

## **TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 26, 2014**

### ***Chair's Introduction*** (Matt B., Acting Chair)

Matt joined UA 2 ½ years ago, after his wife went to a UA Share-a-Day. At first Matt didn't want any part of UA, but, after reading the symptoms, he decided that he had to join. Matt acknowledged the mentorship of John V., who Matt called "the Street Professor".

Matt congratulated the attendees of the WSC as officially "making it out of the cave". While the phone meetings are a testament to the power of recovery consciousness, it is in the in person meeting with other people that 90% of our "stuff" falls away. Our disease says "I am separate", but it is relationship that leads to the sustainability of prosperity. Matt noted that it is possible for an AA member to be 30 years sober, yet still not talk to anyone and live in their car. However, this is not possible in our program.

We then introduced ourselves, stating our names and where we came from (We also shared other things about ourselves which are not noted here). We introduced ourselves as

- Mike M. from New York City
- Ed W. from New York City
- Bella A. from London and Seattle
- Bill W. from Fresno, CA
- Sondra from CA
- Karen B from Los Angeles
- Matt B from Los Angeles
- Mindy from Altadena
- Dorrie from Palm Desert, CA
- Denise from San Francisco
- Susan H from Newport Beach CA
- Elena from Israel
- Danny from LA
- Peggy Q from Boulder CA
- Julie B from the Bronx (New York City)
- Susan from New York City
- Farrah from Beverly Hills

Matt resumed his introduction by pointing to a whiteboard filled with dots. He likened each of these dots to the various 12 Step Programs, noting that UA is not in any way unique. In particular, Matt noted that the recent problems with our treasurer's misappropriation of funds is not at all unusual in 12 Step Programs. Nevertheless, we must "call a spade a spade," and accept the fact that it was indeed a misappropriation of funds. To put it baldly, Andrew did steal

money, lied about it, and then justified his action. But why is this a surprise? This happens regularly, because *this is what we do*.

Matt continued by noting that “we can do anything as long as we accept the consequences. The problem is that the consequences are unknown.”

Andrew told the GSB officers and a few committee chairs about his indiscretion on a Sunday morning phone call. Matt said that he reported what happened on the Sunday evening meeting that he represented. A common sentiment among the UA members at that meeting was that “he did not steal; you shouldn’t say that.” And, of course, people were scared.

Nevertheless, *this is what we do*. And it is classic underearning. Andrew was 6 weeks away from coming to the WSC and a magnificent “swan song”. Over \$600? If he was going to do something like this, why not do it big? Why not thousands?

Matt diagnosed the process of how we go from judgment to insanity as follows:

- We judge others, leading to isolating ourselves from them and separating ourselves from them.
- In our separation, we become afraid
- Our fear leads us to make insane decisions.

When we do such things, we come out of the cave all right, but we are out with a big stick.

As for the Traditions, the real question is “What is the spirit of the Traditions?” The 12 & 12 emphasizes that they are but humble suggestions.

Violation is a criminal act. Breaching Traditions isn’t. So, clearly, “violation of Traditions” is a misnomer, and, in fact, that statement is inconsistent with the spirit of the Traditions, which is that they are, again, but humble suggestions. These were the sentiments of that Sunday morning meeting with Andrew. Yet on Sunday evening, at the GSB meeting, Tamyah made a motion that called for Andrew’s immediate removal as treasurer in a spirit of harsh judgment. There were several reactions to Tamyah’s motion, ranging from “good for her” to the feeling that the chair should not make motions to a feeling that this was a personality conflict between Tamyah and Andrew.

After Tamyah resigned, things got quiet, appropriately in Matt’s opinion. As a Fellowship, we were able to tolerate the discomfort of waiting until the WSC to decide what to do next. We realized that the latest round was just the stuff that overshadowed the stuff that overshadowed the stuff that ...

Going forward, we need to

- Provide a safe place for someone to turn to, if and when they so choose

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- Offer compassionate accountability
- Make consciousness accessible

The lesson from all of this is that we “need to respect the dignity of the disease”, realizing that with a service title comes the risk of “big shot-ism”, that “it’s not the title, it’s the work”, that we need to love “the house of UA”.

Not only is it the case that our personal recovery depends on UA unity, as per Tradition One, but it is also the case that UA unity depends on our personal recovery. So, we have to ask whether we, individually, offer

- a safe place for someone to turn to, if and when they so choose
- compassionate accountability
- to accept the unknown consequences of our actions

Matt concluded with two quotes from the Big Book:

*If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We are not going to regret the past or shut the door to it. We will comprehend the word “serenity”, and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience will benefit others. The feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.*

--- pg. 83

*Our book is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.*

--- pg. 164

Matt then solicited comments from the membership:

Bill: “There but for the Grace of God go I”

Mindy: This is an opportunity for healing

Dorrie: Andrew was effectively a messenger that announced the disfunctionality of the organization. She had been in another fellowship where the treasurer took \$350,000 for their

personal use, saying only that “everybody should understand”. In fact, the UA GSB left the door open for something like the problem with Andrew to happen, since *nobody else wanted to be treasurer*. In fact, the current GSB owes an amend to the organization.

Elena: However Andrew’s trip was financed, the fact was that it “put UA Israel on the map”.

Karen B.: This is an opportunity for growth of the organization.

Farrah: It is not clear why UA unity requires personal recovery.

Mike M.: Yet again, we learn that, when someone’s time of service is over, it’s over. We need rotation of service.

### ***Farrah gave her history in Underearners’ Anonymous***

Her focus was on non-judgment, especially of herself. She taught herself to say, “It’s not my fault”. She also said that all of the evil in the world is buried somewhere inside of us; when we deny the evil in the world, we deny a part of ourselves.

### ***Bella spoke about her experience with as WSC Chair***

She told the story about how, when men took her out to dinner in her 20’s, her mom advised her not to sleep with men who didn’t tip the waiter. This was Bella’s introduction to the idea that the way we treat those who serve us says everything about us. Do we treat servants as slaves, taking their work for granted? Do we value each other, or are we “heavy” on each other.

When we are trusted, we feel empowered.

### ***What we hoped that the WSC would report on and consider***

Matt: Resolve questions regarding GSB officers, establishing purpose of GSB

Bella: Figuring out what will happen going forward with the WSC

Susan H.: GSR’s ?

Danny: What the literature committee did/didn’t do. He also noted that much of what is on our website is obsolete or needs to be revised.

Ed W.: The Service Structure Committees need to consider

1. What is the GSB? How do we define it (The nucleus of structure will show also what the GSB *isn’t*.)
  - Should there be a Traditions Keeper?
  - What is the mission statement for the GSB?
2. How should the GSB make decisions?

3. How/When must a GSB Officer, Committee Chair, Committee member, GSR resign from the GSB?
4. How does the GSB remove officers?

Bonus questions:

1. What are we going to do about an annual meeting next year? (phone meeting?)
2. How do we integrate the phone meetings into the WSC?

Mindy: The public information committee decided that they should ask for input from the fellowship about how to address the “attraction, not promotion” issue.

Mike M./Karen B.: The finance committee would like to present its

- Income statement
- Spending plan
- Process for approving expenditures

Julie B.: The tech committee has big plans for the website!

Peggy Q./Susan H.: The meetings committee has developed procedures for dealing with “pop-up” meetings (which have no regular moderators). They have also developed a system of moderator coordinators that help arrange coverage of the meetings that do have regular moderators, as well as training for the moderators.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Ea W., WSC Secretary*