

Pikes Peak Pint

The Pikes Peak Pint is a monthly AA-oriented newsletter that serves Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities.



Area Meeting Additions, Deletions, and Changes (all meetings are non-smoking)

To include new meetings, changes or cancellations, deliver or email them to our service office.

NEW: Above the Bar / Sat 5:00 pm / open, discussion / Community Partnership Resource Center (above Jackie's Bar, Venture Foods lot) Divide

CHANGE: We Are Not Saints / M thru F noon / closed, handicap / Front Range Alli Ch, 5210 Centennial Blvd (North of Garden of the Gods Road)

CHANGE: Above the Bar / Mon 7:00 pm / open, discussion / Community Partnership Resource Center (above Jackie's Bar, Venture Foods) Divide

CHANGE: Downtown Beginners / Thurs 6:00 pm / open / 7 E. Bijou, Room 25 (above Zeezo's)

CHANGE: Celebrating Diversity - Gay Friendly / Tues 7:00 pm / open, discussion, handicap / 1102 S. 21st Street

DELETE: Down on the Prarie / Wed 8:00 pm / discussion, Native American / First Church of God Universal, Behlen Road, Falcon

DELETE: Central Group / Sat, Sun noon / discussion / 2011 E. La Salle (Park Plaza Bldg, at La Salle and De Paul)

DELETE: Central Group / Sun, Thur, Fri 5:30 pm / Women's 12x12 Step Study / 2011 E. La Salle (Park Plaza Bldg, at La Salle and De Paul)



Letters to the Editor

Write to The Pint at pint@coloradospringsaa.org

This month: Calling all grumpy librarians and archivists...

Dear Pint,

I am the new Archives Chair. I'm requesting committee members to phone me to bring me up to speed about the progress of their various projects. Also, interested volunteers please call, especially those with library or archives experience. This phone invitation extends to qualified Grumpy Longtimers. See Committee section for phone info.

Curt N, Archives Chair

Email sobriety anniversaries, announcements, letters to editor and email subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint:

pint@coloradospringsaa.org

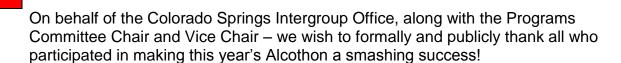
Or deliver to the local AA Service Office.

Local AA Service Office:

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209, Colorado Springs, CO 80905 Phone: 719-573-5020

Email: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

Website: <u>www.coloradospringsaa.org</u>



It is truly amazing how much assistance is needed when putting on such an event. And even more amazing was how willing our local AA members were to roll up their sleeves and get involved.

Thank you to all the groups and its members who took on committee positions. Thank you to the groups that participated in the 24-hour continuous meetings.

To all of you that cooked and served – wow, the food was excellent – both the dinner and the breakfast. Not only were both well attended but, the Programs Committee received many compliments, which of course, we pass along to you, along with warm smiles and much gratitude.

Before the event actually started, we all had an opportunity to see the auditorium void of people but fully decorated...it was quite impressive; Kudos to the many creative minds and busy hands that put it all together.

The music was G.R.E.A.T – and an extra special thanks to our DJ who doubled as our sound man. He was very generous in letting us use his equipment to amplify the speakers. Thank you so much!

And speaking of the speakers, we hope you had a chance to hear the three of them; they were all quite inspiring. Oddly one interwoven theme all three touched upon: "I ended up in Treatment. They took my money, kept me for 30 days then sent me to AA." Go figure!

This year's clean-up crews were quick and quite efficient. According to the Church Powers—to—be, "Alcoholics Anonymous did a most impressive job this year." The crews were on time, hard working and as usual, the last to leave. Perhaps clean-up is not the most glamorous but we had fun; a broom, a bucket and a bit of sweat, all wrapped up in fellowship – does it get much better?

Lastly, to all the AA and Al-Anon members, their families and everyone else who celebrated the New Year with us, Thank You to each of you.....andWishing you all the best in 2009.

