

Straight Talk

A publication of Fairview Riverside AA
U of M Medical Center

Meeting
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November - December 2017

The Attitude of Gratitude Founder's Day Weekend 2017

November 24, 25 & 26, 2017

*Celebrating 77 Years of AA in the
Upper Midwest and Honoring AA
Members With One Year of
Sobriety!*

Register Online at: [www.FOUNDERSDAYMN.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSDAYMN.org)

Activities and Accommodations at DoubleTree Bloomington -
Minneapolis South - Bloomington, MN 7800 Normandale
Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55439 • 952.835.7800 or 800.222.8733



Bill W.



Pat C.



Dr. Bob

Founder's Day Weekend in Minnesota is an Alcoholics Anonymous celebration of recovery from alcoholism, and is in tribute to that day in 1940, during the Armistice Day Blizzard when the message of recovery was carried from Chicago to Pat C. by two men who came to Minneapolis for the University of Minnesota football game.



Join us for a
Speaker Meeting

Brennan Center
East Building
Sunday @ 7:15pm

AA
Sunday
Night



The General Meeting on
Sunday nights @ 7:15pm is
If interested, please contact us at
feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

Gratitude is the Highest Form of Prayer

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough, and more.

It turns denial into acceptance,
chaos to order,
confusion to clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast,
a house into a home,
a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past,
brings peace for today,
and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melody Beattie



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

"I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN SOBRIETY"

My Own Sober Miracle

I used to cringe when I heard those sober zealots talking about "waiting for the miracle." Then mine arrived—and now I'm terrified I'm going to screw it up.

I'm not sure how many times I've heard some asshole at an AA meeting telling some poor newcomer, "Hey, don't quit before the miracle happens." It's one of the many seemingly meaningless platitudes repeated over and over again in 12-Step rooms.

It wasn't a saying I've really thought all that much about, and when I did, I'd just think it sounded dumb. Still, at the same time, I guess I was sort of waiting around for some kind of miracle to happen. Not that I believe in God. But I figured if I worked hard enough, eventually something would come along. It's human nature. And then, not that long ago, I guess it did come along.

But the truth is that there have been a lot of miracles in my life since getting sober. There are the two books I've written and the novel I just sold. There is the fact that I re-met my future wife after not having seen her for 15 years, though we were best friends throughout middle school and I was in love with her the whole time. There is the miracle of how much I've come to love my life now, after having been so fucking deeply unhappy for so very long. There is the miracle of my relationship with my family and my friends and two dogs and one cat. But one thing I haven't been able to figure out as all these things have happened is how to support my family in the long run—and to find a career that I love doing and will be able to do from now on.



With the miracle comes fear and stress, self-doubt and all those feelings that made me want to get high in the first place. Of course, I do love writing books. But, contrary to popular belief, it's no way to make a living. Plus the process takes forever and, in between books, there's not much else to do. I've tried writing articles for other magazines and have done that here. But this is also slow, infrequent and not all that well paying. What I've wanted more than anything is to find something I love to do and have a career working in that field. I guess that's what everybody wants. That's what everybody prays for. That's what I prayed for—well, not prayed, but you know what I mean.

After all, what good were all these other miracles in sobriety if I couldn't support my family, have kids one day, maybe even buy a modest home? And most people know how hard it is to find a career that will actually make all those things possible—especially a career that is exciting, engaging, and fulfilling. Especially when you don't have a college education. Especially when you're not qualified to do pretty much anything other than write, which, as I said, is no way to make a living. I'd been applying to bookstores and other places where I could get paid minimum wage but none of those things worked out. I needed another miracle.

And, in sobriety, finally, after nearly five years, I got one. The miracle—the big miracle—happened. Only what they don't tell you (or if they do, I wasn't listening) is that once the miracle finally does happen—once the opportunity is given to you—that's when the real hard work begins. Because once you have that chance, the worst thing in the fucking world would be to fuck it up. When you never have a chance to succeed in something, you never have the chance to fail. Now I have the chance to fail. And it freaks me out.

Of all the jobs I've ever had, there's never been one that I cared about so if I was late or not performing my best didn't matter. But now it matters so much. What happened was I got a very low level position working on a TV show (though, if all goes well, I should be able to write my own episode). It's an entry-level job in a field I absolutely love. Ever since I was a little kid, I've loved movies—I mean, been absolutely obsessed with them. But in the last 10 years, I've definitely become more and more obsessed with scripted one-hour dramatic television.



So getting a chance to write for a great television show is beyond what I ever could have imagined for myself. In sobriety, this is the miracle beyond miracles and it happened. And every single day so far in the writing room has been incredible. I don't just love the idea of working on a show, I love working on a show.

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For once in my life, I love all my co-workers, I love getting up in the morning, I love driving in traffic (well, maybe not that, but still...) It is everything I could have ever wanted. I hope I can keep working in TV forever.

