



August 2026

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Santa Clara Intergroup Central Office
supports the fellowship of Alcoholics
Anonymous in Santa Clara County,
from Palo Alto to Gilroy.

Visit us at:

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

Subscribe to THE COIN here:

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



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We at the A.A. Intergroup Central Office of Santa Clara County would like to recognize and thank our outgoing COIN Editor, Jeanine M., for her exceptional dedication, creativity, and service over the last three years.

During her tenure, she produced an engaging and informative newsletter that kept our fellowship connected and informed about A.A. Intergroup services, activities, and events throughout Santa Clara County.

Thank you, Jeanine, for your outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

We would also like to warmly welcome and thank our incoming co-editors, Elaine B. and Kelly R., for carrying forward Jeanine's legacy and ensuring the continued publication of the COIN. We are grateful for your willingness to serve and look forward to the unique talents and perspectives you will bring to this important role.

A Heartfelt note from Jeanine M., outgoing COIN Editor

Dear Members and loyal readers of The Coin,

I am writing to let you know that I am retiring as the COIN editor. It has been an honor and a privilege to be of service in this capacity for over three years.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to meet amazing folks in our fellowship, gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of our vibrant AA community here in Santa Clara County, and be a valued contributor to our fellowship. As COIN Editor, I took great pride and joy in the position.

I would like to extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to Jody at our Central Office for all of her support and help, and to the many members who contributed personal stories, Group Histories, and Meeting and Event updates.

I hope you all have enjoyed reading The COIN as much as I have loved producing it. Wishing you all peace, love and joy.

This issue of The COIN was the joint effort of Jeanine M., Elaine B. & Kelly R.

Step Eight

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”



Step Eight takes us deep into personal reflection, guiding us to face and acknowledge the harm we have done to both ourselves and others during our time in addiction. It is a powerful turning point in the recovery process, emphasizing not only personal responsibility but also the tangible, real-world consequences of our actions. And it is about forgiveness—learning how to make peace with others as well as with yourself.

The philosophy underlying Step 8 is twofold. First, it stresses the importance of *self-awareness*, an ongoing consciousness of our feelings and actions, and second, it promotes *other-awareness*, or *empathy*, a greater recognition of the impact our behavior has on the people and things we care about.

Understandably, in the emotional rawness of early sobriety, the very idea of engaging in this process may seem terrifying. It is crucial to approach this step with a self-caring emotional mindset.

Rather than getting entangled in a web of guilt, shame, and regret, Step 8 gives us the tools for moving out of the past and into the future. It encourages us to develop empathy for ourselves and others, accept our human vulnerabilities, acknowledge our past missteps, make amends, and commit ourselves to living a life of ongoing spiritual growth and recovery.

The guidance and support of a Sponsor are always highly recommended when “working the program” of AA.

In the *Alcoholics Anonymous* Big Book, Step 8 is primarily discussed in Chapter 6 (“Into Action”), specifically covering [pages 76 through 82](#). For deeper, more specific guidance on this step, you can also consult the “Step Eight” chapter in the [Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#).

There are hundreds of books published on working the 12 Steps, but only a few are officially authorized by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). If you have a special interest or spiritual perspective, an online search may help you find resources.

Eighth Principle: Brotherly Love



The 12 spiritual principles are the core tenets of the 12-Step Recovery Program. Each Step/Principle is designed to foster personal growth, emotional maturity, and a connection to a higher purpose. They provide a practical blueprint for emotional sobriety and spiritual growth. They include:



1. Honesty
2. Hope
3. Surrender
4. Courage
5. Integrity
6. Willingness
7. Humility
8. Brotherly Love
9. Responsibility
10. Discipline
11. Awareness
12. Service



Developing Brotherly Love requires shifting our focus outward to recognize shared humanity, practicing profound compassion, and treating others with respect and empathy instead of harboring resentment.

