



A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 25 Issue # 21

The Santa Clara Intergroup Central office supports the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous in Santa Clara County from Palo Alto to Gilroy.

Come visit us at:

274 East Hamilton Ave. Suite D Campbell, CA 95008
408-889-1001

email: info@asaanjose.org

You can now subscribe to THE COIN here:

<https://asaanjose.org/#join-email>



December 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ **Twelfth Step/Twelfth Tradition**
- ✓ **Member's Corner**
- ✓ **December Volunteer Opportunities**
- ✓ **December Events**
- ✓ **November Birthdays**
- ✓ **Santa Clara Intergroup Office Resources**



✓ **DECEMBER REFLECTION**

This month's reflection is a holiday letter written by Bill W. to the A.A. Community

"Greetings on our 10th Christmas, 1944. Yes, its' in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe, millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least, are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.

But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted. Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World. How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth. Knowing its full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty; peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos. Great indeed our blessings! And so Merry Christmas to you all - from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me."
Bill W.

✓ **STEP Twelve:**

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry the message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

✓ **TRADITION Twelve:**

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."



✓ **MEMBER'S CORNER**



A heartfelt thank you to Kristin F., Rick R., and Connie V. for this month's writing contributions! We love to hear about a great meeting, a celebration, or a story that brings inspiration to recovery!

I welcome your feedback on The COIN – please share your thoughts at the link below. Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful holiday season. Jeanine M., The COIN Editor:
coin@aasanjose.org

Working with Others

By: Kristin F.

*Nothing worth having
Comes easy
At least that's
What they say
Take it little be slow
The promises will
Materialize one day
The obsession will be lifted
But shall we not forget
Your experience throughout this
journey
Will be another's benefit
You'll be able to share with care*

*And a warm gentle heart
That everyone who's willing
Deserves a brand-new start
Therefore, we work with others
To carry the message
That even you
Will one day, too,
Have what we've been so freely
given*





How appropriate it seems that there are twelve months in a year, and we have twelve steps in the program. November is often referred to as the Gratitude month, due the celebration of Thanksgiving.

The joy of good living is the theme of Step Twelve, and it blends right in with the Christmas holiday season in December and ending with the New Year's Eve celebration. This time of year, does bring joy to many of us but it also brings distress to some of the less fortunate ones who have yet to be blessed

with the gift of sobriety and peace of mind, in and outside of A.A.

During my drinking days I used to be extremely uncomfortable about the holidays. I never knew how to act around normal people unless I was half smashed. When invited by one of my siblings to Thanksgiving dinner, I felt like a charity case and would rather just hang out at the bar where I felt safe. I never got

into the spirit of reaching out to others. My family always celebrated the different holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I would always (due to my discomfort) put a damper on it by complaining about the tacky gifts that people would buy for each other at Christmas and the mad rush to go shopping and the commercializing facade that it had become. Any excuse was better than facing me and the miserable wretch I had become.

After being sober for several years, it occurred to me that I still had some of those same attitudes, and that I was still holding on to them to some

A New Holiday Perspective: Bringing Joy to the Less Fortunate

By: Rick R.

degree largely due to the inconvenience of it all. I explained this problem to a dear friend once, and he asked, "Does the rest of the family enjoy the holidays?" I said yes. He then said, "Why don't you just take a back seat and just watch the joy in their eyes as they experience these things."

I did exactly what he suggested and when I started to observe my wife and two adolescent girls and the childlike innocence and happiness it brought to them; it gave me a whole new appreciation for this time of year.

It brought tears of Joy to my eyes, and I no longer wanted to be the grouch, putting a damper on the joy that they were having. I have been following this line of thinking ever since and it has changed my whole perspective concerning these things.

This change of attitude has inspired me to apply the unselfish lessons that I have come to understand and now I spend the holiday season filled with Joy.

If it works like that for the holidays, then why can't I

bring it with me for the rest of the year? This has been my mission ever since my friend suggested it, and I am always looking for the opportunity to brighten the lives of people less fortunate than myself. I try to do these things anonymously and without fanfare. I also try to consider the discomfort that I used to feel

when I was the one on the receiving end of a charitable gesture. I am careful to do these things in a way that preserves the dignity of that other person. I do not have to wait for the holidays to do these things.

Every day is a holiday in and outside of my home, and you can believe me when I say; I reap more than my share of the joy. I hope this brings a new perspective to those who, like me, had trouble enjoying this time of year and I hope you all have a joyful Holiday Season, and many more.



A Newcomer's Journey

By: Connie V. (sobriety date – 02/23/2023)

After five years, I finally made it to 8 continuous months of sobriety. It took me years to accept that there was a higher power greater than my own will. What can I say, I am a stubborn alcoholic. I checked 19 of the 20 questions, but a victim in my life prevented me from admitting I was an alcoholic.

