

## Call for Articles

The Serenity Gazette is your newsletter. Please feel free to share.

If you would like to share a story with us, please keep in mind that we need to receive it at least 10 days prior to publication. Publication is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. The Serenity Gazette welcomes articles on every aspect of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous.

**We especially need stories for upcoming themes. The following were taken directly from the Grapevine. Write on these topics or any others you wish:**

**January** – Resolutions, Starting over

**February** – Love of any kind, Dating in Sobriety

**March** - Friendly with Our Friends: Working with medical and legal professionals

**April** - Touchstones of Spiritual Growth: What kind of growth and changes have you noticed? What sparked the change?

**May** - Do you have a story of periodic drinking? Share it with us.

**June** - Anonymity and the New Media.

**July** –

**August** - Sponsorship: How has sponsoring another member enriched your sobriety? Tell us how you practice the principles as a sponsor.

**September** –

**October** –

**November** –

**December** –

We are always glad to get stories about any topic having to do with staying sober and helping others. In addition, we always welcome articles about the Traditions and the Twelve Steps.

Suggested length is anywhere from one sentence to one page, typewritten. Include your name, phone number and e-mail address. Please keep a copy of your work because manuscripts cannot be returned. Refer to our Submission Guidelines for more information.

Email the article to [info@aamaui.org](mailto:info@aamaui.org)

## Serenity Gazette Publication Policies

### **Purpose:**

- The Serenity Gazette is the newsletter of Alcoholics Anonymous in Maui County, linking one alcoholic to another and linking the groups and districts to each other.
- To communicate the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflect an island-wide spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service.
- Reflect the awareness that every AA member has an individual way of working the program and be a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of A.A.s around the island.
- Be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous in Maui County and be primarily accountable to Maui Intergroup as a whole.
- Within the bounds of the Traditions, friendliness and good taste, the Serenity Gazette will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous.
- There will be but one central purpose: To carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs.

## **Submit your work:**

### Editorial Policy

The Serenity Gazette publishes articles that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining the editorial content, the editor relies on the principles of the Twelve Traditions. In accord with the Twelfth Tradition, articles may be published anonymously but please include your name and phone number where you can be contacted in case there is a question regarding your submission.

The heart of the Serenity Gazette is in the shared experience of individual AA members working the AA program and applying the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps. Yet, what works for one individual or AA group may not always work for another. For this reason, from month to month, articles may be published that appear to contradict one another. Seeking neither to gloss over difficult issues, nor to present such issues in a harmful or contentious manner, the Serenity Gazette tries to embody the widest possible view of the AA Fellowship. While some editing is done for purposes of clarity, styling, and length, all writers are encouraged to express their own experience in their own unique way.

Articles are selected by the editor, with or without advice from the reviewers or others; then the Serenity Gazette is reviewed by a number of independent A.A. members from Maui County prior to printing. The reviewers give their feedback to the editor and the editor makes the final decision on what to print. The editor is the Central Office manager. Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article constitute endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or the Serenity Gazette. Articles are invited, although no payment can be made nor can material be returned.

## **Contributing to the Serenity Gazette**

### **Submitting Articles, Letters, and Humor**

E-mail submissions to [info@aamaui.org](mailto:info@aamaui.org); or mail to The Serenity Gazette, P.O. Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793

If your work is fairly short, the simplest way to submit it is within the body of your e-mail. However, if you wish to attach a file to your e-mail, please save the document in Word or simple text. Please include your email or postal address so we can respond to you.

### **Check for copyright violations.**

Writing Articles: Before writing, you might want to leaf through a few issues to see what kinds of articles are published. Most are first-person accounts of the writer's experience with alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. The Gazette publishes stories and articles about the Steps and Traditions, jokes, and letters to the editor but you are not confined to these topics. The Gazette is always looking for innovative material, as long as it relates to AA experience and reflects an awareness of AA's singleness of purpose.

**Length and format:** The Serenity Gazette publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to full page articles (or longer).

Submissions sent by e-mail should be submitted in the body of the message or as attached files, saved in "Word," "Simple text," or "Rich text." Handwritten manuscripts should be written clearly on one side of the paper.

**A word about timing:** The process of article selection for any issue begins about three weeks before the issue is due to be sent to printing, and about two weeks before the cover date. Take the December issue as an example: Articles are selected by the end of November and the issue is printed in time to be distributed to Intergroup Representatives at the monthly Intergroup meeting on the second Saturday of December. As a result, a Christmas article mailed to the Grapevine in December could arrive after the December issue is already printed. (It might, however, be saved for the following December.)

**What the Serenity Gazette does not publish:** SG does not publish poems, prayers, song lyrics, tributes to individuals, plays, anything unrelated to AA nor anything that violates the principles of AA.

**Submitting Photographs, Illustrations, and Cartoons**

Photographs may not print well in our format. Line and original cartoons, never published elsewhere, are also welcome. Each piece of artwork should be clearly marked with the contributor's name and address.

**Format:** The Serenity Gazette accepts original black and white or color photographs and art in any size. Art sent via e-mail must be in a JPEG or GIF format, no larger than 90K.

Submissions may be e-mailed to [info@aamaui.org](mailto:info@aamaui.org); or mailed to The Serenity Gazette, P.O. Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793

**We shall always strive to:**

Conform to AA Principles and Traditions

Err on the side of caution.

Never use last names.

Never be drawn into public controversy.

Include the minutes from Intergroup's monthly meeting.

Double-check all info.

Spell check the entire document.

**THE TWELVE TRADITIONS**

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.