

JUNE 2023

Volume 20 Issue 16



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to **THE COIN**: the *Santa Clara Intergroup monthly Newsletter*! Every month you can easily locate events, meetings, volunteer opportunities, and feel inspired by our recovery community. I welcome and love feedback – please share your thoughts with me regarding our Newsletter at coin@sanjose.org

Wishing you Joy and Peace, Jeanine M.; your Coin Editor



Special Announcement

**MARK YOUR CALENDER – A.A. Founders Day
is coming!!!**

**The 88th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous is
Saturday, June 10th!**

On Saturday, June 10th, we warmly welcome you to a special A.A Founders Day celebration here in San Jose - details can be found in the Events section.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- JUNE STEP/ JUNE TRADITION
- MEMBER'S CORNER
- JUNE EVENTS – Highlight on A.A. Founder's Day
- BIRTHDAYS
- HISTORY OF A.A. ARTICLE
- SANTA CLARA INTERGROUP OFFICE RESOURCES

JUNE: Sixth Step and Sixth Tradition

Step Six: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all those defects of character”

Tradition Six: “An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”.

A.A. Santa Clara County offers service opportunities to match your area of interest. Volunteers are needed now!

Please check out:

<https://aasanjose.org/service>

Quote for Reflection:

“The best views come after the hardest climb”



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.

A heartfelt thank you to Bob S. and Rick R. for this month's writing contributions! You can find more information on writing for **THE COIN** here: <https://aasanjose.org/coin>

MIDDLE STEPS IN A TIMELY MANNER

Submitted by Bob S.

Pondering Step Five left me with a great deal of apprehension, but my sponsor didn't allow time to back out. The Big Book tells us to start Step Four "at once" (p. 64) after the Third Step Prayer and to get into Step Five at "first opportunity" (p. 74).

When was that? Well, my sponsor considered that to mean starting the Fifth Step just a few minutes after we went through the many actions suggested on Step Four (pp. 64-71). There was no wiggle time for my alco-logical mind to "consider" yea or nay. Action—not thinking—was the key! Steps Six and Seven (P. 76) followed abruptly and before you can

say Jack Robison (An old fashion phrase) I was starting to list amends. My Ninth Step amends continued as I began living in the spirit of Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve. This rapid process did not alleviate my mental obsession for alcohol by “next Thursday”.

However, throughout the next year, it began to diminish as I continued daily AA meetings and spending most of my spare time with sober friends at different Los Angeles recovery clubs. After a year or so I realized those tempting “drinking thoughts” had all but disappeared and have not returned with any frequency. Consequently, I have not had anything alcoholic to drink since my first meeting. I believe doing the middle steps with my sponsor in a timely manner was very helpful.

Timeliness continues as I live in the spirit of maintenance steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve. I find it important to rectify my daily mistakes at once, quickly, and immediately (Step Ten). I pray morning day and night (Step Eleven) and make myself available throughout the day for AA work with other alcoholics (Step Twelve).

I thank God that my sponsor taught me the importance of acting in the now—tomorrow may be too late!

Neglect, The Elephant in the Room Continuous Credibility Leads to Integrity

Submitted By Rick R.

When we are satisfied that we have given steps one through five our best effort and have identified the most glaring defects of character and shortcomings, it is now time to affect the changes in the most obvious of our faulty thoughts and the behaviors that stem from those thoughts by addressing them in steps six and seven. To be successful in this endeavor, we must first get honest with ourselves and begin to establish some credibility and by that, I mean always doing the things we say we are going to do. We bring most of the basic flaws out in the open as we become aware of them. Then, if we are sure that we are committed to the

program, we will want to set in place, principles to live by that cut off our own escape when we stumble and want to revert to that old way of thinking. Most of us do this with the help of a sponsor or a mentor, if you like, and go by the book as best we can. I did what I thought was a thorough job of it, then one day, about thirty years ago, I was trying to park my car in a somewhat crowded parking lot and as I found the spot, I wanted there was a shopping cart blocking my way. I got out of my car and moved the cart aside, then parked my car. I then got that shopping cart and pushed it back to the store entrance, then went about my business. From that day on, when parking at any market, I search for a stray shopping cart and take it back to the store just to make up for all the times I shoved one into the flower bed and drove away.