Last December, I hit my bottom. That bottom was an awakening from the spirit of my sister who had passed 12 years ago. She woke me from my death bed I brought upon myself after swallowing 30 sleeping pills. I still drank.

Two weeks later, I would learn I had atrial fibrillation. I still drank.

I was the Queen of Denial. I didn't care that I had not one, but seven surgeries on my digestive system. I didn't care that I had maimed another while intoxicated. That person walks with a scar on her face from the broken margarita glass that allegedly broke into her face. I faced three felony charges. While I was exonerated, I certainly carried guilt.

I needed someone to save me from myself. I didn't realize at the time; but it would be a connection with God that saved me. I was a category 5 tornado roaring through the lives of others. I created walls of isolation. You were not going to hurt me, so I would push people away.

Through the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, I found I was no longer alone.

I found a sponsor and decided to get honest with myself. I decided to overcome the alcoholic thoughts that told me I didn't belong, and I began to call women who had over 20 years of sobriety. These were the women who embrace me with love, mentor me, get real with me - even in times when I struggle to love myself.

I believe God has a plan for me. Every morning, I give thanks for giving me a chance to share the peace and serenity that has been blessed upon me. I am grateful that life is not fair because without struggle, I cannot grow. May I never get to a place where I become unteachable. The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous has not only given me freedom of self but has taught me that my behaviors and actions must embody the principles.

God has blessed with a second chance at a first-class life. I have found self-love and that inspires me to share and give love to others. I am a special worker in A.A. and sharing the message to newcomers fills my soul gratitude. Thanks to God and my fellowship, I am present for my children. Today, my Yeti is fully of water rather than the poison that had stripped me of the person God intended me to be. My emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual wellness is finally working in harmony. In God's eyes, I am whole. I am perfect. I am love. For that, I am grateful.

✓ **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



A great way to learn about Volunteer Opportunities is to attend the monthly Intergroup Meeting – the first Wednesday of every month.



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

There are many ways to show gratitude for your sobriety. Please consider a volunteer position or by making a financial contribution to our Santa Clara Intergroup Office.

There is a volunteer opportunity for you here in Santa Clara County! For a complete schedule - Please visit:

<https://aasanjose.org>

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

**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



JOIN

THE FAITHFUL TWENTY-FIVERS!!!



Who are The Faithful Twenty-Fivers?

- ❖ **The Faithful Twenty-Fivers** are members of our Santa Clara County A.A. community who provide a **vital** contribution of only \$25.00 per month (or any amount you choose!) to help “carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Where do contributions go?

- ❖ All contributions go **directly** to support our A.A. programs in Santa Clara County:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The 24 Hour Hotline▪ 12 Step Calls▪ Meeting Schedules (online and Print)▪ Sales of Literature and Sobriety Coins▪ Affordable Group Insurance Umbrella▪ Publishing of monthly Newsletter▪ Support of Outreach, Activities and Intergroup Committees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain, protect and display archive materials▪ Maintenance of the Website▪ Advertising of Fellowship Groups▪ Printing for Groups▪ Cooperation with other A.A. services such as General Services and H&I▪ New Secretary and Diverter Workshops and many other workshops |
|--|---|

How do I contribute?

Easy : <https://aasanjose.org/product/faithful-fiver>



✓ **DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS**

Holidays often bring visitors and newcomers. Members of our AA community may also wish to seek additional meetings and fellowship. Please visit the Santa Clara Intergroup website at aasanjose.org for a complete list of December meetings and events.

31st Annual Spiritual Progress Retreat! December 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2023



ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER
549 MISSION VINEYARD ROAD
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, CALIFORNIA 95045

LODGING, MEALS: Dinner Friday night through lunch on Sunday, Great Speakers, Great Workshops, Morning Meditation, Fellowship, Games, Ice Cream Social, Caroling and more!

Click here: spgretreatlg.wufoo.com/forms/spiritual-progress-group-retreat-2023-wxhfi0004apz41

Pricing: \$295 double occupancy, \$395 single occupancy

Any questions, please email:
spgretreatlg@gmail.com or call Phil at 408 656-2236

Please bring a snack to share in the main fireside room.



Scan here to register



Breakfast - Fellowship Speaker Meeting

2024 NCCAA San Jose
Conference Pancake
Breakfast Fundraiser

\$10
Pancakes,
Turkey
Sausage,
Eggs & Coffee

Baked
Goods
Auction!!

Speakers

"The History
of NCCAA"
Mary M
NCCAA Chair
02/29/1988

"Conferences
and My
Sobriety"
Jojo L
05/01/2017

"The Power
of AA in
My Life"
Jeremiah P
12/27/2007

SAT, DEC. 2, 2023
10AM - 1PM

The Salvation Army Citadel
3090 Homestead Road
Santa Clara

50/50
Raffle

2024 NCCAA Spring Conference
San Jose March 15-17

Looking to get into service?

