Does alcoholism run in your family?" and "How many ounces do you drink every week on a day-by-day basis?" to "Have you ever had sex with a goat?" and "Was the goat Catholic?"

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REVIEW OF RESENTMENTS





(Continued next page)

A sampling of the THOUSANDS of worksheets, books, courses, and recordings you will find if you Google "AA Big Book 4th Step"

Checklist of Flaws and Assets

4 Character Defect	Opposite Asset 4
aggressive, belligerent	good-natured, gentle
angry ²	forgiving, calm, generous
apathetic	interested, concerned, alert

apprehensive, afraid

forgetful	responsible
gluttonous2, e	essive moderate
gossiping3	closed-mouth, kind, praising
greedy 2,3	moderate, generous, sharing
hateful ³ for	ving, loving, concerned for others
hynersensitive	tolerant_doesn't personalize

sarcastic 1	praising, tolerant	
self-important3	humble, modes	
self-centered	caring of others	
self-destructive, self-defeating	self-fulfilling	
self-hating s	elf-accepting, loving	
self-instifvino3 admit	admitting wrongs humble	

calm, courageous

My first one kind-a/sort-a followed the Big Book. But like so very many other newcomers, it took my brain time to clear, and the grid was more than I could face, let alone figure out. So, my sponsor had me list everyone I knew, had known, had worked for or with, and any corporation or government agency I resented. (NOTE: Richard Nixon took up a lot of room, as did the U.S. State Department, and the Wayne County, MI, Department of Public Records [a long story].)

My second one was based on the Seven Deadly Sins: pride. greed, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth. (I am good at sloth. I could give lessons, but only if I were willing to work that hard.)

Number three came in year five, the year I went bankrupt. It focused on money: how I handled it, which obviously brought in pride, greed, envy and all the different ways I could be both grandiose and dishonest.

Four through eight focused on different issues. I did each in a different way. I even listed the good with the bad. As it says on page 5 of the 12 & 12: "Misguided moral inventory can result in guilt, grandiosity, or blaming others. Assets can be listed with liabilities." And on page 47: "The sponsor probably points out

that the newcomer has some assets which can be noted along with his liabilities."

Number nine is my last one. So far. It stemmed from a phone call to my sponsor who recognized that my serenity and sanity were quickly going the way of the 10-cent cigar. I summed up what my problems were and he told me that I obviously needed to write about fear.

He was right. It grew into the most thorough and painful 4th step of my sobriety. Over the years I have had people tell me that if I had done it "the right way" the first

time I would not have had to do more than one. I've also been told a wide variety of "right ways" to do it... no two alike.

Other AAs have preached from podiums that we should do is a new 4th step each year: some say covering just the past year, others going back to Day One.

I have my own philosophy about the 4th Step. I worked each of the nine 4th steps only when NOT doing it hurt more than doing it. Pain tells me what I have to look at – which is always the stuff I'm afraid to look at – and HOW to do the looking: the Big Book grid, a

worksheet, a series of questions, even a blank pad of paper... whatever.

Pain dictates what I need to do and how to do it.

Pain motivates me.

Luckily, I have turned into a wuss. I don't like pain and I'm not willing to put up with nearly as much of it as I used to before picking up my phone... or my pen.

The Cyber Sot





Tradition 4, Short form:

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

Tradition four, long form:

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Tradition Four and The Paid For AA Preacher

There are numerous opinions about what the fourth tradition "really means" and what Bill "really meant" when he wrote it.

Some use it as a club to stop groups from doing anything new — such as Zoom meetings. Some AA still think Zoom meetings are a bad idea and violate the traditions.

Bill explained what he "meant" and what it "really means" in the November 1948 Grapevine. Bill starts with:

"The first sentence of Tradition 4 guarantees each AA group local autonomy. With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decision, adopt any attitude that it likes. No over-all or intergroup authority should challenge the primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our traditions."

How *indifferent* might a group get?