After telling that story at meetings over the years, I hear people telling how it is uncomfortable for them to leave the cart adrift in the parking lot, and we all get a big laugh out of it. Neglect, I can tell, the word neglect is only mentioned two times in the Big Book (pg. 97 and pg. 129) and two times in the Big Book 12&12. (pg. 81 and pg. 151) And seldom, if ever, has it been the topic of a meeting that I can recall. It is like the proverbial elephant in the room. As I started to catch myself shirking my responsibilities it became obvious to me that if I wanted to regain some form of self-respect and dignity, I was going to have to put the word Neglect on my list of shortcomings and question my integrity.

Do I do what is right even when there is no one watching? If credibility is always doing what I say I am going to do, then Integrity, to me, is a whole bunch of credibility. To cut off my own escape I do routine things every day, that cost me nothing and the result of that is a clear conscience. If I am doing the little things that I should, I find it much easier to give the big things that same sort of attention. I never throw trash out of the car window, I pick up after myself, I never walk away from my bed in the morning without making it, and I liken that to being an unspoken prayer saying, I will be responsible, I will be orderly, I will be neat, and I will not be neglectful, I will be respectful, I will stay on the unselfish side of the ledger in all of my decisions, I sometimes revisit those pages in the Big Book and the 12&12, and I try my best not to ignore the elephant in the room.

2023 JUNE EVENTS

All upcoming A.A. Event information can be found at:

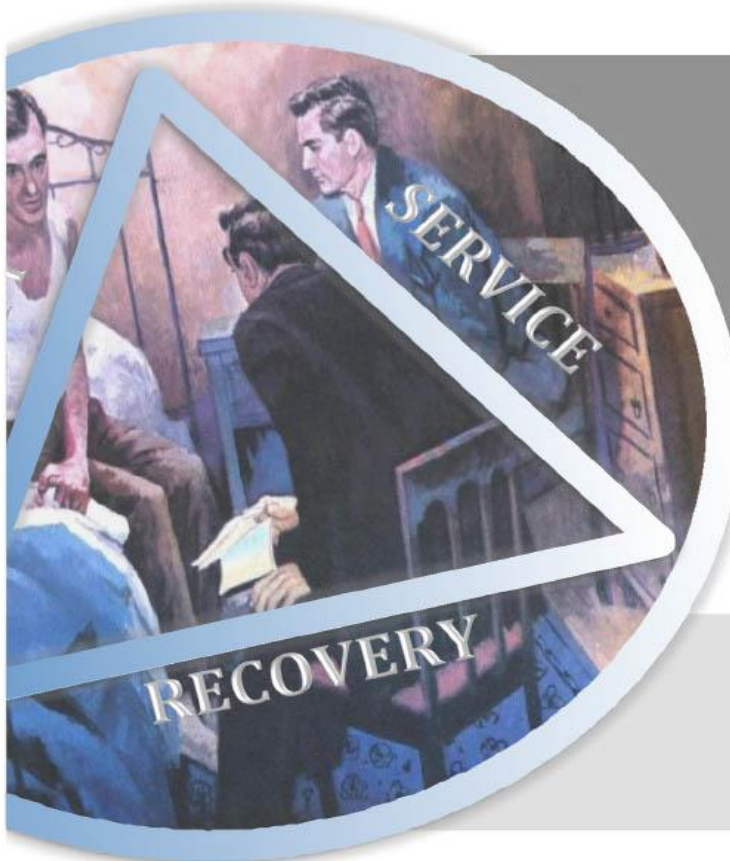
<https://aasanjose.org/upcoming-events>

The Santa Clara County Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous presents

Founder's Day 88th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

A Journey Through The History of A.A.

Hosted By Santa Clara County Intergruop: **FREE** Admission
(Donations Welcome)



A journey through the powerful history of A.A.'s Third Legacy of Service — from the Big Book to A.A.'s coming of age at the 1955 General Service Conference in St. Louis.

June 10, 2023

10 AM - 12 PM

*Lincoln Glen Church
2700 Booksin Ave.
San Jose, Ca. 95125*

Refreshments:
Coffee, Water,
Donuts, Cookies

June 10, 2023

*Raffle
Prizes!*



Founders' Day Herald

88th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

June 9, 10, & 11, 2023 | Akron, Ohio | Birthplace of A.A.

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

A.A. 12 Step Panel • 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Discussion of One Step Per Hour
Chaired by: Aaron K.

