

# Table of Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Dedication.....   | i   |
| Acknowledgements.....   | i   |
| Foreword.....   | ii  |
| Introduction.....   | 1   |
| I. In The Rooms.....  | 4   |
| The "Don't Tell" Policy in AA.....                              | 4   |
| Six Shades of Nonbelievers.....                                 | 7   |
| Perry Street Workshop.....                                      | 12  |
| My Name is Marnin.....  | 17  |
| Faye's Story.....   | 22  |
| And When We Were Wrong.....                                     | 25  |
| My Path in AA.....  | 29  |
| God and Diet Pills.....   | 35  |
| My Last Binge.....  | 38  |
| First AA Meetings.....  | 42  |
| The Bird in Your Hands.....                                     | 47  |
| II. 12 Steps.....   | 52  |
| An Atheists Guide to 12 Step Recovery.....                      | 52  |
| Personalizing the 12 Steps.....                                 | 57  |
| You Cannot NOT Interpret the Steps!.....                        | 62  |
| The Silver Tongued Devil and I.....                             | 67  |
| A Higher Purpose.....   | 70  |
| A Higher Power of My Understanding.....                         | 73  |
| The Program.....  | 77  |
| III. Book Reviews.....  | 79  |
| A History of Agnostic Groups in AA.....                         | 79  |
| The Little Book.....  | 81  |
| Beyond Belief: Agnostic Musings for 12 Step Life.....           | 85  |
| Mindfulness and the 12 Steps.....                               | 87  |
| A Woman's Way Through the Twelve Steps.....                     | 90  |
| The Varieties of Recovery Experience.....                       | 94  |
| The Alternative 12 Steps: A Secular Guide to Recovery.....      | 97  |
| IV. Founders of We Agnostics in 1980 (Hollywood).....           | 102 |
| Megan D.....  | 102 |
| Father of We Agnostics Dies.....                                | 105 |
| V. Lord's Prayer.....   | 109 |
| A Proposal to Eliminate the Lord's Prayer from AA Meetings..... | 109 |
| The Lord's Prayer and the Law.....                              | 112 |
| The Courts, AA and Religion.....                                | 121 |
| Separation of Church and AA.....                                | 125 |
| Tackling the Lord's Prayer at the Grassroots Level.....         | 128 |
| Our Father Who Art Not in Public Schools.....                   | 131 |
| Prayer at Meetings: A Word View.....                            | 134 |
| VI. Many Paths to Recovery.....                                 | 139 |
| My 10 Favourite Recovery Websites.....                          | 139 |
| Culture and Addiction.....                                      | 143 |
| LifeRing.....   | 147 |
| Faces and Voices of Recovery.....                               | 152 |
| A Buddhist's Views on AA.....                                   | 155 |
| All Paths to Recovery are Cause for Celebration.....            | 162 |
| VII. Early History.....   | 169 |
| AA Started in Riots.....  | 169 |
| AA in the 1930s: God As We Understood Him.....                  | 174 |
| Washingtonian Forebears of Alcoholics Anonymous.....            | 178 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Jim Burwell.....   | 185        |
| Marty Mann and the Early Women of AA.....                    | 189        |
| Responsibility Is Our Theme.....                             | 196        |
| <b>VIII. An AA Pamphlet For Agnostics and Atheists.....</b>  | <b>199</b> |
| The General Service Conference Stumbles.....                 | 199        |
| An AA Pamphlet for Agnostics – The 1970s.....                | 204        |
| An AA Pamphlet for Agnostics – The 1980s.....                | 208        |
| Conference-Approved Literature.....                          | 211        |
| <b>IX. Controversy In The New Millenium.....</b>             | <b>215</b> |
| Indy We Agnostics Re-Listed.....                             | 215        |
| Let the Wood Burn.....                                       | 217        |
| Is Listability the New AA?.....                              | 219        |
| Booting the Bastards Out.....                                | 225        |
| One Alcoholic Judging Another.....                           | 233        |
| Yet Another Intergroup Fight.....                            | 235        |
| Never Fear Needed Change.....                                | 242        |
| <b>X. Moving Forward.....</b>                                | <b>246</b> |
| Making a Case For Atheist/Agnostic Groups in AA.....         | 246        |
| The Only Requirement Group.....                              | 253        |
| Two New Agnostic Meetings.....                               | 256        |
| Heathens, Spies, Websites, Water-boarding & Carrot Cake..... | 261        |
| Two Years Old!.....  | 264        |
| An AA Convention for We Agnostics.....                       | 267        |
| We Are Not Saints.....                                       | 273        |
| <b>Conclusion.....</b>                                       | <b>276</b> |
| <b>AA Agnostica.....</b>                                     | <b>281</b> |