"For example, an AA group could, if it wished, hire a paid preacher and support him out of proceeds of a group night-club. Though such an absurd procedure would be miles out side of our tradition, the group's 'right to be wrong' would be held inviolate. We are sure that each group can be granted, and safely granted, those most extreme privileges. We know that our familiar process of trial and error would summarily eliminate both the preacher and the nightclub.



"Those severe growing pains which would variably follow any radical departure from AA traditions can be absolutely relied upon to bring an erring group back into line."

So, there is plenty of room to try new things. You have Bill's permission to do so. Of course you might get drunk, but then again, you might come up with something new that helps keep the program going and growing — like Zoom.

— The Cyber Sot



Concept IV:

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.

The Right to Participate Your Right to be Heard

Last month we talked about Concept III – Right of Decision. This month it's all about Right of Participation.

Right of Participation guarantees that everyone's voice can be heard. Whether it's at the General Service Conference or at your Home Group's Business Meeting, every AA member should be able to be heard.

The principle of: "Right of Participation" is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates,

but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of AA World Services (GSO) and the AA Grapevine.

Something similar happens at other levels of service as well. A lot of Groups allow any AA member to speak at their business meetings but only Group Members can vote. WAI Steering Committee Meeting is open to all (except when in Executive Session) and anyone can speak, but only Steering Committee members may make or

second a motion or vote.

This ensures that all are included in the discussion who wish to be, but the people who have been given the responsibility of voting (reasonable proportion) are the ones to weigh the discussion and vote on the topic.

Not sure who can or cannot vote at your service meeting? Check that entity's Guidelines, Bylaws, or Handbook for the answers. When in doubt...ASK YOUR SER-VICE SPONSOR!

— Brandy H.



AFTER YEARS OF SOBRIETY AND SERVICE, THIS ALCOHOLIC FINALLY REALIZES JUST HOW BIG AA IS, AND HOW VITAL THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK IS THAT KEEPS AA GOING.

750 AAs Jam Regional Service Assembly ... 250 more than expected

The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly in Pittsburgh, Area 60, in February was my first Service Assembly of this magnitude.

I wasn't sure what to expect. I had read the itinerary, but still hadn't a clue what to look for. Before this, the largest AA meeting I'd attended had been an Area Meeting that occasionally topped 50 people when it was strictly virtual. That was a lot of people to me. I loved seeing that many people; it was invigorating.

Now take that feeling and bring it to a Regional Assembly. You anticipated 500 attendees. It was actually closer to 750. It certainly gave me a shot of enthusiasm. To see that number of people come together for a common purpose, to help

the next sick and suffering alcoholic was humbling.



When you attend an Assembly like this, you learn and get a better idea of how large an organization AA is. I used to have difficulty distinguishing between the district, Intergroup and Area. Now I'm learning the differences between AAWS (AA World Service), the GSO (General Service Office), NERT (Northeast Regional Trustee), and the Grapevine. How they are connected yet separate. How they tie together to provide for today's and tomorrow's members.

It was definitely a weekend working on the *other side* of AA. I've always looked at AA in terms of my home group, the local level. This side isn't mentioned often. This is where ideas are exchanged, changes are discussed. It is the business side.

When Bill and Bob developed the solution they also looked at keeping the message alive for the future. At an AA Regional Assembly you see what keeps this message going.

You can help.

There are so many service opportunities that go far beyond what we do with our own groups. The weekend offered just a sample of them. There were writing workshop's, round tables, after-hour round tables, AA Meetings, a Cookie and Hot Chocolate Social, and Host Suites with different goodies.

Then came the real reason we were there, the panel discussions about this year's theme: Unity. There were six different panels delving deeper into the subject of Unity: Unity and Service, Unity through the Past to Present, Unity through Change, Unity through Outreach and Unity through Changes to the Big Book.

(Continued next page)

(Regional Service Continued)

Each panel consisted of a moderator, a timer, and three presenters.