A.A. Early Bird Meeting* • 3:00 p.m.

Penny D. - Bay Village, OH
"From Cracker Factory Housewife To
Champion Of Sobriety And Women"
Chaired by: Karen K.

Actors Guild Play • 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

"Rule 62"

A.A. Speaker Meeting* • 7:00 p.m.

Peter M. - Boca Raton, FL
"Chop Wood, Carry Water"
Chaired by: Jerry C.

Serenity Singers • 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Olin Hall

A.A. Speaker Meeting* • 9:00 p.m.

Linda G. - Queens, NY
"Happy, Joyous And Free"
Chaired by: Juanita W.

Junta en Español • 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Open Discussion
Chaired by: The Painesville Group

A.A. Alkathon • 11:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Bus Tours of Historic A.A. Sites

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2 buses continuously - Bierce Circle

A.A. Archives

Located in Akron Intergroup Office
(Stop on bus tour)

The 12 Traditions • 9:00 a.m.

Billy N. - Palm Beach Gardens, FL
"I love It Works"
Chaired by: Mary K.

A.A. Old Timers' Panel* • 10:30 a.m.

Topic: "Every Day Is A Day We Must
Carry The Vision Of God's Will Into All
Our Affairs"
Dee T. - Akron, OH
Ken McA. - Ontario, CA
Bobby M. - Richmond Heights, OH
Chaired by: Mary K.

La Viña Workshop • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

El Coordinador: Raymundo L. and
Alegria de Vivir Group

A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting* • 12:00 p.m.

Speakers - Shanna & Scott D. - Urbandale, IA
"Family Disease, Family Miracles"
E.J. Thomas Hall
Chaired by: Marie E.

Actors Guild Play • 12:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

"Rule 62"

A.A. Speaker Meeting* • 2:00 p.m.

Vivian Q. - Okatie, SC
"Emotionally Driven Or Spiritually Guided -
What Is Our Choice To Be?"
Chaired by: Aaron K.

The History of Our Big Book • 4:00 p.m.

Presented by: Gail L. - Akron, OH
Chaired by: Karen K.

A.A. Speaker Meeting* • 8:00 p.m.

Theresa F. - North Hills, CA
"All Of A Sudden I Became Present To My
Life, And I Didn't Like It!"
UA Infocision Stadium**
Chaired by: Woody W.

**Stadium Weather Contingency Plan for Saturday Night - See Web Site

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Saturday Night

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

MOTORCADE TO DR. BOB'S GRAVE*

7:30 a.m.
Motorcycle procession and graveside
memorial tribute to Dr. Bob & Anne S.
Speaker: Dolly A. - Akron, OH
Chaired by: Jerry C.

A.A. Spiritual Panel Meeting • 9:00 a.m.

Topic: "We Admitted That We Were
Powerless Over Alcohol, That Our Lives
Had Become Unmanageable"
Andrew M. - Akron, OH
Sonya M. - Akron, OH
Viviane Y. - Cleveland, OH
Chaired by: Juanita W.

A.A. Closing Speaker Meeting*

10:30 a.m.

Bill C. - Torrence, CA
"It's Been Miserable Long Enough...It's
Time To Have A Good Time!"
Chaired by: Michael B.

AL-ANON

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Al-Anon Panel • 1:00 p.m.

Topic: "Double Winners/Doubly Blessed"
Lynda M. - Copley, OH
Ian R. - Canton, OH
Mary Anne C. - Uniontown, OH
Olin Hall
Chaired by: Leslie S.

AL-ANON

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Alateen Panel • 10:30 a.m.

"Alateens Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope"
Olin Hall
Chaired by: Lynda M.

A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting* • 12:00 p.m.

Speakers - Shanna & Scott D. - Urbandale, IA
"Family Disease, Family Miracles"
E.J. Thomas Hall
Chaired by: Marie E.

REGISTRATION

UA STUDENT UNION

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Registrations must be picked up by
6:00 p.m. Saturday - **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Package Plans must be picked up at designated
dormitories. Check confirmation letter or e-mail.

Coffee & Fellowship Room

Student Union

A.A. Literature Sales

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

* A.S.L. INTERPRETER

**NO BASIC REGISTRATION REFUND.
\$35.00 FEE FOR ALL PACKAGE PLAN CANCELLATIONS!**

FOUNDERS' DAY IS A SERVICE OF THE AKRON AREA INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF A.A.

