

History from Old Timer, Sheila L

History on Jan 19, 2010 from Sheila L

I got sober January 4, 1977 at the Koloa Tuesday night meeting, 7:30 pm, at the brand new Koloa Neighborhood center. And I have stayed sober from that first meeting. Some woman who was a teacher at Koloa Elementary talked to me. I had a beer between my legs, Miller Ponies, glass bottles, eight to a pack, and I had gone thru several. I pulled over in my car and the woman from Koloa Elementary and I were talking story. She told me about the Koloa AA meeting. She called Ed C. and he came to the house and he interviewed me as to whether I was a real alcoholic. I thought he was a jerk but everyone was a jerk then. We sat at my dinning room table. Of course, I was still drinking. I was buzzed. I do not remember what I said, or what the questions were. And his report to this woman of Koloa Elementary School was that I was a high bottom case. I certainly did not tell him of all my past because I did not really know what my story was. She, the teacher, was not working so it must have been a holiday. She invited me to a meeting. It was coming up the next day or the day after. I think it was Sunday(or was it Tuesday?). I parked around the corner, not near the entrance, did not want anyone to know where I was going. People I drank with were calling to me. I walked into that meeting. She was there, I think, but I cannot remember. There was a woman visitor and she was telling her story. BUT I had not had a drink yet that day because I did not want them to smell it on me. I sat with my arms folded, rigid, very closed. We sat around a table. I did not speak. No one said anything to me. I was pretty disoriented. I was probably hung over. The first three to four months I was shaky, probably going through the D-T's.. I threw up the next day. I thought maybe I had the flu. There were creatures on me. But I do remember that visitor speaking at the meeting. I had a moment of clarity. At the meeting the speaker said she had done the same thing. There was laughter. This visitor pointed me out. Something about my arms being crossed. Something about being closed off. I do not remember saying it was my first meeting. I was stammering and stuttering. At this time I could not write checks, I was so shaky. This was the beginning of my caffeine career. I drank a lot of caffeine. I was 110 pounds, did not eat much, I was a picker. . This woman speaker at the meeting talked about having an illegitimate child, and said "I put the child up for adoption". I identified. My calamity was directly related to my being out of control with my drinking and I recognized the identification. And they were laughing, was it at her? I could not figure out what was going on. The only introduction I had was that one movie with Susan Hayward where alcoholics were bums and drank out of brown bags... That first meeting was called The Koloa Meeting.

I got sober, opened a preschool, went back to school myself, and had another child. I was really busy so I do not remember too many details of those early sober years. These were busy years. My stepson came to live with us at one time.

That person who brought me to the first meeting was drinking Listerine, so she was out there. So she never came back to meetings. Charlotte McFadden , to whom I had no

When I was eight years sober, my long time sponsor, Chris J., moved to the Island of Kauai. During those eight years we were sometimes meeting at the Salvation Army, and we also met at the Young Buddhists Hall. Then we made a permanent home at the Koloa Union Church. Somewhere along the line we changed the name to Koloa Alohas.

We started our beach meetings.

Sometime about early or mid eighties I opened the 4:30 pm meeting on Thursday. We opened the Sunday beach meeting about 1982 and sat in the old pavilion. It was Chris J, me and Billy A that would be in the old pavilion on the beach on Sundays. We had our AA meetings there. So we had Thursday 4:30pm, Tuesday night 7:30pm and Sunday 7:00 am. The Lihue meeting was Big Book in the glass pavilion in the back of the hospital. Dan C had married June. She was in meetings then. I was the Koloa Secretary for Tuesday for three years from year one of my sobriety. A visitor said I should rotate, but the locals said I was doing such a good job at four years that they encouraged me to continue to be secretary.

I was also going to Al-Anon and it was held in June's house. The house was on a hill as you come into Koloa Town. Chris lived a cottage, worked at Mahelona, and met her husband there in treatment. But this man mentioned above gave me the rudiments. I just saw him at meetings. He was very large. He got sick and he died. I would only talk to him before or after the meeting. That original woman never came back to meetings.