Most sincerely; The Colorado Springs Intergroup Office, And the Programs Committee members





Intergroup Information and Contribution Addresses

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Call the Service Office for committee chair phone numbers.

Corrections: Greg N. - Chair

Bart B. - Vice Squad

corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

Public

Information: Chair and Vice Chair Open

pi@coloradospringsaa.org

CPC: Joey - Chair

Larry S. - Vice Chair

cpc@coloradospringsaa.org

Treatment: Nate G. - Chair

Casey C. - Vice

treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

Program: Doreen D. - Chair

Carrie - Vice Chair

programs@coloradospringsaa.org

Pint: Tom R. - Chair

Traci M. - Vice Chair

pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Volunteer: Sharon A. - Chair

Vice Chair open

volunteer@coloradospringsaa.org

Nightwatch: Thea S. - Chair

Melissa Vice Chair

nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Web Site: Sasha - Chair

Courtney B.. - Vice Chair

webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

WHERE to SEND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area Service Office:

Make checks payable to Area Service Office

(Cash OK, but do not mail). Include group name on check.

Send to:

Colorado Springs Area Service Office

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209.

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

GSO:

Make checks payable to General Fund. Include Group name and number on check.

Send to:

General Service Office Box 459 Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Area 10:

Make checks payable to Area 10.

Include group name, number, and District number on check.

Send to:

Area 10 Treasurer

12081 W. Alameda Pkwy. #418

Lakewood, CO 80228

Districts:

Make checks payable to DCM by name (not Dist. #). Include Group name, number and District number on check. (For District 27, write check to Area 10, District 27.)

Send to DCM or to Service Office.

District Email Rep

Kathy A. 7 dcm7@coloradospringsaa.org Albert T. 26 dcm26@coloradospringsaa.org Robert M. 27 dcm27@coloradospringsaa.org

Shari A. 28 dcm28@coloradospringsaa.org

Pink Can Contributions:

Make check or Money orders to Area 10 Corrections Committee.

Include Group Name and Number. Send to:

Pink Can Contributions

P.O. Box 1307

Englewood, CO 80150

Monthly Meetings

6:30 pm 1st Monday, Svc. Office The Board Corrections 9:00 am 2nd Saturday, Sacred Heart

Rm 6, 2021 W Pikes Peak Ave. 9:00 am, 2nd Saturday

CPC

4:00 pm 2nd Saturday, Pikes Perk, Treatment

Tejon St, downtown

Public Info. 6:45pm 1st Tuesday, Starbucks at Bijou & Tejon 1ntergroup 7:00 pm 2nd Tuesday,

Harbor House, 225 N. Weber St.

District Monthly Meetings

Red Cloud Serenity Club

8020 W. Highway 24, Cascade

Combined District Meeting

All districts (7, 26, 27 and 28) 7:30pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month

Group Contributions – Thank you!!

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Dec. '08
Apex	\$629.28	
Back to Basics	\$575.00	\$75.00
Basket Talk Q and A	\$0.00	
Beacon Light	\$400.00	\$100.00
Big Book Action	\$786.79	
Big Book Study UPH	\$200.00	
Black Forest	\$446.00	
Breath of Life	\$210.00	
Broadmoor	\$350.00	\$200.00
Brown Baggers	\$40.41	
Celebrating Diversity	\$0.00	
Central	\$0.00	
Clean Air Group	\$162.74	\$46.58
Clean Slate	\$1,489.79	•
Cripple Creek Natural High	\$75.00	\$75.00
Divide Meeting	\$0.00	·
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$480.00	
Down By The Creek	\$0.00	
Downtown Group	\$1,032.50	\$345.64
Drylander's Group	\$94.00	·
Easy Breathing Group	\$254.50	\$127.50
Easy Does It	\$0.00	·
Ellicott Group	\$250.00	\$50.00
End of the Road	\$100.00	•
Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Far North Group	\$0.00	
Fountain of Sobriety	\$20.00	
Foxhall Group	\$150.00	\$150.00
Freedom From Bondage	\$50.00	
Friday Night 12 x 12	\$37.00	\$7.00
Friday Night Live	\$25.50	-
Friday Women's Group	\$575.30	\$325.30
Gals of Woodland Park	\$0.00	
Gift of the Heart	\$0.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$450.00	\$300.00
H.O.W.	\$50.00	
Half Pint Group	\$240.00	
Happy Hour	\$666.11	\$355.90
Hilltop AA Meeting	\$0.00	
High Noon	\$154.50	\$15.00
Hugo Group	\$50.00	•
Into Action	\$365.50	
Keep it Simple	\$90.00	
<u> </u>	·	