Brotherly Love is deeply tied to the unselfish, deep concern for others that repairing existing relationships and making new ones demands. Key components of practicing this principle include:

- **Radical Willingness:** Letting go of the ego and building the genuine desire to make things right.
- **Compassion over Resentment:** Looking at the people you have harmed without fear or anger.
- **Self-Forgiveness:** Acknowledging that you, too, are human and deserving of the same love and grace you extend to others.
- **Accountability:** Taking ownership of your actions without shifting blame

Eighth Tradition

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”



The Twelve Traditions provide guidelines for relationships between the groups, members, the global Fellowship and society at large. In the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, Bill W. writes, “Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who still suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped.”

Whether between a sponsor and sponsee or among AA members, this relationship of equals forms the foundation of our fellowship. It is through one alcoholic relating to another that the spiritual experience of recovery is shared, often helping to save both lives.

For the recovering alcoholic, performing acts of service without compensation or the expectation of reward cultivates genuine humility and a spirit of generosity. It shifts the focus away from personal ambition and toward selfless service. By giving away what was freely given to us, we participate in a transformative spiritual practice that strengthens our own healing while helping others along the path of recovery.



Tradition Eight also recognizes one necessary exception to this principle by permitting AA service centers to employ staff to perform operational and administrative tasks. This practical arrangement allows essential services to function efficiently while preserving the volunteer spirit at the heart of Twelfth Step work and the fellowship itself.



MEMBER'S CORNER

Sending heartfelt appreciation to Joanna N. for her poem contribution! We would love to publish your story, song, poem, anything that inspires your recovery!

See how to submit writing at aasanjose.org/coin



Secrets of the Deep

My secrets were shackles,
Binding me without conscience to fear and darkness.
Dragging me mercilessly downwards—
Downwards towards an unfamiliar prison,
So slowly that I barely noticed.
Inch by inch I sank
Until there seemed to be no return.
To ocean depths,
Like a grotesque
creature,
I adapted to the darkness
And the immense pressure to survive.
Hunting for any morsel to stay alive.

But, I am not such a creature.
My physical body is not made for these depths,
My mind and heart began to shatter
Underneath this crushing weight.
Drowning, desperate, and unable to manage,
I needed to surface.
My life depended on it.

Suddenly a power greater than me took over.
Digging deep,
I began to release these secrets to the universe.
With a fierce rush of intention,
I burst to the surface—
And breathed.
Secrets make me sick.
Speaking them doesn't kill me.
It saves me.

Submitted by: Joanna N.

Share your Story with The COIN



Healing happens
when stories are
told in safe spaces.

One of the most meaningful ways to carry the message is by sharing your own story with other alcoholics. If you have a personal story, reflections, lessons learned, questions, thoughts, or ideas about recovery, we invite you to submit them to The COIN for publication.

The COIN is the Central Office Intergroup Newsletter of Santa Clara County. It provides a forum for members to share experiences celebrating sobriety and recovery. Every alcoholic who wants to carry the message is welcome to have their writing considered for publication.

Each month features a topic based on the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. For example, January focuses on Step One and Tradition One. We also welcome stories about the Twelve Concepts for World Service, following the same monthly schedule. Additional special topics may be announced one or two months in advance. Seasonal themes, holidays, and A.A. milestones also make excellent topics. For example:

- **February:** Relationships, love, and fellowship in recovery.
- **June:** A.A.'s founding and the importance of the fellowship.
- **November:** Gratitude, giving, and Thanksgiving.

We encourage you to write about your own experience in sobriety. As you do, please remember to respect the anonymity of other A.A. members and avoid a scolding or judgmental tone. If something you heard at a meeting gave you a new perspective, write about it. If you stayed sober through a difficult situation, share what helped you. If there's something you appreciate about a particular meeting, tell us why. Your experience, strength, and hope can inspire others.

We also welcome original sketches, photographs, artwork, and event flyers. We want to provide A.A. members with an opportunity to share their creative work with the fellowship.

A good starting length for a story is about 500 words. We accept submissions from all A.A. members and edit them for spelling, grammar, formatting, and style. As editors, we do not change the author's message—we simply help present it clearly.

Words have power. Few things are more powerful than one alcoholic sharing experience, strength, and hope with another. Many of us found it easier to trust someone who had lived through alcoholism than someone who had only studied it. That shared experience is at the heart of A.A.