It took me while to come out of the cloud, four or five months. I had a spiritual awakening. I was on a pink cloud for two years. I thought it was me who was crazy, but it was my husband who sick and crazy. . I was sponsoring so many women. Effie V came in. I did my second fifth step with Effie . I did my first with a spiritual advisor, with him. I did the rest of my steps with my spiritual advisor, non alcoholic. I sponsored Bebe, Chris H, and did it every which way but right. And I sponsored Effie. I went to intergroup. It was not so formal as it is now.

Koloa Alohas grew to nine meetings at its maximum. The additional meetings were beach meetings, Friday and Sat night. All broke up except Friday am, Sunday am, and the womens meeting. That woments meetings broke from the Monday womens meetings spring of 2009.

As related to Mathea A on January 19, 2010 in Lihue, Kauai.

connection at all, seemed too together. She shamed me because I should be calling this first woman. No one explained anything to me. I was really in the dark. We all read from the Big Book and the 12 and 12. That first Big Book was the one that got pretty trashed in the Ewa hurricane.

Every week we read from one of these two books, Big Book or 12 and 12.. Sometimes we had a speaker. One was Dan C, some man who spent a lot of time with me. I was overwhelmed. I would just keep going. I did this also- I told everyone I was drinking with and told my husband that I was not drinking, just for today. The meeting people pushed ,pushed just not drinking for today. This man in the meetings told me to just get on your knees.

I had a love- hate relationship with the Catholic church. I had been traumatized by a priest in the past. I could not grasp a God of My Understanding. I could not grasp the difference between religion and spiritually. This man, unnamed, suggested a book for me to read.

I had a young, good looking husband, two small children. I was a crazy person and not drinking. Slowly, slowly, as the alcohol left my system, I got better. Someone told me to eat candy bars to help me with my Jonesing and my shakes. I got into caffeine, Coca-Cola, lots of sugar, lots of candy, candy, candy. And I was told to take vitamine B12 and drink orange juice. I did not like these people but I did everything they said.

These men would get together and play cards. I was not included. But when I celebrated my first year my husband brought home a cake for me to take to the meeting.

Koloa Aloha was one meeting. Was there Serenity House? Were there other meetings on the island? Anyway, I went to Mass on Sunday. But I would go occasionally up to the Serenity House. I felt uncomfortable as there were a lot of guys, and Serenity House was a treatment center.

I was so busy with my responsibilities, my husband stopped coming home. He started going to bars to drink. I was home taking care of the kids, and working and I was overwhelmed. That one man kept helping with reassurance, reassurance. I did not think about my drug usage at that time. Visitors would come to the Tuesday meeting and tell things that helped me learn my story. Like my shivering, shivering. I could not get warm. My heart would race. I would be like in a panic because of the amount of caffeine I was drinking. I drove off the road, got some cuts, really cut my left hand by wrong use of an old fashioned can opener. I finally got my husband to take me to the emergency room.. The can was salmon.

My husband and I drank with a lot of Hawaiians. This man at the meeting kept saying "This is a Clean Beginning for you. Write down what your God is to you. Redefine what your life is. You can have a New God of your understanding". And that this could be compatible with my Church. My realationship with God was changing. I definitely had a spiritual awakening when I realized God truly loved me.

Service Material from the General Service Office

RESEARCHING A.A. GROUP HISTORY

The General Service Office Archives Department is frequently asked how A.A. Groups can write their group history. Listed below are some typical questions that the Archives Department uses when writing a group history. It is suggested that groups try to answer these questions and, as needed, contact both the General Service Office Archives and their local Archives for information. If groups are conducting an oral history, the G.S.O. Archives has prepared an Oral History Kit that can be used as a guide – experience has shown that many groups have found it to be helpful. The Oral History Kit is available on the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. website at www.aa.org.

