



Vol. 33 No. 2 April-May 2024

Peter Pan

I was Peter Pan - a very broken Peter Pan. The real Peter Pan didn't have anxiety. The real Peter Pan wasn't depressed. The real Peter Pan didn't have kids who were disgusted with him. The real Peter Pan didn't steal or lie. This Peter Pan had his alcohol and substances - his "Tinker Bell"! She provided a lot of fun for this Peter, until time ran out. This Peter held onto his "Tink" with such ferocity and anger, such tenacity that this Peter blew up his life. He blew up his world and many lives with his absolute denial and refusal to let go of "Tink". It had been fun, but now it wasn't. This wasn't what he wanted.

This Peter always tried to put his needs and expectations on others, and when they didn't provide that safe harbor that he felt entitled to, he and "Tink" would run away. He would let you end anything that he'd started. This way, he could blame you, and not look at himself as the cause.

This Peter always knew what he was doing. It was planned. Everything in his adult life had been planned. There was always an angle. There was always a reason for the action. It was always to satisfy a need he thought you/it could provide. When he found that it wasn't the case, he'd take stock and say to himself, "well, this isn't how I pictured this would be"! Or a better way of putting it is, "this isn't how my fantasy played out."

Let's cut to today, as this Peter, minus his "Tink", is sitting out in the sun in the midst of life, taking in an amazing day. Not sitting in self-pity or denial. He recognizes that it's not his world, it never was, it's all ours. What is his, is how he

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acts and reacts in this world. He does what he said he was going to do.

My sponsor suggested that I accept and live the first Step. If I really want to live a life of integrity, of meaning, of purpose and do esteemable acts, then I must accept the full meaning of the first Step. By accepting this Step; accepting the suggestions that have always been provided; accepting that I am a part of, not apart from, the fellowship of A.A. My life is moving in a good direction. I am beginning to develop a true sense of self. I am beginning to allow myself to be more open. I am allowing the real me to step out of the shadows. I am allowing myself to listen and change. I am allowing myself to have faith in a power greater than me.

Tinker Bell helped Peter fly, battle pirates and hang out with kids. A.A. is now my "Tink", and she is helping me discover new wonders in a life I never knew I had, and new people to hang out with – One Day at a Time.

Steve P., Madison

Each Morning

Each morning that I wake up ... is a good start to the day! At the young active age of 86 I exceeded the National Average of life expectancy by some years. Understandably, it gives me some cause for concern, but I digress.

I have the dubious pleasure of living a long life and have experienced several "life-times". I was an engineer, a family man, a farmer, a store owner, an entrepreneur, and finally a retired gentleman. In all of those life-times I came to believe in a whole bunch of things. I came to believe in the

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“American Dream” and lost it. I came to believe in a Christian God and lost it. I came to believe that when you married it was for life, but it wasn’t true for me. I came to believe in alcohol, and it tried to kill me.

I don’t remember when “it” started. It just seemed to have always been there. I never noticed that it had increased over the years. It never occurred to me that I was an alcoholic. I drank like most people around me - or so I thought. Sure, I got tipsy on occasion. I guess I got drunk once in a while. But hey, I was a “happy drunk”. I say that as if it qualified my drinking. If the drinks were free, this cheapskate would have his elbow welded to the bar. I thought I was “normal”, however I did have the lingering feeling that I was not quite right. My daughter would take the bottle of Sambuca off the dinner table when I had supper at her house. I kept refilling the espresso cup long after the coffee was gone. It tasted good and I was getting a nice buzz.

At the ripe young age of 68 my second wife succumbed to heart failure. I, then at the ripe old age of 77, concluded that my life would become one of solitude and loneliness. Thus, having declared how brilliant my deduction was, I very quickly became a pint-a-day drunk. “What? Only a pint you might ask”? In self-defense it was 100 proof whiskey and I usually blacked out at about the time the bottle was finished. Well, sometimes it was a two-pint-day. On a special weekend I might step up to a big bottle.

I had the most marvelous pity parties. If I kept score it would be: Revelers zero, Bottle one. Hey, no one is keeping score anyway. After the fact, I realized my life had become centered around the opening hours of various liquor stores. Oh, I had my routine: never the same store in the same week. I wouldn’t want anyone to think I drank too much. My self-driving-car would shuttle me between the local liquor stores and my house.

In my more lucid moments, I decided that I should go on a Senior’s dating website. Maybe I could find some companionship. I was all of 78 but I was told I looked 65. I gave it a try and eventually encountered a young lady with only 69 years on her 55-year-old looking chassis. A match made in heaven, wherever that is.

At this point in the story you might expect that I would stop drinking and we would live happily ever after. This is the real world. I hid my drinking habit as we drunks can do so well.

Yes, she knew I drank, but not how much ... until I was found on my bedroom floor, semiconscious and mostly naked.

Oh, if only my drinking had stopped there. More scrapes on the car. More unkind arguments with my girlfriend. I would go to meetings and drink afterwards. Sometimes I drank before meetings. I thought the phrase: “Keep coming until the miracle happens” was nice but meaningless. I kept coming to meetings. Hmm, no miracle that week. What? You want me to pray? To whom?