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Dec. '08
Lake George Group	\$369.17	
Little Log Group	\$0.00	
Living Free	\$20.00	
M.A.G.	\$675.00	
Motherlode	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$454.92	\$13.92
New Women's	\$595.91	\$422.81
Northwesters	\$533.00	\$236.00
Outright Mental Defectives	\$51.42	\$51.42
Pass It On	\$0.00	
Pathfinders	\$31.00	\$16.00
Penrose Discussion	\$60.00	
Plug in the Jug	\$110.00	
Progress Not Perfection	\$160.81	\$29.00
Recovery in Action	\$0.00	
Rule #62	\$0.00	
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$354.00	
Security Eye Opener	\$47.00	\$47.00
Serenity Riders	\$699.55	
Serenity Sisters	\$235.05	\$49.05
Silver Key Seniors	\$125.00	\$25.00
Sisters Not Saints	\$250.10	
Solutions at Noon	\$773.45	
Steel Magnolias	\$340.00	\$90.00
Sunday Morning Speaker	\$354.00	\$204.00
Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$187.00	
Survivors Group	\$47.00	
Taking Steps	\$458.00	
Then and Now	\$15.29	
Thursday Mens	\$300.00	\$150.00
Thursday NoonWoodland Park	\$100.00	
Ute Pass Breakfast	\$63.00	
Veterans for AA	\$100.00	
Walk the Talk	\$3,010.25	\$610.25
Walking on Water	\$720.00	
We Are Not Saints	\$623.95	
Wed. Afternoon Ladies	\$0.00	
Wed. Westside Womens	\$110.60	\$110.60
Westside Eye Opener	\$662.20	
Womens Step Study-WP	\$15.00	
Woodland Park Beginners	\$30.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$178.00	\$28.00
Young People	\$875.00	\$419.00
Totals:	\$24,234.59	\$4,674.97
Total	\$24,234.59	

Thank you for your contributions. Support your group and support our service office!

7th Tradition

An extra dollar in the 7th Tradition basket just for your home group will help us meet our 2009-10 budget goals for Intergroup and the Area Service Office.

Intergroup Financial Reports
Financial reports are given to the Intergroup representatives at each monthly
Intergroup meeting.
They are available upon request at the Area Service Office.

MILESTONES in SOBRIETY February 2009

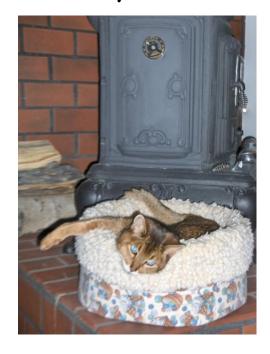
Join us in celebrating member milestones!

Big Bool	k Action	
Rodney U.	15	yrs
Larry S.	5	yrs
Elizabeth D.	3	yrs
Ned	3	yrs
Erin F.	1	yr
John S.	1	yr
Traci M.	1	yr
Нарру	Hour	
Mark L.	21	yrs
Susan L.	21	yrs
Rick D.	5	yrs
Lee F.	1	yr
New Woma	an's Group	
Karen M.	19	yrs
Caren L.	3	yrs
Erin K.	3	yrs
Melissa G.	1	yr
Donna U.	1	yr
Laurie S.	1	yr