- Who were the founding members of the group? *ASK Sheila Lee (808) 639-8908*
- Where and when was the first meeting held? In date order, list where later meetings have been held. Include city, state, building, residence, church, clubhouse, etc. *Koloa, about 1961 also held in various churches, Hung Wah Tee & Dolphin Beach*
- Did the group list with the General Service Office at the time the members first met? *yes*
- What is the group's name? Have there been any changes to the group's name over the years? *Koloa Aloha, always same name*
- What initiated the meeting; was it the offshoot of a parent group; was there a split due to disagreements; did a few A.A.s simply decide to start a hometown group, etc. *This*
- How did the founding members let the community know that a new A.A. meeting was forming? *word of mouth*
- How many members attended the group's first meeting? *? 2-3*
- Describe member composition, for example, men only, women, young people, etc. *all welcome. lots (50%) visitors at beach meetings*
- How did the group experience growth over the years? *grew, shrank, grew, shrank*
- Are group inventories conducted regularly and have they been helpful? *been done several times*
- Who were the early group officers? List, for example, GSR, Group Contact, Chair, Group Secretary, etc. *- don't know. ASK Sheila*
- Has the group used a steering committee? *NO*
- Have any group members participated in District, Area or other service to the Fellowship? *always, always throughout the 23 years of my Koloa Aloha participation, members participated in District, intergroup & area & most of the time in PRATA (over)*

3-11-15

From: Ann Wallace axwallace2@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Obtaining a History of the Koloa Aloha Group
Date: 8 March 2015 13:45

To: April Taylor april@taylor-wallace.com, Bob Bradley sunkids.kauai@gmail.com, Chris Kauwe honihonihoney@hotmail.com, Diana Leone diana.branum.leone@gmail.com, Dick Wright dwright002@hawaii.rr.com, Esther Snader esnader@hawaii.rr.com, Fran franola@earthlink.net, James jimsull@dakotacom.net, Jenny jenny.reddick@yahoo.com, Jerry McKenna GMCKENNA001@hawaii.rr.com, kanesurf@gmail.com, Kathy golf8dy@aol.com, Kathy S. konakathy@yahoo.com, kauaihulahips@yahoo.com, Linda Muter lindamuter@gmail.com, Lynda G. lyndainkauai@hotmail.com, Mary Hotzman maryhotzman@yahoo.com, Mathea Allansmith matheaallansmith@gmail.com, momurphy@hawaiiantel.net, Nick C. Clarken2@mac.com, Rick L. experiencekauaiRE@gmail.com, Robin M robin@robinmccoyfinearts.com, steve.farrell@hawaiiantel.net

Hi-

At the January Assembly on Oahu the GSRs were asked to elicit the help of our group members to obtain historical information for our groups. As the GSR for Koloa Aloha (and a new resident of Kauai) I'm asking for your help in answering the attached questions about our group. Attached is a list of questions published by GSO and available on the AA website for researching the group history.

If you know any of this information and could take a few minutes to answer a few questions----it would be greatly appreciated. The deadline for your responses is April 1, 2015.

Thank you very much for your help with this project.
Ann W. (GSR Koloa Aloha)

for Koloa Aloha

- How often were meetings held and has that changed over the years? *About 1961 was once a week Tue 7:30, max number meetings for Koloa was 8/week - now just 2/week. Rather big blow up ~ 1990 & about 2009*
- What meeting formats have been used - closed, open, discussion, etc. *always open & share, discussion*
- Describe the group's growing pains or controversies. *now just 2/week. Rather big blow up ~ 1990 & about 2009*
- How does the group celebrate group member's anniversaries of sobriety? *used to be 3.5 birthday wine & cake on Tuesday. That Tuesday left Koloa Aloha. RA still celebrates Birthdays & classes*
- How has the group celebrated the anniversary of its' founding? *OAS NOT*
- Describe how the group has cooperated with professional agencies (by signing court cards, supporting a meeting in an institutional setting, taking regular phone duty at the Intergroup or Central Office, etc.). *Signs court cards, is "incubator" for new meetings, has "raised" several DOM's & area OHILE's. very serious oriented*
- Has the group participated in special local or regional A.A. functions, such as conventions, conferences, round-ups, forums or workshops? *always participates in Kauai functions, strong treasury, send GSR to PRAAXI every other year*

For information on how to contact your local Central, Intergroup Office or Area, go to the How To Find An AA Meeting portal of www.aa.org. G.S.O.'s Archives Department can be contacted via their portal on the Website or by calling (212) 870-3400.