

April 2023

Volume 18 Issue 4



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello!

My name is Jeanine M., your new **COIN** Editor. I live in Willow Glen and have been a member of the Santa Clara A.A. community since 2019. My Sponsor suggested I take on this position! She knows I have a love of words, writing and connecting with others in recovery.



I welcome you to **The COIN**: the Santa Clara Intergroup monthly Newsletter. I hope you find **The COIN** to be a valuable resource where every month you can easily locate events, meetings, volunteer opportunities and feel inspired by our recovery community. Thank you to the wonderful folks at our

Santa Clara Central Office for their support and input. My wish is that **The COIN** connects you to our Santa Clara Intergroup resources and encourages you to share how sobriety has made a profound difference in your life.

*I would like to extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to Geena-Louise, Editor of **The COIN** for the past two and a half years. Geena-Louise has done a tremendous job keeping us connected with her writing, creativity, and is a model for commitment to service.*

April: Fourth Step and Fourth Tradition

Fourth Step: "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves".

Fourth Tradition: “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”.

Quote for Reflection: *“Courage starts with showing up and letting ourselves be seen.” Brene’ Brown*



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MEMBER’S CORNER

You can help make our newsletter fresh, fun and interesting! I invite you to share a personal story, your art, a poem, a song, tell us about a challenge you overcame, a great meeting you went to – something that brings inspiration to your recovery.

You can find more information on writing for **The COIN** here:

<https://aasanjose.org/coin>

Celebrating Legacy and Resilience submitted by Gloria V.

The *Spiritual Progress Group (SPG)*, one of the oldest A.A. groups in Santa Clara County, continues to thrive today despite decades of challenges.

In 1958, The ‘Los Gatos Breakfast Group’ first met at the ‘Live Oak Inn’ on Los Gatos-Almaden Road and Union Avenue for over seven years. In 1965, the group moved to the Moose Lodge located in the Campbell/ Los Gatos Area when the name was changed to ‘*The Spiritual Progress Group*’ (SPG).



In 1968, *The Spiritual Progress Group* moved to the 'Red Cross' building on Highway 9 in Monte Sereno where the *Spiritual Progress Group's* four Sunday meetings thrived.

Unfortunately, The Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 forced the *SPG's* stay at the Red Cross building to come to an abrupt end. The building was used as a staging area for the Red Cross as relief operations were located there to help those devastated by the earthquake.

A short time later, as the area was putting itself back together, The Town of Los Gatos made arrangements to have the *SPG's* meetings at the Los Gatos Neighborhood Center (as it was known at the time). The Town of Los Gatos was sympathetic to the group's homeless status and tried to accommodate them. As time went by, the attendance increased, and the group experience significant growth by adding multiple meetings at the Neighborhood Center location. The *SPG* didn't miss a beat for the next 20 years or so. The City of Los Gatos proved to be a fine landlord most of the time. However in 2003/04 the Los Gatos City Manager saw fit to raise the rent to an amount well beyond the Groups means. Negotiations failed and the group had to move.

The group was not down and out for very long though. The Masonic Hall across the street agreed to take the group in. The Masonic proved to be popular for the *SPG* meetings and with numerous other recovery group events.

However, in the fall of 2014 'The Masonic Hall' gave the group notice of its intent to close for remodeling. The group's goal at that time was to find temporary accommodations until the work was completed at the Masonic.

As luck would have it, Los Gatos Recreation Center agreed to take the group in while work was in progress across the street from the Masonic. However, the work at the Masonic Hall dragged on much longer than anticipated, and it was not clear if the group was to be invited back. Meanwhile *SPG* established new terms with the City for an extended stay. The group enjoyed its new relationship with the Los Gatos Recreation Center.

In March 2020 the group held its last meeting at the LG Recreation Center when the County went into a Shelter in Place mandate and moved to online format.

In August of 2021 negotiations began with the LG Recreation Center and Masonic Hall for meeting space as the COVID restrictions were being lifted. Leases were negotiated with both facilities and live meetings went back to Masonic, LG Recreation Center and St. Lukes.

On March 2, 2023 we added a weekly *Women's Step Study* meeting held Thursdays, at noon at the Masonic and we are currently settling in for what is hopefully a long time at 131 E. Main Street. Meetings at Masonic meet Sunday 7:30am and 9:15am and Thursday 12 noon.

Live meetings are also back at 208 E Main St. for 9:30am Sunday and St. Luke's for 12noon Thursday.

After COVID, in-person meetings dropped from 579 in March of 2020 to 279 in 2022. We are so happy to continue to bring LIVE – IN PERSON meetings to Santa Clara County and to continue our 65 year legacy of service to the community!