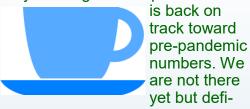
Each presenter would discuss a specific topic. When each speaker was finished, audience members were allowed to voice their opinions about what was presented. It was interesting to hear the different points of view on all of those subjects.

It also made me glad I don't have to go through this at my monthly business meeting.

There were close to twenty different types of Roundtables available during this Assembly. Everything from Accessibilities through Young People in AA. There was something for everyone.

After the third Panel discussion of the day on Saturday, we got to hear from the Northeast Regional Trustee as he updated the audience with some numbers on how well AA is doing financially as well as membership wise.

The organizational chart displayed for the members shows a very well organized operation. AA



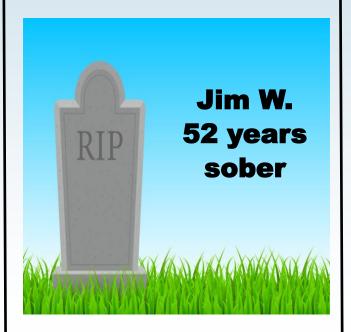
nitely going in the right direction.

It's clear that AA is committed for the long term to assure the message keeps getting out there for the next sick and suffering alcoholic. All in all it was a good experience and it's good to understand service work and of other ways of serving.

~ The Digital Drunk

WHEN SOBER MEMBERS OF AA DIE THEIR NEXT MEETING IS IN THE SKY





James "Jim" W. Weaver, Jr., 91 passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 6th. He was 91, and celebrated his 52nd AA anniversary in January. He was a founding member of the Quinsigamond Group.

Born in Alabama, Jim graduated from Beverly High School in Massachusetts where he lettered in football. He was a Navy Veteran of the Ko-

rean War. He was married for fifty-six years to Elizabeth and had five children. He retired after 37 years from Burroughs Corporation as the East Coast Field Engineering Manager. Jim is survived by four



of his children, nine grandchildren, and 10 greatgrandchildren.

Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's memory may be made to Veterans Inc., 69 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605. To leave a memory or message of condolence for Jim's family, please visit: www.mulhane.com



We are not a Glum Lot!

My AA sponsor told me to stay away from places where I used to drink.

I just sold my car.

Math Teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"

Student: "A drinking problem"

Alcohol is a perfect solvent: It dissolves marriages, families, and careers.

"Two beer or not two beer, that is the question" William Shakesbeer

I only drink on days beginning with "T". Tuesday, Thursday, today, and tomorrow.

The recommended age to have a Ouija board is 8+ years old. So, you need to be 21 years old to drink alcohol and only 8 to summon the devil.

Dear Alcohol, We had a deal where you would make me funnier, smarter, and a better dancer...l saw the video....we need to talk.





Prayer is asking a question.

Meditation is listening for the answer.



What's goin on?



Area 30 Pre-Conference Assembly April 10, 2022 9:00 - 4:00 PM Peabody High School, 486 Lowell St. Peabody MA Meeting available on ZOOM

Meetings for the Month

District 23	4/12 - Tues 7:30 PM	Live, Faith Community	Church, 146 E. Main St in Hopkinton
District 24	4/7 - Thurs 7:30 PM	Hybrid, Trinity Church,	, Elm St, Concord
District 25	4/5 - Tues 7:30 PM	Hybrid, Salem Covenar	nt Ch, 214 E. Mountain St, Worcester
District 26	4/7 - Thurs 7:00 PM	Hybrid, Emanuel Luthe	eran Ch, 1200 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg
Worcester Area	a Intergroup 4/14 - Th	nurs 7-9 PM Hybrid,	Salem Covenant Ch, 215 E. Mountain
St,		Worcester	

Area 30 Monthly Meeting 4/27 - Wed 8 - 10 PM Hybrid, 421 Common St, Belmont

Committee Meetings

4/10 - Sun ZOOM Bookie Swap 6:00 PM

4/20 - Wed Alcathon Planning Meeting 7:00 PM

4/16 - Sat MSCYPAA Rave Party 8 - Midnight, 1070 Pleasant St, Worcester (\$10 suggested donation)