Don't worry about making your writing perfect. Keep the Twelve Traditions and A.A.'s principles in mind, and simply tell your story. If you have a meaningful experience to share but feel uncertain about writing it, contact The COIN editors, Elaine and Kelly. They can arrange an interview and help you develop your story. If you know of upcoming A.A. events or have flyers for activities in Santa Clara County, send them so we can help keep our fellowship informed.

Learn more about writing for The COIN at aasanjose.org/coin
September theme: Step 9/9th Principle/Tradition 9

SANTA CLARA COUNTY A.A. GROUP HISTORY CORNER

We are delighted to present a monthly section dedicated to Santa Clara County A.A. Group Histories.

If you would like to feature your home group (whether you've already a written group history or not), please contact:
sccgrouphistories@gmail.com



Alcoholics Anonymous in Santa Clara County took root in the late 1940s, evolving from small discussion groups into a formal network that opened the San Jose Central Office in 1963 with just 59 weekly meetings and \$350.

A major cornerstone of local recovery was the establishment of the Alano Club of San Jose in 1948, which initially met at the Padre Theatre before settling into permanent clubhouses.

The fellowship expanded rapidly alongside the county's post-war population boom. The first closed women's AA meeting in the area began in 1950 at the downtown San Jose YMCA, meeting there until 1953.

By 1963, the grassroots growth necessitated a dedicated Intergroup office, which opened in the Old Porter Building on Santa Clara Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

Today, the Santa Clara County Fellowship operates out of a central hub in Campbell, supporting hundreds of local 12-step meetings across the region.

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

There is a great need for volunteers in Santa Clara County! Below please find descriptions of volunteer opportunities. Detailed information can be found at: aasanjose.org You may also learn about volunteer opportunities at the monthly Intergroup Meeting — all are welcome!



Next Intergroup meeting:
Wednesday, August 5th - 7:30 to 9:00
Trinity Presbyterian Church,
3151 Union Ave, San Jose

Outreach Volunteers

Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings

Diverter Volunteers

Providing after-hours phone coverage

12 Step Volunteers

Phone and visitation contact with callers in need

Daytime Phone Volunteers

Takes all incoming calls to Hotline

Activities Committee

Organize many great activities

Technology Committee

To make sure we all get the word out

Website Committee

Help with current and future website needs

Intergroup Representative (IGR)

Represents the group at the Intergroup meetings and reports to the group

General Service Representative (GSR)

Represents the group at District meetings and reports to the group

PI/CPC Committee Representative

Our information voice to the general public and professionals

H&I Committee Representative

Carrying the message to those confined to correctional and mental health facilities

BTG Committee Representative

Helping alcoholics just released from hospitals, treatment centers or correctional facilities transition to A.A. in their local community



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



Public information

PI/CPC

Help carry the message of recovery

Did you know that 70% of AA members come from outside referrals? If you're a member of AA, the public outreach division of Santa Clara needs your help! To get started, simply join our monthly Zoom meetings, and introduce yourself! Can't wait to see you there.

We meet online — first Sundays of the month:

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm | New member intro

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | Committee meeting

Meeting ID: 897 2302 3538

Passcode: Service ←Note capital 'S'

Learn more: district04cnca.org/pi-cpc

Contact us: sjpicpc@gmail.com

Whatever the form, it comes down to 'one drunk carrying the message to another drunk,' whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media.

— Bill W., AA Co-founder

Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)
Alcoholics Anonymous • Santa Clara County Fellowship

¹2022 Membership Survey



The Outreach Committee is the Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings. We would love for you to join our team. All are welcome to attend the next workshop held the first Wednesday of the month.
7:00 – 7:30pm at Trinity
Presbyterian Church - 3151 Union
Ave, San Jose, CA

WANT TO SPONSOR AN AA MEMBER IN PRISON?

IT'S EASIER THAN
YOU THINK!



YOUR ANONYMITY
IS PROTECTED!

There's a vital need for AA members from the outside to sponsor AA members in prisons. In order to understand this need, all you need to ask yourself is:

Could I have gotten sober without the help of a sponsor?

If your answer is 'maybe not', then you understand the vital need.

