



A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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The Santa Clara Intergroup Central office is the local office that supports the local fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous in Santa Clara County.

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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✓ **STEP NINE AND TRADITION NINE**

STEP NINE: *“Make direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”*

TRADITION NINE: *“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”*

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✓ **QUOTE FOR REFLECTION**

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does change the future.”



✓ **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 Rick R. and Bob S., for September's writing contributions!

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

<https://aasanjose.org/coin>

Spiritual Simplicity Gets It Done: Practice the Program with Enthusiasm

By Rick R.

Tackling the alcoholism problem, the wreckage of the past, and trying to be spiritual at the same time is a large order in the beginning. Most of us are consumed with the trauma left in the wake of a life run by our Egos and flooded with alcohol. We hear a variety of ways to approach the Spiritual way of life and we try to fit it into our A.A. agenda but, still reeling from the wreckage, our effort seemed scattered at best.

If we manage to get a handle on those troubling issues that consume our thinking, it often frees us up to explore the Spiritual aspects of the program at a deeper level. At first, it is not easy to define, or to articulate, the word spiritual but most of us will try to put a face on it based on something we learned in church or something we have heard at an A.A. meeting etc. This is an O.K. start but it is wise to continue to look for that deeper meaning that is consistent with the spirit of the A.A. program and to practice it in our daily lives.

As I research the word spiritual, I find many phrases that could define it such as: In the spirit of, Of the inside, Intangible, not of a physical or material nature, Religious, Psychic, and many more.

I have read most of the publications that have come from the list of A.A. approved literature, and in “Doctor Bob and the Good Old Timers”, it suggests that when the Co-founders had to address the issue of spirituality, they got their inspiration from the book: The Sermon on the Mount, by Emmet Fox.

(1938) I have found that book to be exactly what I needed to segue into a way of thinking that covers all the principles that A.A. suggests. It explains that we can live by the Letter of the Law, and still not receive the desired results until we learn to live in the Spirit of the Law. This is my Go-to Guide and I frequently reread it to reinforce my Spiritual understanding. I do not go-it alone. There I come to understand that there’s no such thing as a Selfish Spiritual Principle.

We hear talk of prayer and most of us who have been around awhile have found an approach that works for us. If I pray to God, how does God communicate his message to me? I have never heard a voice that I could confirm to be the voice of God. I do, however, receive inspiration in the form that is more than enough for me, and I have a tremendous amount of faith. They speak of a kind and loving God is he may express himself in our group conscience. That works for me.

The way I have come to explain this concept is as follows: I have sat in on thousands of A.A. meetings and whether I know it or not, my mind is collecting information that I am not even aware of, and storing it away, as in a file cabinet, in those 10 billion brain cells that we are supposed to have in our heads.

When I pray for guidance, the search begins in the file system and comes up with the answer intuitively. This file cabinet metaphor is my way of trying to express a sound and solid approach to being open to outside influences without really having to define who or what God is. He speaks in many ways.

Another thing that I believe it does without my personal effort is to Neutralize much of my negative way of thinking. Spirituality is an inside quality. It resides in my mind, my heart, and my conscience. To acquire it I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of the A.A. program as enthusiastically as I could (12&12 page 27) and I might add, Keep it Simple.



HOW SPIRITUAL JOY DIFFERS FROM HUMAN HAPPINESS

By Bob S.

For years I considered the Big Book statement: “Happy, joyous and free” as a bit redundant, for after all, are not happiness and joy the same? (p. 133) However, years later I found that HAPPINESS and JOY are two completely two different things: HAPPINESS is a human experience. It disappears when we are sad or depressed. But JOY is a God experience that may take place even when we are sad or depressed.

I have experienced said unexplained joy while feeling deeply depressed in a tent while camping in Sult Ste. Marie, Canada. I had recently been separated from my ex-wife and was feeling enormous depression. We had camped in that same tent in the Grand Canyon during our honeymoon previously. In the middle of the night, I became unexplainably full of energy, and everything seemed to wax extremely vivid and bright. I was full of Joy. This lasted throughout the night.

I believe Bill Wilson was experiencing great Joy—not ordinary happiness—after he went through his vital spiritual experience on page 14 of the Big Book: Doctor Silkworth told him: “Something has happened to you I don’t understand. But you had better hang on to it.” Anything is better than the way you were.” I believe Bill’s resultant Joy prompted him to immediately go out and start helping alcoholics. So, I believe God’s Joy can be ongoing!


Then there is Fitz Mayo who had such an ongoing vital spiritual experience that: “He couldn’t drink even if he would.” (P. 57, Big Book) There must have been great Joy in that! Again, Ebby Thacher (Bill’s sponsor), who was not a spiritual person prayed to God: “as never before” and was stuck sober for two years and seven months. Again, great joy must have been present. (EBBY The Man Who Sponsored Bill W., by Mel B. – p. 58) Ebby died in 1966, two years sober.