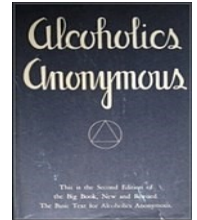
But now—now that I have this chance—I'm terrified I'm going to fuck it all up. What if I'm no good? What if I'm not smart enough? Clever enough? What if I'm a failure? There is that chance. There is always that chance. Because, of course, when the miracle happens, that's when failure can happen, too. With the miracle comes fear and stress, self-doubt and all those feelings that made me want to get high in the first place. But I'm not going to get high and sabotage my chances or do any other fucking thing I might've done in the past. This opportunity might scare the fuck out of me but that doesn't mean I'm going to give into it.

I almost hate to admit it but there's another annoying platitude I've heard in AA meetings that I've been thinking about: it's that God will never give us more than we can handle.

Well, like I said, I'm not too sure about the whole God thing but this isn't going to be more than I can handle. I just have to remember to stay really honest and really open. When I start trying to hide my fear and anxiety, that's when I get into trouble. Because when I try to pretend that I am not who I am, that's when the sickness starts to eat away at my insides.

So I will stay true and do the best I can because I love it. And it is, yes, a miracle.

Nic Sheff is a columnist for The Fix and the author of two memoirs about his struggles with addiction.



Additional Meetings at U of M Medical Center
DAY GROUP TIME LOCATION

			ACA ACOA
Monday	10	8:00pm	North Bldg—NG22
Tuesday	4	9:00pm	North Bldg—NG22
			Al-Anon
Monday	36	7:00pm	North Bldg—NG23
Tuesday	33	7:00pm	Bethany Lutheran Church Franklin Ave @ 25th Ave CA
Wednesday		8:30pm	West Bldg-5th Floor Lecture Hall
			GA
Sunday		7:00pm	East Bldg-MB114
			NA
Friday		8:00pm	East Bldg—Brennan Cen.
			OA
Monday		4:45pm	East Bldg-MB114
			WA
			(Workaholics Anonymous)
Wednesday		11:30am	East Bldg-Dining Rm E
			Opiates Anonymous
			(Closed Meeting—Alumni)
Thursday		8:00pm	West Bldg—Floor 5 #557

12-step Opportunities



Fairview Riverside AA – U of M Medical Center

To keep the program, we must give it away!

General Meeting – Sunday speakers –
7:15pm – Brennan Center – East Building

AA Wing Meeting – Saturdays – 6:30pm –
5th Floor Treatment Center – Cafeteria

Fairview Riverside – U of M Detox Center – Sundays – 8:30pm

Annual Gopher State Round Up – AA Hospitality Suite 115—Memorial Day Weekend -

For more information, please email
Fairview Riverside Board of Trustees
at

feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

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7th Tradition
Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully Self-Supporting
Trustees Financial Report
Summary

August 2017

Sq. 1	\$1	Expenses:	\$ 103.37
Sq. 2	\$41		
Sq. 9	\$16	Closing	
Sq. 20	\$110	Balance:	\$ 2,30752
Sq. 43	\$17		
Sq. 47	\$65		
Sq. 57	\$54		
Sq. 70	\$32		
GM	\$47		
TOTAL:	\$383		



U of M Medical Center Fairview Meeting Listings

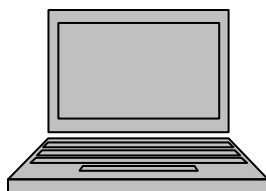
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Day	Group	Time	Location
Monday	3	5:30pm	East Bldg - Dining Room E
	43	7pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG48
Tuesday	57/36	1pm	West Bldg - Fifth Floor F571
	62	7pm	Bethany Lutheran Church—Franklin Avenue @ 25th Avenue
	9	8pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG42
Wednesday	32	5:30pm	East Bldg - MB114 (Dining Room F)
	20	7pm	West Bldg - 5th Floor F541
	71	7:30pm	West Bldg - 5th Floor F572 (signing meeting- American Sign Language only)
	51	8:15pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG42 (Big Book Meeting)
Friday	46	7pm	East Bldg-MB114 (Dining Room F)
	70	8:30pm	North Bldg/Ground Level-NG42
Saturday	1	8pm	East Bldg/Brennan Center
Sunday	47	5:30pm	East Bldg-MB114 (Dining Room F)
	General Meeting	7:15pm	East Bldg/Brennan Center
	2	8:30pm	East Bldg /Brennan Center
Trustees		2nd Sunday each month 6:15pm	East Bldg/Brennan Center lobby

Monthly Treasurer's & Secretary's Reports on website

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Trustees

Bruce M. – Sq. 62
Lynn – Sq. 1
Stephanie F.- General Meeting
Jim M. – Sq. 70
Patrick R. – Sq. 47
John M.—General Meeting
Kyle W.—Sq. 2

Looking for Reps from:

Sq. 3 Sq. 9 Sq. 20 Sq. 32 Sq. 43 Sq. 46
Sq. 51 Sq. 57/36 Sq. 71

People who don't go to meetings aren't there to see what happens to people who don't go to meetings.

- Is your group not listed? Is it listed incorrectly?

Please leave a note with any changes or your writing submission in:

AA group #70 mailbox—located in the West Building — Room F537