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Carry the message to Hospitals and Institutions? Be an Intergroup Rep? Provide Sign Language at a meeting? There is a service opportunity that will match your interest here in Santa Clara. For detailed Service information:

<https://aasanjose.org/service>

Service Spotlight – Diverter Position



Diverter Volunteer Workshop!

Call with questions or if interested "Peter C." Tel: 650-669-1578
(also available for one-on-one training throughout the month)

If you are interested in becoming a "Diverter Volunteer" please join us at the upcoming Workshop...

Date: Every Third Saturday

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Intergroup Central Office
274 E. Hamilton Ave, Suite D
Campbell, CA 95008

♦ Sobriety requirement is One Year and a good understanding of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Santa Clara County Intergroup has 3 service committees dedicated to responding to the alcoholic still suffering. **The Diverter**, our phone hotline, The Web Hotline, answering chat requests from www.AAsanjose.org, and the 12 Step Committee introduces the newcomer to AA one on one.

All of these service positions require a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions. We can especially use anyone with multiple language skills. Diverter shifts are once a month for an average time of 3-4 hours. You can take your shift wherever you happen to be: at home, on a Zoom meeting, at dinner, or out of town. The service term is at least 1 year, but many serve longer. The Diverter sobriety requirement is 1 year.



April 2023

The February Chili Cook off was an enormous success with over 500 attendees!

Bravo to our winners: First Place - *A Sufficient Substitute*, Second place - *A Vision for You*, and Third place - *Gilroy Groups*!

For more information about upcoming events:

<https://aasanjose.org/events>

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP 2023 PRESENTS
15th Annual

Chili Cook-off

DATE & TIME: Saturday, February 25th 11:00 - 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Lincoln Glenn Church 2700 Booksin Ave San Jose, CA

CONTESTANTS:
BRING THE HEAT!
TROPHY Winners & **BRAGGING** Rights! For the **Best Homegroup Chili Teams** (1st, 2nd, 3rd Place)

ATTENDEES:
YOU BE THE JUDGE!

- Doors open at 11 AM
- Suggested donation \$10.
- Sample & vote for your favorite chili
- Enjoy cornbread, dessert, coffee
- Get to know your fellowship
- Fantastic AA speaker meeting

Register TODAY!!!!
Space is limited to the first twenty groups that register
Each group will receive \$75 for supplies

To register a chili team or volunteer contact: Gary M. or Central Office (408)889-1001
SIGNUP TODAY!



Why not try something new?

Attending the monthly Intergroup Meeting is a great way to get to know other members and to learn how Intergroup supports our Santa Clara A.A. community.

All are welcome!

The next Santa Clara Intergroup Meeting is: April 5th, 7:30 to 9:00 Trinity Presbyterian Church 3151 Union Ave. San Jose, CA

You can find Intergroup Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports here:

<https://aasanjose.org/central-office-financials-and-intergroup-minutes>



BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 2023 Birthday Contributions

Birthday Celebrant	Years	Contributor	Birthday
Wayne S.	42	John S.	03/06/1980
Mary Pat	40	Mary Pat	03/11/1983
Rose	10	Mary Pat	03/10/2013
Joe B.	40	Mary Pat	03/11/1983
Linda N.	34	Mary Pat	03/18/1989

CONGRATULATIONS ON 166 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!!!!

Are you or a friend celebrating a sobriety or milestone birthday? Contributions to the Central Office are a valued way to honor a birthday and can be made in person or online at - <https://aasanjose.org/celebrating-birthdays>



SANTA CLARA CENTRAL OFFICE RESOURCES

The Santa Clara Intergroup Central Office is the local service office that supports the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous in Santa Clara County, serving communities from Palo Alto to Gilroy.

Executive Director: Central Office Lead: Jody W.





Our Santa Clara Central Office offers a bounty of support resources including books, literature, videos, and coins. Their website provides detailed information on Meetings, Events, Financials/Meeting Minutes and Intergroup updates. You can find them at: <https://aasanjose.org>

For the love of our Primary Purpose, please encourage other A.A. members to subscribe to **The COIN**. Drop our subscription in the chat at your meetings and please tell your members to subscribe to stay in the know on what's happening with Santa Clara A.A. <https://aasanjose.org/coin>



The COIN is published on behalf of the Santa Clara County Intergroup Service Group of Alcohol Anonymous (Intergroup). Opinions expressed are the writer's and publication of any article, event, or other information does not imply endorsement of Alcohol Anonymous, Intergroup or the Central Office. Quotations from A.A. books, pamphlets, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

The COIN is the Central Office Intergroup Newsletter. It is what the A.A. Fact Files calls "A.A. Literature Prepared by Local Groups". The opinions are those of the individual authors and may or may not be representative of A.A. as a whole.

<https://aasanjose.org>