Save The Date The Date for the AA Roundup is May 21 and is being held at Bellingham Memorial Middle School, 130 Blackstone Street District 23 and District 25 are hosting it. "Volunteers are needed please call' **Contact Names:** 508-272-2866 617-803-5631 978-807-3560 774-267-9068

beacon@aaworcester.org

"Try to remember that though God has wrought miracles among us, we should never belittle a good doctor or Psychiatrist. Their services are often indispensable in treating a newcomer and In following his case afterward." Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition

The Family Afterward, pg 133



Pre-Conference Assembly

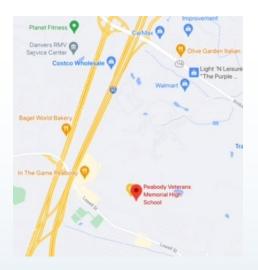
Sunday, April 10, 2022 9AM-4PM

Location:

Peabody Veterans Memorial High School 485 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 9AM *** ASSEMBLY BEGINS AT 10AM Orientation for new GSRs and DCMs from 9:15-9:45

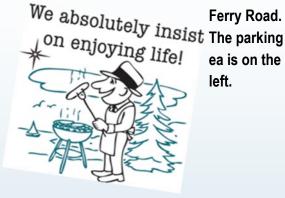
The following trusted servants and alternates are responsible to attend: GSRs, DCMs, Area 30 Officers, and General Service Committee Chair people Lunch will be provided as well as continental breakfast offerings.



Map of Peabody Memorial H.S. **Directions by** car: From Route 1, headed north toward Newburyport, take the Lowell Street exit on right toward Peabody. Turn right onto Lowell Street and

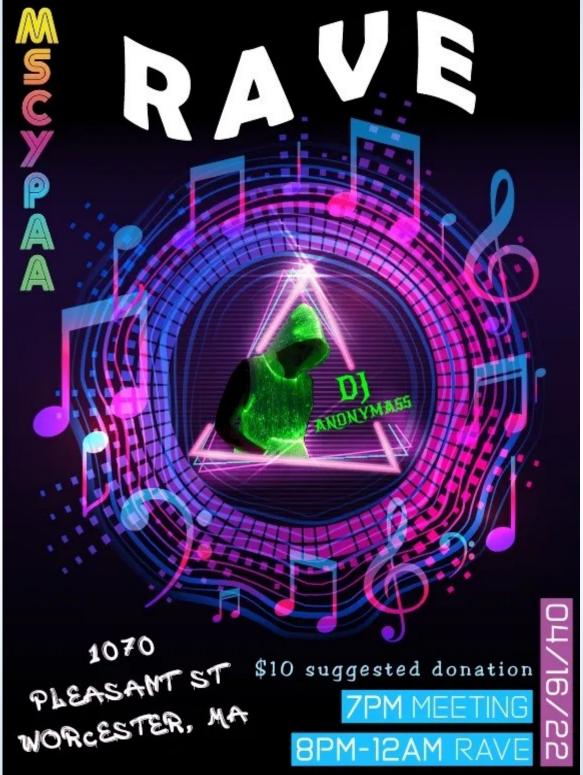
then left onto ea is on the left.

ar-



This event is being hosted by General Service Districts 18 & 19 www.emass1819.org









