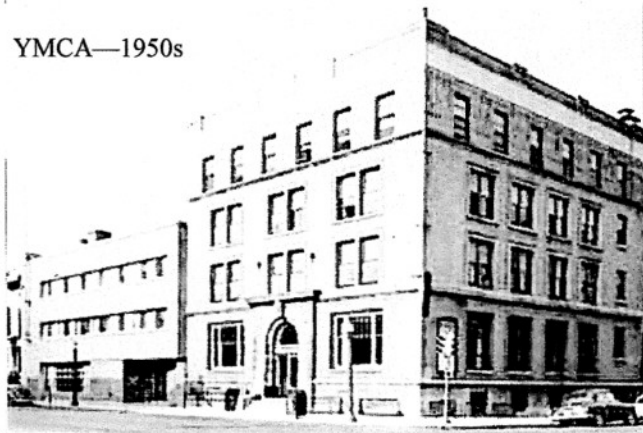


AZ-U-R Group (1973 to Present)

YMCA—1950s



Friction at the *Chester Hts. Group* prompted Maxine Adams, John Pruessner and Wyoma Willoughby to brew their Friday night coffee at different quarters. For a short while in 1973, they met at a Quaker Meeting House at 15th & Main Street, but shortly thereafter they transferred their new meeting to the recreation room in the YMCA building at 8th & North A Street. It was tagged the *AZ-U-R Group*, which, of course, means to come as you are. Often, inebriates from the 'Café 39' bar across the street would do just that!

So, on Friday evenings you would likely see, in addition to those mentioned above, Cecil P., Bob S., "Cowboy Jim," Arnold S., Art B., Keith Dorsey and others discussing AA among the ping pong tables, chess boards and the like. There was also an Al-Anon meeting in an adjacent room. The 'Y' was a Godsend for the Richmond AA community; they performed our answering service absolute free of charge, as well as providing a safe place to loaf during the day removed from alcoholic temptation. But the group moved to the newly opened 228 Club in early 1981.

This became a large and very social group during the eighties, sporting an 'eating meeting' the last Friday of the month. But by the late nineties the regulars slowly faded away and the attendance became mostly treatment center residents. It has now changed from a regular discussion meeting to a beginners style meeting.

Men's Chauvinist Pig Group (Early Eighties)

This short lived Monday evening group had no name at first, but because they commandeered the much larger downstairs room, leaving only the small upstairs room for the women's meeting, someone tagged it as the *Men's Chauvinist Pig Group*. This rather gruff group was attended regularly by Joe L., and army reserve sergeant named John, Bob S. and Cecil P. among several others. This small group lasted probably less than a year and the ladies came down-



The room on the left was meant to be a 'spiritual room.' It was until the TV appeared. Then it lost its spirit.

The room on the right was where the chauvinist pigs met.

The 228 Club started in late 1980.