I believe the blessing of spiritual Joy will come to me when God decides to send it—I cannot just wish for it. However, I believe my chances are all for the better if I try to maintain a fit spiritual condition by living the Twelve Steps.



✓ ***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES***

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE?



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

Alcoholics Anonymous
Santa Clara County Central Office

Secretary Workshop

Every First Saturday of the Month at 10am

Topics will include:
 Role and Responsibilities
 Connecting with Central Office
 Elections
 Group Consciences

274 E. Hamilton Suite D, Campbell
In-person only

A great way to learn about Volunteer Opportunities, to meet amazing people who keep our AA program in the flow, and to enjoy some delicious snacks is to attend the monthly Intergroup Meeting – the first Wednesday of every month.

Next meeting – September 6th – 7:30 to 9:00 Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave, San Jose – ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

There is a volunteer opportunity for you here in Santa Clara County! For a complete schedule - Please visit: <https://aasanjose.org>

✓ **SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS**

Watch Loneliness Vanish



The 63rd ICYPAA

International Conference of Young People
in Alcoholics Anonymous

Labor Day Weekend

Friday – Monday

September 1 – 4, 2023

San Francisco Marriott Marquis
780 Mission Street
San Francisco

www.ICYPAA.org

Pre-reg and book your room now!



SNL PRESENTS

ANNUAL THANK YOU PICNIC

 **SATURDAY, SEPT 16** 

11:00 - BBQ LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

1:00 - RAFFLE

1:30 - BAKE AUCTION

2:00 - SPEAKER MEETING

**Side dish \ Appetizers encouraged
Bake sale items appreciated**

RAFFLE TIX

\$1 ea or \$10 for 12

VASONA PARK: \$6 ENTRY OR STREET PKG ON
UNIVERSITY NEAR PEPPER TREE GATE

PEPPER TREE PICNIC AREA

JULIA J (408) 512-9808 TO BE OF SERVICE

**16th ANNUAL
LOS GATOS AA GROUPS**

Picnic

Hosted by Saturday Morning Los Gatos
& Los Gatos Spiritual Progress Group*

* SPG 65th Anniversary!*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

OAK MEADOW PARK

Picnic Areas 5 & 6 | 233 Blossom Hill Road

TICKETS \$15

Includes BBQ & drinks. Kids under 10 are free.

Net proceeds benefit Central Office.

Please use Venmo code to purchase tickets

Please notate "picnic ticket"



RAFFLE PRIZES

Don't miss out on our famous raffle prizes. Raffle tickets
cost \$1 each or \$5 for 7. Available for purchase day of Picnic.

To donate raffle prizes or bring a side dish, or for more
information please email spiritualprogress95030@gmail.com

Get to know Your Local PI/CPC Committee: **Attend A Hybrid Open House**

Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, 6-9pm, Pacific time

222 Keyes St #110, San Jose, CA 95112

Zoom Meeting ID: 840 2847 4194, Passcode: 1935

**Are you aware that up to 60%
of alcoholics die without ever
knowing A.A. exists?**

**PI/CPC is responsible for
informing the general public
and professionals about A.A.**

**Isn't it time you got to know
your local PI/CPC Committee?**



You've heard the acronym at meetings. Now come see what your local PI/CPC Committee is all about.

- **Hint: We're no secret society — we're A.A. members like you who happen to get into some seriously fun & awesome service.**

Dinner 6-7pm Provided by Spanish Intergroup

Traducción al español proporcionada

Register today: bit.ly/sjpicpcHybridOpenHouse

Please register to RSVP for dinner so we may plan accordingly

Suggested donation: \$10 (however, no one declined!)

Santa Clara County PI/CPC
@santa_clara_picpc



venmo

OPEN HOUSE AGENDA

- **6:00-7:00:** Dinner and fellowship
- **7:00-8:00:** View a presentation on what we do and why, learn how we manage anonymity, review the traditions that most impact our efforts, and then feel free to ask us questions about our committee work and what you can do to help.
- **8:00-9:00:** View the compelling and informative presentation commonly delivered to professionals and feel free to ask us any questions you might have about how we conduct outreach and what you might do to help support our committee efforts. Stay for the Celebration of A.A. Birthdays afterwards!



✓ **AUGUST BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS**

<u>BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Steve D.	19	John S.	08/11/2004
Theresa H.	31	John S..	08/16/1992
Jaye S.	9	John S..	08/31/2014
DanielG.	1	Anon.	08/28/2022

60 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>

✓ **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's 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.

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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.

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