Inside members frequently tell our volunteers they're not comfortable sharing their deepest secrets with other alcoholics in prison due to the chance that the information may not remain confidential. The consequences of the wrong information being revealed on the inside can be catastrophic. This is why H&I pioneered our groundbreaking Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service (IVSS).

SPONSOR AN INSIDE MEMBER FROM ANYWHERE IN NORTHERN CA

(Due to prison regulations, meeting volunteers are ineligible to participate at the facility where they volunteer)

The requirements for IVSS volunteers are:

Minimum five years' sobriety; Solid sponsorship experience; Knowledge & practice of AA's Steps & Traditions; Willingness to anonymously text, receive phone calls and exchange letters. ~ We match same gender sponsors, but ANYONE can help us with recruiting efforts. ~

For more information: **EMAIL US AT: HANDI.IVSS@GMAIL.COM**

Sign up to volunteer here



!!TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR SPONSEES, TELL YOUR SPONSOR!!

I AM RESPONSIBLE

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.
And for that, I am responsible.

A service of the NorCal Hospital & Institution Committee (H&I)

Please announce
at meetings

Free event!
Snacks and drinks
provided

UNITY DAY 2026

Sunday, August 30th

1:00 to 4:00 pm Doors open 12:30

Speakers Eric L. and David T.

Panel of Reps from 9 AA Service Bodies:

Intergroup, General Service, H&I,

NCCAA, AA Archives, Al-Anon,

Alcathon, SCCYPAA, PI/CPC

**Learn what each service body does and
discover your next favorite service
opportunity.**

Milpitas Community Center

457 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

Want to help or get more info? Call Gary M @ 408-690-1869





NATIONAL AA TECHNOLOGY — WORKSHOP —


CIRCUITS OF SERVICE:
HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS
CARRY THE MESSAGE



**SEPTEMBER
11-13
2026**



**CONCORD, CA
SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA**



REGISTER NOW



BILINGUAL HYBRID EVENT
ENGLISH & SPANISH INTERPRETATION


NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE



THE NAATW WORKSHOP IS FOR **EVERYONE** IN A.A.
www.naatw.org

BRIDGING THE GAP

Temporary Contact Program

Looking to get into service?

Volunteer to be a Temporary Contact for Bridging the Gap to help alcoholics make the transition from a treatment facility into the local A.A. community where they reside

Working within our Traditions, Temporary Contacts:

- ✓ Call the newcomer and let them know you're willing to help them ease into A.A. in their own local community
- ✓ Provide transportation to A.A. meetings if needed, which allows time to get acquainted



Contact BTG:
btgsantaciaracounty@gmail.com

BTG District Business Meeting: 3rd Monday of the Month || 7pm - 8pm
Currently Meeting on Zoom || Meeting ID: 856 6928 1545 Passcode: BTG
24-Hour Voice Messaging: (408) 915-7958



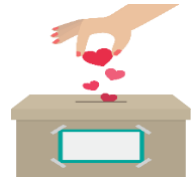
Tradition Seven:

We are fully self-supporting

Make a contribution today



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 your contributions go?

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

- 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
- Maintain, protect, and display archives
- 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?

Visit aasanjose.org/product/faithful-fiver

July 2026 SCC GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS*

Name	Amount
Tuesday Night Happy Hour 796	70.00
Winchester Fellowship 70960	25.00
Escape from Drowning Men's Meeting (80007)	958.30
Single Problem Topic (Men's) 582 (Mon.)	649.00
Ripple Effect ID80049	164.70
Back to Basics Saratoga Noon 151 (Tues.)	602.00
South Valley Women's Surrender 88 (Mon.)	127.40
Raffle Meeting (Thurs.) 531	578.00
LGBTQ + Sober Experience ID80028	371.70
One Day at a Time 70903	343.41
3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610 (Thur.)	455.00
Brick House (Tues 5pm) [ID80054]	112.70
A Vision For You 687 (Sat.)	3,516.80
Spiritual Progress ONLINE ID80023	318.50
Living with Serenity (Chips) 599 (Wed.)	172.00
Tuesday Step (ID80034)	270.00
Sunnyvale Noon Fellowship 70975	182.00
8 pm Nightly Meeting ID80030	71.40
Primary Purpose Group 70910	910.00
Easier Way Group 290 (Fri.)	208.60
Get Up and Go (Women) 187 (Sat.)	1,260.00
End of the Line Men's Group 147 (Tues.)	336.00
Firing Line (The) 404 (Mon.)	1,296.00