	gnolias	
Kit K.	26	yrs
Janet R.	3	yrs
Taking	Steps	
Rodney U.	15	yrs
Larry S.	5	yrs
Elizabeth D.	3	yrs
Linda W.	1	У
Traci M.	1	У
	Didom	
Serenity	Riueis	
Serenity Dan J.	22	yrs
		15.10
Dan J.	22	yrs yrs
Dan J. Lyle H.	22 22	yrs
Dan J. Lyle H. Jesse F.	22 22 22	yrs yrs
Dan J. Lyle H. Jesse F. Alice D.	22 22 22 21	yrs
Dan J. Lyle H. Jesse F. Alice D. Bo	22 22 22 21 20	yr: yr: yr: yr:

Walk t	he Talk	
Sandy	13	yrs
Melissa	10	yrs
Dean C.	8	yrs
Doren	6	yrs
Ron S.	5	yrs
Ross S.	5	yrs
Bobby M.	4	yrs
Shauna	3	yrs
Debra	2	yrs
Jodi	2	yrs
Joe S.	1	yı
Lee F.	1	yı
Nik	1	yı
1,5,370,000	lt On	
Bob Mc	30	yrs
Broadmo	oor Group	
Kit K.	26	yrs
Pass	lt On	
Curt N.	45	yrs

Additional Important Birthday:



My cat Paddy will be 20 years old on Valentine's Day. He loves to relax by the wood stove.



Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

An Indescribable Benevolence

Step Two can reveal our true colors

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." What does this Step mean to me, a woman with just nine months of sobriety in AA behind her? What was my process of "coming to believe," and in what way do I feel I am being "restored"?

At first I had to take this Step on faith alone. I knew I believed; but I did not begin to understand. Why would God bother with someone who had misused her energies, squandered opportunities, bruised the hearts of loved ones and ridden alcohol like a runaway horse to the gates of insanity and the brink of death?

Slowly I began to realize that "why" was the wrong question. One day when I was about three months sober, a quiet gentleman spoke up at my noon meeting and delivered a message which seemed to have my name written all over it. He said that we need only ask ourselves "how"--and that this question could be answered by three simple words: "honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness."

I was desperate enough to try anything--even follow directions. I began to share at meetings as honestly as I was able. The pain and ugliness that poured forth from those dark recesses within appalled me: but to my amazement, no one judged. My worst confessions were received with tenderness and even a certain reassuring humor. I began to see that all of us had suffered in many different ways, and that I was hardly unique in experiencing that terrible sense of being "in disgrace."

But wasn't "dis-grace" the opposite of God's grace, God's blessing, God's love? As I strove to keep an open mind, or at least to prevent the door from completely slamming shut, more things were revealed to me. My own active role in forsaking God became all too apparent. It seemed that I had "disgraced" myself, not so much through the recklessly hurtful actions I committed in my drunkenness, but in closing myself off from the infinite, mysterious How of divine love.

In opening my mind to new ways of loving and being (and sometimes, in my willingness, I could only manage the merest crack), I felt the gentle infusion of an indescribable benevolence. It was as if, in spite of myself, unconditional love insisted on streaming in through that crack in the door and filling the aching void, the God-shaped space in my heart. I felt his love in the embraces of fellow AA members, I witnessed his grace in the serenity shining from their eyes, and in the rollicking laughter which sometimes threatens to lift the roof at my home group meetings; I heard the music of recovery.

Willingness was simply given to me. I began to feel that my feet were keeping me sober; they unfailingly took me to a meeting even when the rest of me screamed in protest. As this willingness was planted in me and slowly, haltingly grew, I began to feel the subtle dawning of an amazing inner light: a sense that I was being restored.

How could God do this? Had I ever really been sane--and if I hadn't, where was the model for this restoration? Surely he had nothing to go on, no plan to follow. I began to doubt again, to wonder whether I even had enough inherent worthiness to warrant this miraculous process.