Please contact:

Adrian (925) 766-8136

Heidi (408) 410-7644

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE IS HOSTING

THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

***10TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY
TAMALE PARTY***

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 9TH
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.**



We'll provide the tamales and drinks...

Want to bring something??

How about some rice, beans, salad, chips and salsa...you get the idea!
UNLESS, you make a mean tamale. THEN BRING THOSE!

OR Just come 'on down and eat and have fun!

*Come join us for a special time of
fellowship, friendship and gratitude.*

**Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave. Suite D,
Campbell, CA**

Questions: Give us a call! 408-889-1001 or
email us: info@asaanjose.org



Gilroy Fellowship
CHRISTMAS ALCOTHON & POTLUCK

JOIN US FOR FOOD AND MEETINGS
7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy

MONDAY 12/25

6:30 AM Faith at Work - Daily Reflection

8:00 AM Speaker Meeting

9:30 AM Speaker Meeting

11:00 AM Speaker Meeting

12:00 PM Potluck

2:00 PM Speaker Meeting

3:30 PM Book Study - Living Sober

5:00 PM Speaker Meeting

6:30 PM Courage to Heal (Women's Meeting)

8:00 PM Monday Night "Survivors" Meeting



Western Roundup LIVING SOBER 2024 LOGO Design Contest Guidelines

We invite AA and Al-Anon group members to submit up to two original, 2-color entries for consideration as the official logo of the 2024 Living Sober conference.

>> The winner will receive FREE registration to the conference <<

Design Guidelines

1. Design must include, but is not limited to, the following elements:
 - a. A butterfly
 - b. The words "Living Sober"
 - c. The words "San Francisco"
 - d. The year "2024"
 - e. Be designed for a 2-color color scheme
 - f. The words "Living Sober" alone or coupled with other text, should be a separate element that could be removed for more discreet placement on select items.
 - g. Original artwork only
2. Entries must include:
 - a. One grayscale version
 - b. At least two (but no more than five) color versions, showing how you would implement two colors in

your design. Please note that we may change color schemes based on General Planning Committee vote.

3. Entries from individuals only, no group entries please
4. Finished artwork only, no rough drafts
5. Submitted in an associated vector formatted version (EPS, Ai, SVG, etc...)* (**unless you are willing to volunteer with the Art Committee to edit and place your logo on conference materials*)

Submission information and deadlines

1. Email entries to: art@livingsober.org
 - a. Subject line MUST read: 2024 LS Logo
2. **Submissions MUST be received by: JANUARY 11, 2024** (No late work accepted)
3. Logos will be voted on at the General Planning Committee meeting taking place January 21, 2024, which is to take place at 3:00 PM online, via Zoom. See the WRLS calendar for meeting information.
4. Logo contest entrants will be notified of the results of the vote after the General Planning meeting by the Art committee.

If you have any questions, please contact art@livingsober.org



ANNOUNCING UPCOMING EVENTS!!

FROM THE A.A. SANTA CLARA
INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE

WE HOPE YOU MARK YOUR
CALANDERS NOW!

* **DECEMBER 6, 2023**
InterGroup Potluck Dinner

* **DECEMBER 9, 2023**
Central Office Tamale Party

* **FEBRUARY 10, 2024**
Old Timer's Meeting

* **APRIL 20, 2024**
Chili Cook-Off

* **JUNE 22, 2024**
Founder's Day Celebration

* **OCTOBER 19, 2024**
Take Your Sponsor to Brunch

* **DECEMBER 4, 2024**
InterGroup Potluck Dinner

* **DECEMBER 14, 2024**
Central Office Tamale Party

DETAILS

WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE A.A.
SANTA CLARA CENTRAL OFFICE
WEBSITE:

<https://aasanjose.org>

YOU CAN FIND A.A. EVENTS IN
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BY
SUBSCRIBING TO **THE COIN**, OUR
MONTHLY, ONLINE NEWSLETTER:

[https://aasanjose.org/#join-
email](https://aasanjose.org/#join-email)

PLEASE JOIN US!

✓ NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Celebrant	Years	Contributor	Birthday
Chuck S.	34	John S.	11/15/1989
Johnny S.	10	John S.	11/17/2013
Dominic B.	22	Dominic B.	11/9/2001
Deborah L.	1	Deborah L.	11/24/2022
Jeanne H.	27	Jeanne H.	11/19/1996
Sheila D.	13	Sheila D.	11/18/2010
Jeanine M.	4	Jeanine M.	11/23/2019



111 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!

Birthdays are listed in recognition of contributions made directly to the 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 the Santa Clara Central Office, or on-line at <https://aasanjose.org/contributions>.

✓ **SANTA CLARA CENTRAL OFFICE RESOURCES**

The Santa Clara Intergroup Central Office 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.

The COIN December 2023

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>

Phone: 408-889-1001