Name	Amount
Sunday Spirituality 674 (Sun.)	100.00
Get Up and Go Women's Online ID80051	294.27
The Amethyst Group ID80035 Wed 7PM	280.00
Los Gatos Big Book 664 (Mon.)	100.00
Sundowner's Mtg (Chips) 768 (Wed.)	154.73
Grace Group of AA 352 (Sat.)	311.50
Men's Group 97 (Mon.)	193.58
In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	345.00
Gay & Lesbian Topic Disc 516 (Sat.)	161.10
Almaden Valley Discussion 30 (Sun.)	41.30
Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	795.00
Gratitude Group 339 (Sat.)	100.00
Women Crushing Recovery id01010	98.70
Men's Honesty Group 26 (Sat.)	350.00
Fair Avenue Fellowship 70901	1,447.16
Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	561.00
Spiritual Progress Group [ID70979]	1,500.00
Saturday's Reflections 622 (Sat.)	425.60
Living Solutions 728 (Fri.)	728.34
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	231.70
Forged From Adversity Group 70957	419.90
Freedom Fellowship 70940	562.50
Bowers Fellowship 46 (Sun.)	823.00
Ladies Amethyst AA Study Group 749 (Wed.)	294.19
Trinity Group 370 (Sat.)	40.00
Saints & Sinners Clubhouse ID 80052	20.00

*Latest available information

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get out your calendar – there are lots of great events in Santa Clara County – check them out at aasanjose.org



Woman To Woman
SAN DIEGO

52nd Conference

September 18th - 20th, 2026

womantowomansandiego.com/2026-registration

MEETING UPDATES

We invite you to check out new meetings listed below!! There is always something new to try! Do you have an update to your meeting? Is your group celebrating a milestone? Let us know here: aasanjose.org/coin



Santa Clara County AA features 150+ meetings per week, with daily updates and hybrid options (in-person and online).

Find a meeting in the
[AASanJose.org Meeting Directory](https://AASanJose.org)

District 04/CNCA 06

Safety and Inclusion Committee Meeting

Every 4th Wednesday of the Month
7 to 8pm



On Zoom: 884 5128 7850
Passcode: Safety

district04cnca.org/safety-committee/

Grapevine's New Weekly Open AA Meeting!

Join us live on
Wednesdays at
noon Eastern time
Meeting ID: 871
2036 8287
Passcode: 238047

LAST SATURDAY BIRTHDAY & SPEAKER MEETING 7PM

ALANO CLUB WEST
1401 PARKMOOR AVE., SUITE 200
SAN JOSE, CA 95126

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US

- BBQ 6PM
- 50/50 RAFFLE
- SOBRIETY CHIPS
- 30/60/90
- 6 & 9 MONTHS
- YEARS OF SOBRIETY

PARKING - FOLLOW SIGNS

- LIMITED PARKING IN FRONT
- PLENTY OF PARKING AT THE BACK OF BLDG.



Please join us on Sundays for the: Serenity Speakers Meeting

**2 Speakers:
10 minutes & 45 minutes
6 PM Pacific Sundays**

Zoom Meeting ID: 810 4600 2746 PW: 164



**Annual Birthday Celebration
at the end of each meeting
with enthusiastic singing**





July Birthdays*

Birthday Celebrant	Birthday Date	Years of sobriety	Birthday Contributor
Bonnie S.	7-5-2001	25	Hilarey D.
John B.	7-4-1979	47	John S.
Diana O	7-14-2023	3	John S.
Cheryl B.	7-11-2006	20	Mary P.
Sharon L.	7-13-1981	45	Rosemary T.
Linda D.	7-17-1978	48	Linda D.

Congratulations on 188 years of Sobriety!!! Bravo!!!



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>

*Latest available information

Santa Clara County A.A. Intergroup CENTRAL OFFICE RESOURCES

The Santa Clara A.A. 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 resources at:
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.

Learn more:
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, relevant, 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."

<https://aasanjose.org>

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