Then I began to realize, through other people's loving messages, that no one is entirely self-made. A woman in my Step group expressed it this way: "Who we are is God's gift to us. Who we become is our gift to God." It began to dawn on me that recovery is something like the restoration of a very old painting, covered over by layers and layers of darkening, distorted varnish. This process of restoration is so precious in God's eyes and is undertaken with such infinite care that not all of the underlying pattern can be revealed at one time. What is uncovered, bit by bit and layer by slow, careful layer, are the things Peikes Peak Pint

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which are necessary and appropriate for me to know about myself right now.

Moreover, no painting paints itself; we are masterworks, all lovingly created by God's hands. Whether our colors are vivid or subtle, whether the design is boldly abstract or serenely pastoral is not our choice. Ours is only to accept this work of art as given--to strive to reveal our true colors and the beauty of our true design in everything we say and think and do.

I do not begin to understand the miracle of this restoration in my own life. I only know that it is happening, and that it is not a mistake. A sense of my own worthiness is restored only very slowly; it is as if God knows I must be responsible for past damage and be more careful in the future if I am able to feel truly worthy. Though God loves me unconditionally, I will have to live my own faith, cherish each day of my recovery, and practice unconditional love to the best of my limited ability before I can wholeheartedly love myself.

The process is slow and often painful, and sometimes I feel I have barely begun. But when frustration or impatience overtake me, or when ego threatens to override all the progress I have made, I try to remember that God is the master painter--the spirit which inspired the works of Michelangelo, Renoir, and Van Gogh--the loving force which is even at this moment restoring the damaged painting of my life to its original luster and irreplaceable design.

Who better to carry out this loving and painstaking restoration than the master himself?

Margaret G. Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

August, 1992



UPCOMING ELECTIONS in MARCH

ELECTIONS for INTERGROUP OFFICERS will be held at the INTERGROUP MEETING, March 10, 2009. All of the positions listed below will be voted on. <u>CANDIDATES MUST BE PRESENT</u>. It is recommended that those who stand have a minimum of two years continuous sobriety. Term of office is one year, April 1 through March 31.

NOMINATION FOR INTERGROUP BOARD MEMBERS

(please submit by March 10, 2009)

I hereby nominate _____ for the trusted servant position of: (Circle one) Chairperson One year term Vice-Chairperson One year term (two year commitment) First year as Vice-Chair, then rotates into position of Chairperson. Secretary One year term Vice-Treasurer One year term (two year commitment) First year as Vice-Treasurer, then rotates into position of Treasurer. Registrar One year term Member at Large One year term



We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.

A Powerful Urge

The second promise of the twelve Promises tells us, "We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it." The memory of the last time I wanted a drink helps me remember the insanity of my drinking.

I was lying in a hospital bed in Superior, Wisconsin in July 1974, watching the lights from the tavern across the street flash on the ceiling in the dark. I said to myself, "There wouldn't be anything wrong with going to have a drink. After all, I haven't had a drink in three or four days." The fact was that I had just had a semi-gastrectomy that removed half of what remained of my stomach after my first semi-gastrectomy, done years before. Big ulcers caused by sipping whiskey and beer had damaged my stomach so badly that my life depended on the surgeon removing the damage.

I surveyed the situation and decided if I were going to the bar, I'd have to get rid of the tubes that were confining me. Removing the oxygen mask was no problem. I also removed the nasal-gastric tube that was sucking any acid out of my stomach so it could heal. The catheter was a problem but I managed to pull it out. I disconnected the drainage tubes to my mid-section. I leaned over and grabbed the standard for the IV and the blood transfusion and realized I was afraid of needles, so I decided I could take the standard with me. I had to put on a jacket because I didn't want to go to the bar in my hospital-issue gown with the back open. Besides the draft, I didn't want to be embarrassed by the people in the bar. I found out that the bottles containing the IV solution and the blood wouldn't fit through the sleeves. That was when I turned around and made my way to the bed.

The next day I visited with the doctor who'd done the surgery. He told me if I ever decided I wanted a drink again I should call him and he'd come to wherever I was and he'd buy the first drink for me. He also told me that I would never get the whole drink down. He just wanted to time how long it would take me to die.