Worcester Area Intergroup Contributions as of 03/31/2022

Group Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total 2021
AA Anniversary Contribution				0.00
AA Member Contribution	196.80	483.00	674.35	1,354.15
AA Faithful Fiver Contribution	186.00	391.00	762.00	1,339.00
AA Coffee Can Contribution	11.65		9.28	20.93
Ashburnham Naukeag	450.00			450.00
Auburn Grapevine Group	80.00			80.00
Auburn Happy Hour	59.00	58.00		117.00
Barre Captain's Clubhouse			40.00	40.00
Berlin Candlelight			150.00	150.00
Boylston As Bill Sees It		75.00		75.00
Charlton Courage To Change			125.50	125.50
Charlton Daybreaker	448.16	249.25	242.51	939.92
Charlton Life Second to None	162.50		150.00	312.50
Douglas Maintenance & Repair			100.00	100.00
Douglas Tuesday Night Step			50.00	50.00
East Brookfield Friday Night Big Book	100.00			100.00
Fitchburg Newman			50.00	50.00
Grafton Common Bond	55.00			55.00
Grafton Happy Joyous And Free			50.00	50.00
Grafton Reflections Group		86.00		86.00
Harvard Catacombs III	75.00	100.00		175.00
Harvard Happy Joyous and Free	290.00			290.00
Holden Open Air	100.00	225.00	100.00	425.00
Hopkinton Enough Is Enough		20.00		20.00
Hudson Second Chance	600.00			600.00
Leicester Road to Recovery	23.00			23.00
Leominster Eye Opener		50.00		50.00
Living Sober (online)		125.00		125.00
Milford Eye Opener		30.00		30.00
Millbury Center Step		75.00		75.00
Millbury Traditions			10.00	10.00
Northboro Friday Big Book	25.00		25.00	50.00
Northboro Mid-Morning			50.00	50.00
Northboro Women of Courage and		15.00		15.00
Dignity				
Shrewsbury Eternal Vigilance	391.50	399.00	258.50	1,049.00
Shrewsbury Simple Steps	50.00			50.00
Southboro We Believe			50.00	50.00
Southbridge Friday Night Flick			100.00	100.00
Southbridge Noon Recovery Group		150.00	90.00	240.00



7th Tradition

April 2022

Microsoft

Volume 1 Issue 5

Southbridge Original		197.57		197.57
Stow Sunday Morning			2.60	2.60
Transgender In Sobriety	50.00			50.00
Upton Spirit			125.00	125.00
Webster Early Risers		77.00	68.00	145.00
Webster Triton	200.00		75.00	275.00
Westboro Easy Does It	46.00			46.00
Westboro Get Well Slowly Step	103.00			103.00
Whitinsville G.O.Y.A.	350.00			350.00
Worcester Beginners Intro to AA		50.00		50.00
Worcester Come As You Are	300.00		40.00	340.00
Worcester Crozier	25.00	25.00	20.00	70.00
Worcester Daily Choice	230.00		475.00	705.00
Worcester Green Hill Park Noontime	423.27			423.27
Worcester Hi-Noon		150.00		150.00
Worcester Mid-Day		120.00	200.00	320.00
Worcester Wednesday BBSS	150.00	_		150.00
Worcester Women's Gratitude		30.00	15.00	45.00
Column Totals	5,180.88	3,180.82	4,107.74	12,469.44
Row Totals				12,469.44

Worcester Area Intergroup Office hours:

Monday 10-2 pm
Tuesday 10-8 pm
Wednesday 10-8 pm
Thursday 10-2 pm
Friday 10-2 pm
Saturday 9-2 pm
Sunday Closed





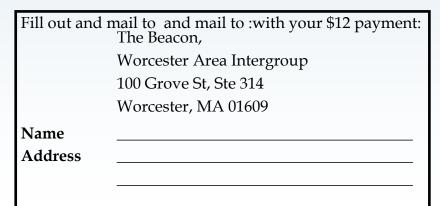


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2] For a printed edition mailed to you, fill out the form below and enclose \$12 for a one-year subscription Please make checks payable to

Worcester Area Intergroup





HEARD AT A MEETING

Windshields are bigger than rear view mirrors because seeing where you are going is a lot more important than seeing where you have been.



... he has undergone a profound alteration in his reaction to life ... tapped an unsuspected inner resource ... awareness of a power greater than ourselves is the essence of the spiritual experience.

- Big Book, Appendix II



Monday Morning Men's Meeting 7 AM Virtual only

Topic—Daily Reflections
Zoom 8146 9988 447
Password Sober2022