My experience with a god has wandered from Catholicism through a Pentecostal movement, then a slide across Wiccan concepts with a brief stop with Druids and a bounce to a belief in a god of the universe. Something created me and the things around me. I can’t begin to conceptualize what a god is or does. However, I do believe in a power greater than myself because I have experienced that power.

There was no bolt of lightning, no profound announcement from on high. It all started when I could not make it past the Third Step. Give my life over to the care of God? As a disciplined and educated engineer, I was in control of my life. I can slow down my drinking using my intellect and willpower. I was not giving up control and that was that. Or so I thought.

In desperation, after many failures, I told God that I was *willing to be made willing* to turn my will and life over to the care of God *as I understood Him*. What a coward I was. I don’t want to do it, but if you make me want to do it, then that’s okay. Sheesh, the logic of some people.

The miracle happened so quietly that I didn’t notice it. One day I didn’t think to pick up a drink. Then another day went by. Then a week went by. I suddenly realized that I had not had a drink during that time. Nor did I want one! “HEY, what just happened”? And so ... that was that. The God of my understanding, my Higher Power, did for me that which I was not only afraid to do, but was also unwilling to do. My desire for a drink was lifted from me, NOT by my will or intellect, but by the grace of my Higher Power. Wow!

I have just one regret ... that I lost all those vibrant years to a muddled alcoholic existence. I lived not knowing the real joy of a life well lived. Each morning I wake up is always a

good start to my day. Then onward with my magical life in sobriety. Oh, and how should that be done? Why of course: One day at a time.

Al Di., Guilford

Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Two & Three

Step Four: “Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Tradition Four: “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Concept Four: “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.”

Step Five: “Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Tradition Five: “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Concept Five: “Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.”

Area 11 A.A. Service Manual Meeting

Meets every second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

Login Information (on Zoom):

Meeting ID: 853 6254 9241

Password: 162425

Reviewing the material in advance is strongly encouraged! Content to be covered: Chapter 1 (“The Group and its G.S.R.”), pages 7-12 in the 2021-2023 A.A. *Service Manual*—access to the A.A. *Service Manual* as a PDF [here!](#)

All A.A. members are welcome!

[Area 11 Service Calendar](#)

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Save The Date

District 7

Meets every 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm in the Holy Trinity basement. Pizza will be served. Starting Feb 15, 2024

SoberFest 2024 needs a logo

This year’s theme:
LOVE & TOLERANCE IS OUR CODE

Requirements for the logo:

- Includes the words SOBERFEST 2024
- Two colors
- Includes a dove

Next Meeting: April 7, 12pm - Hybrid

In person: AREA 11 Office
First Baptist Church (in rear)
581 Meriden Avenue, Southington

On Zoom:
Zoom ID 837 7080 854
Passcode: 852 401

Create & Print Meeting Schedules and more! on the Area 11 Website

Our Area 11 Website continues to evolve and be a central source of information and communication. This resource is even more critical during these times of limitations with in-person interaction. Some, but not all, of recent enhancements/additions include:

- ****Create & Print meeting schedules****
- Landing page links to crucial information & events
- Meeting finder tool
- Contact information for the Area 11 Officers
- District maps and information
- From the events calendar, links to events outside of Area 11

Visit www.ct-aa.org

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“What’s New” on www.aa.org

Did you know that www.aa.org has a “What’s New” section linked directly off the home page? (Scroll to the bottom of the landing page and click on “What’s New”)

You can find up to date announcements, activities, and more, along with notices from the past few months. Access info on a F.A.Q. for the 2025 International Convention, Special Forums, Press Releases, Requests to the Fellowship, PSA Announcements, Quarterly Reports, and more!

[Click here and check it out!](#)

News and Notes

Box 4-5-9 Fall 2023

Newsletter from the General Service Office: [F-36 Box 459 Fall 2023 \(aa.org\)](#)

Delegate’s Reports

Monthly Delegate’s Reports are available on www.ct-aa.org in English and Spanish. [Click here for quick access.](#)



AAGV – Podcasts

Visit www.aagrapevine.org/podcast for a new podcast each week! Tune in for the Ask-it Basket, trivia, recovery-related jokes, & more!

Subscriptions and Literature

Visit store.aa.grapevine.org for magazines, books, & more!

Carry the Message Project

Want to help another alcoholic? Grapevine and La Viña are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for: Sponsees * Newcomers * Prisons * Detoxes * Doctor’s Offices * Group Celebrations * District and Area Events * Giveaways.

Go to <https://www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message> to get started. Carry the Message, it’s easy!

We Want To Hear From You!

The Alki-Line is a bi-monthly publication by the Area 11 Alki-Line Committee, a dedicated team of trusted servants, whose primary purpose is to offer current events, articles, and information that foster experience, strength, and hope in recovery, in the spirit of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and in particular “to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

Share your stories, essays, articles, poetry, etc. with others through the Alki-Line. We are accepting submissions of one page or less:

Email: alkiline@ct-aa.org

The Alki-Line has many service positions and would benefit significantly from more district representation.

This newsletter is by and for alcoholics; however, we review submissions by all interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Material may be edited for clarity and length. This newsletter and earlier issues can be downloaded at www.ct-aa.org.

This is an honest fellowship; we presume all submissions are original or in the public domain. Following publication all, copyright reverts to the owner.

The Gratitude List.

Visit the Alki-Line page at: <https://ct-aa.org/alki-line/> to tell us something you are grateful for.