I've never seen the doctor again, but I've called him many times to thank him and let him know I'm still sober. I've also thanked my wife because she and the doctor made sure I went through treatment before I left the hospital. I haven't felt the need to take a drink since that time. That was twenty-three years ago. The Fellowship of AA and the people close to me have helped me not to use any chemicals. I continue to remember how it was and where I was, and I know I don't want to go back.

Lee H. Great Bend, Kansas

Febrary, 1998

We will not regret the past



Nor wish to close the door on it.



Love

I try to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits.

When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.

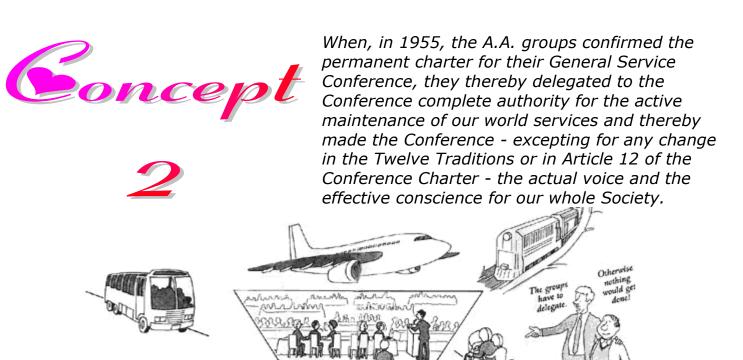
Reprinted from As Bill Sees It, Page 37, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.



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.

- 1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- 2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
- 3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- 4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscienceand work cheerfully along with it?
- 5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- 6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?





Excerpts from AA Grapevine Archives and 12 Steps / 12 Traditions / Checklists Concept Graphic from Southbay AA .org website





All Is Right With the World

I count my sobriety from January 13, 1992. I stopped drinking in November 1983, but continued to use other substances until that date. I believe my alcoholism convinced me that other substances were okay to use. Since my "return" to AA, I have, by the grace of God, wanted with all my heart the "full meal deal" offered by AA.

I have received many gifts from the AA program, but the greatest to date is the gift of listening to others share their experience, strength, and hope. I have also been privileged to hear several Fifth Steps, and this is a profound way to enjoy the grace of God in our life-giving program.

When I came back into AA, after an eight year absence, my area--Bow Valley, which consists of Canmore, Exshaw, Banff, and Lake Louise--had only four meetings a week. Now, we are blessed with eleven meetings a week, including three noon meetings, hosted by the Canmore Noon Oasis Group. I am proud to be one of the founding members of this group; we have a Step/Tradition meeting, Eleventh Step meeting, and a Grapevine meeting weekly. Everyone mentions how they love the depth of sharing we have, and we are all grateful. In Bow Valley, the number of members is growing, but we see the same faces at nearly all the meetings we go to in any of the places. We are privileged to get to know each other well, and are able to keep in touch regularly. As an intergroup function, we'll be hosting our fourth Annual Bow Valley Roundup in August, and also have volunteers for the Banff Roundup from our groups.

I sponsor several women and have my own sponsor. It was quite by accident that I heard my first Fifth Step, and have been asked to hear several more since. I am grateful that these women have trusted me enough to share this all-important Step with me, and I am a better person because of it.

I was recently sent by my group to the Regional Forum in Richmond, B.C. and got to meet and speak with delegates from the Western Canada region, trustees, directors and staff members from GSO and the Grapevine. This has really made GSO and the Conference more real to me.

Today is Easter Sunday, and as I write this I can see the panorama of the Rocky Mountains outside my window. The sun is shining and, because of our Fellowship, I feel that all is right with the world. I remember many Easter Sundays when all I could think about was whether there was enough booze for the rest of the day. My, how I have changed! The mountains are constant; they bear God's signature and stand as sentinels ever-reminding me that I am truly a beloved child of God. And, because of him and the Twelve Steps of AA, I am happy, joyous, and free.

Jacqueline R. Canmore, Alberta

January, 2009