Name badges & ribbons must be worn for admittance to all meetings — NO EXCEPTIONS!

May Birthday Contributions

Birthday Celebrant	Years	Contributor	Birthday
Kelly A	15	John S	5/5/2008
Cami L	18	John S	5/23/2005
Scott T	13	John S	5/25/2010

46 Years of Sobriety!

Birthdays are listed in recognition of contributions made to Central Office on a member's behalf for a sobriety milestone. Contributions can be made by the birthday celebrant or in honor of a friend and will be listed in this section, unless requested otherwise.

In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members. Please use the birthday forms found at your meeting, at Central Office, or on-line at <https://aasanjose.org/contributions>.

A.A. History

The following is reprinted from www.aa.org

The history of A.A. began in the United States, spread to Canada, and then went worldwide. A.A. presence now exists in more than 180 countries. Following is a short history about the start of A.A. and some of its key contributors.

A.A.'s Beginning

A.A. began in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics.

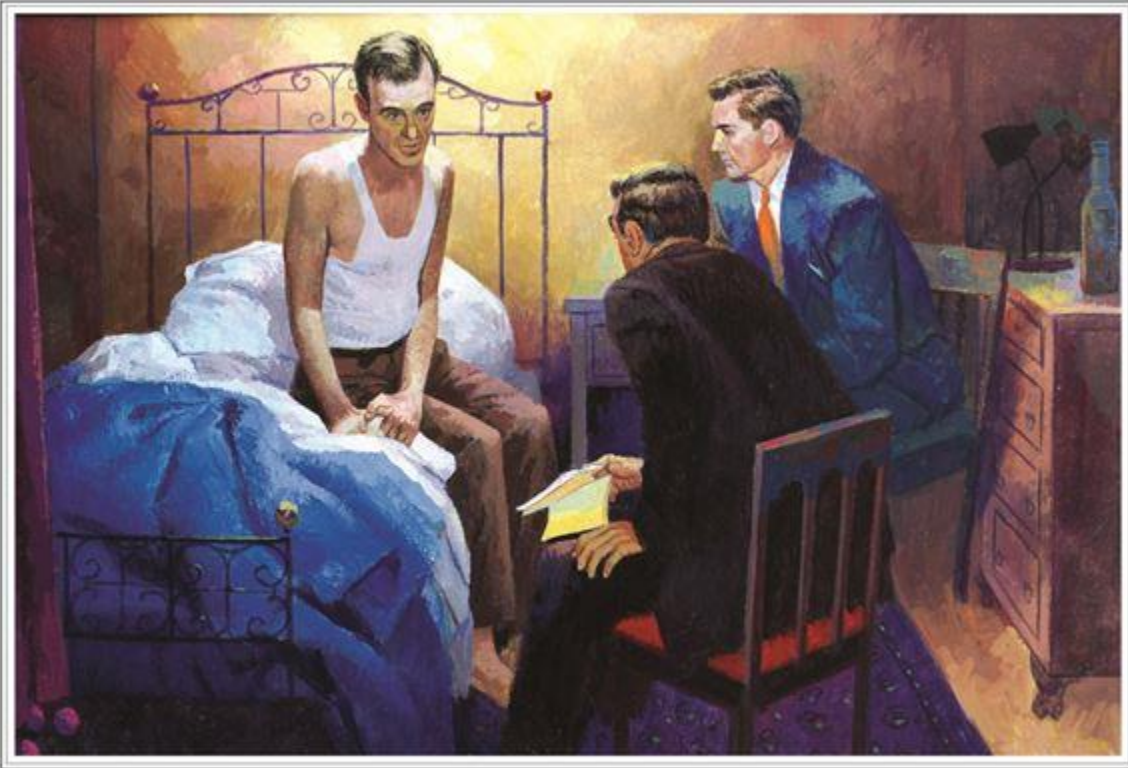
Before their meeting, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group. This mostly nonalcoholic fellowship emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. The Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, led the Oxford Groups in the U.S. at that time.

Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober. Bill maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics. Yet, before meeting Dr. Bob, none of these other alcoholics had actually recovered.

At the same time, Dr. Bob's Oxford Group membership in Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face-to-face with a fellow sufferer who was succeeding.

Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions, and body. Bill learned this important fact from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York. Bill had often been a patient of Dr. Silkworth. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, Dr. Bob soon got sober, never to drink again. This sparked the founding of A.A.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital. One patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. These three men made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group (though the name Alcoholics Anonymous was not yet used.)



"The Man on the Bed". This oil painting was created by Robert M. for the AA Grapevine and was reproduced as the center spread in the December, 1955 issue.

Growth Starts Slowly, Then Expands Quickly

In the fall of 1935, a second group of alcoholics slowly took shape in New York. A third appeared at Cleveland in 1939. It took four years to produce about 100 sober alcoholics in the three founding groups.

Early in 1939, the Fellowship published its basic textbook, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The text, written by Bill and reviewed by many of the early members, explained A.A.'s philosophy and methods. The core of this work is now well-known as the Twelve Steps of recovery. The book also included case histories of thirty recovered members. From this point, A.A.'s development was rapid.

Also in 1939, The Cleveland Plain Dealer published a series of articles about A.A.

These articles, accompanied by positive editorials, triggered many pleas for help in Cleveland. The Cleveland group, with only twenty members, sought to help those alcoholics. Alcoholics sober only a few weeks were set to work on brand-new cases. This was a new departure, and the results were fantastic. A few months later, Cleveland's membership had expanded to about 500.

Meanwhile, in New York in 1938, Dr. Bob and Bill had organized a trusteeship for the budding Fellowship. Friends of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. became board members alongside a contingent of A.A.'s. This board was named The Alcoholic Foundation. But all efforts to raise large sums of money failed because Mr. Rockefeller concluded that it might spoil the infant society.

Even so, the foundation managed to open a tiny office in New York. This office aimed to handle inquiries and to distribute the A.A. book. To date, these efforts had been mostly financed by the A.A.s themselves.

The book and the new office were quickly put to use. Liberty magazine published an article about A.A. in the fall of 1939, resulting in some 800 urgent calls for help. In 1940, Mr. Rockefeller gave a dinner for many of his prominent New York friends to publicize A.A.

This brought yet another flood of pleas. Each inquiry received a personal letter and a small pamphlet. Attention was also drawn to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which soon began circulating. Aided by mail from the office and A.A. travelers from already-established centers, many new groups began. At the year's end, the membership stood at 2,000.

Then, in March 1941, The Saturday Evening Post featured [an excellent article by about A.A. by Jack Alexander](#). The response was enormous. By the close of that year, the membership had jumped to 6,000, and the number of groups multiplied in proportion. The Fellowship spread across the U.S. and Canada.

By 1950, 100,000 recovered alcoholics could be found worldwide. Spectacular though this was, the period 1940-1950 was nonetheless one of great uncertainty. The crucial question was whether all those mercurial alcoholics could live and work together in groups. Could they hold together and function effectively? This was the unsolved problem. The New York headquarters spent much time corresponding with thousands of groups about their questions.

By 1946, however, it was possible to draw some conclusions about the kinds of attitude, practice and function that would best suit A.A.'s purpose. Those principles emerged from strenuous group experience. They were summarized by Bill in the Twelve Traditions of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. By 1950, the earlier chaos had largely disappeared. A successful formula for A.A. unity and functioning had been achieved and put into practice.

Co-Founder Dr. Bob's Major Impact in Ohio

During this hectic ten-year period, Dr. Bob devoted himself to hospital care for alcoholics. He introduced them to A.A. principles. Large numbers of alcoholics flocked to Akron to receive care at St. Thomas Hospital. Dr. Bob became a member of its staff. He and the fellow staff member, the remarkable [Sister Ignatia](#), cared for and brought A.A. to some 5,000 sufferers. After Dr. Bob's death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued to work at Cleveland's Charity Hospital. She was assisted by the local A.A. groups and 10,000 more sufferers first found A.A. there. This set a fine example of hospitalization wherein A.A. could cooperate with both medicine and religion.

In this same year of 1950, A.A. held its first International Convention at Cleveland. There, Dr. Bob made his last appearance and spoke in his final talk of the need to keep A.A. simple. He saw the Twelve Traditions enthusiastically adopted for the permanent use of the A.A. Fellowship throughout the world. Dr. Bob died on November 16, 1950.

Want to know more? Go to <https://aa.org/the-start-and-growth-of-aa>

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>

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