

THE **GRAPESCCIN**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS **DECEMBER 2025**

AA Central Office
5732 Soquel Drive, Soquel CA 95073
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 10am-2pm
Sundays and most holidays closed
831-475-5782 aasantacruz.org

*The paper version of the GrapeSccin will no longer be mailed out after December 2025. The online version is free at aasantacruz.org located on the

“grapesccin/newsletter” page for downloading. Or email grapesccin@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!

Area Reps needed for area 1, 7, 9,

The Grateful & Gay Group has moved from Thursday 7:30 PM at London Nelson to Wednesday at 7:00 PM at The Diversity Center – 1117 Soquel Ave.

Submit! Do you have a short personal story, poem or writing you would like to see published? The deadline to submit news, notices, and fliers and other local AA related info to be published in the GrapeSCCIN newsletter is the 25th of every month! We welcome your participation.

Books! The new “Plain Language” Big Book and the hardcover version of “The Next Frontier, Emotional Sobriety Volumes 1&2” are available at cost at central office

Volunteers Needed! For *Bridging the Gap*: be a part of a committee helping those new to the path of recovery leaving detoxes, jails, etc. who are needing to get plugged in with their local AA community. Check the business meeting section to get involved

Volunteers Needed! At **Hospitals, Jails and Institutions**; carry the message! If you are interested show up at the business meeting the fourth Wed of the month, visit handisc.org or email SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com

JOIN ON ZOOM FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!!

AA SANTA CRUZ INTERGROUP

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MEETING

DEC
6



DOORS
5:30
MEETING
7:00

JOE L • VISION FOR YOU
SOBER SINCE 12/15/99

MID-COUNTY SENIOR CENTER
829 BAY AVE, CAPITOLA

MEETING ID: 289 528 4510
PASSCODE: 4755782

**Join us for the
Birthday Speaker
Meeting!**

**We would LOVE
your contribution
to our dessert and
snacks potluck
before the meeting!
Cakes, cookies,
holiday treats,
chips and dips are
all welcome**

**After Party! Not ready for
the fun to end after the
birthday meeting? Come
dance it up with your
friends and AA fam! Let's
have fun! Dance parties are
good for the soul.. You
know it!!**

**A SANTA CRUZ INTERGROUP
AND CRUZYPAA PRODUCTION**

THE AFTERS

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6
DECEMBER BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MEETING
AFTERPARTY**

8:30 - 11pm at Mid-County Senior
Center Back Room

HEADLINER

DJ LUCAS

The Afters — Night Club-themed dance!
Dress Code: Black Light
Music: Club Hits Throughout the Ages

NO COVER CHARGE

**EARLY RISERS
HOLIDAY
PARTY**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Food • Raffle • Fellowship • Fun

**12:00 PM – Food Served
1:00 PM – Raffle**

Children Welcome!

**\$10
donation**

**Mid-County Senior Center
829 Bay Avenue, Capitola**

DEC. 20TH @ 7PM

CRUZPAA'S

SPICY DRAG RAVE SOIRÉE

PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10	LOCATION TBD	GLITTER-FREE DRAG SHOW/RAVE
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**SAFETY COMMITTEE
LIAISONS WANTED!**

The Joint Committee on Safety invites all meetings in Santa Cruz County to send a safety committee liaison to our monthly meeting.

EVERY 4TH THURS. 6PM ON ZOOM

Safety Committee Liaison Position Description:

- **Suggested Sobriety Requirement:** 1 Year
- **Suggested Length of Commitment:** 1 Year
- Attend monthly Safety Committee Meeting
- Discuss safety and meeting accessibility
- Bring a report back to their group and facilitate communication between group and the committee
- Outreach upcoming safety events

Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 892 3730 0658
Passcode: 857738

Meeting Time: Every 4th Thursday of the month, 6–7pm

Contact:

📧 safety@asasantacruz.org
📞 Julia (831) 566-2534

BEN LOMOND FELLOWSHIP

4TH STEP WORKSHOP

with STEVE B.

2025 DATES:
Jan. 11
Feb. 8
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
Aug. 9
Sept. 13
Oct. 11
Nov. 8
Dec. 13

**10 A.M. TO NOON
EVERY 2ND SATURDAY**

**BEN LOMOND FELLOWSHIP
9636 HWY 9 • BEN LOMOND**

**ONGOING
BUSINESS
MEETINGS**

December 2025

Bridging the Gap

**Monday, December
1st, 6:30 pm
(First Monday of each
month)
Location: 102 Rancho
del Mar, Aptos
Zoom ID: 979 7159
5498
Pass: 1935**

Cruzypaa

**(Santa Cruz County
Young People of
Alcoholics Anonymous)
Meets 1st & 3rd
Sunday
December 7th & 21st,
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Location: Jade St.
Park**

**Intergroup Council
Meeting**

**Wednesday,
December 3rd, 7:00
pm – 8:30 pm
(First Wednesday of
each month)
Location: Mid County Senior Center
829 Bay Ave.**

Web Committee Meeting

**Thursday, December 11th, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
(Meets 2nd Thursday each month)**

Help Wanted Nov 2025

**Santa Cruz County - Area 73 H&I Committee
Hospitals & Institutions**

Treatment Facilities Openings

Driftwood Health Care – Needs Secretaries Wednesdays @2:00PM
Redwood Grove Post Acute – Needs coordinator and secretaries 1st Saturday @10:30AM
Santa Cruz Residential – Needs Secretaries for 4th Thursday 7:30PM, 2nd Sunday @7:30PM
Telecare Psychiatric Health- Needs secretaries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesdays @6:00PM (full county clearance needed)
The Cove @ UCSC – Needs Secretaries 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thursday @5:00PM
ALL treatment facilities Requirements – 6 months sobriety, working knowledge of the steps

Correctional Facilities Openings

Blaine St. – Needs Secretaries for 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays @10:00AM... Female
Juvenile Hall – Secretaries, 1 year sobriety. (Needs male support)
Rountree Facilities – Needs Secretaries Thursdays @7:30PM... Male
Salinas Valley State Prison – Needs Visiting Sponsors... Male, 5 years sobriety

All Correctional Facilities: One year sobriety, and working knowledge of the steps. Five years since the last felony & 2 years since the last misdemeanor required. Orientation and clearance are required for service at both men's and women's county corrections facilities. Orientation is held at the Sheriff's office at 5200 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz. You must complete an application before orientation can be scheduled. Live Scan background check cost will be covered by H&I. Please advise; clearance will take 4-6 weeks.

Be the Hand in H-and-I

If you are interested in a service position, please visit handisc.org and complete the "volunteer interest form" or email: SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com. The volunteer coordinator typically replies within 14 days, give or take.....

Santa Cruz H&I committee meeting – is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Youth Room at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 420 Melrose Ave in Santa Cruz. The meeting begins at 7 PM. All AA members are welcome.



Scan the QR code for the most recent updates and online application.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8847009>

Meeting ID: 884 7009 1801

Passcode: 2272

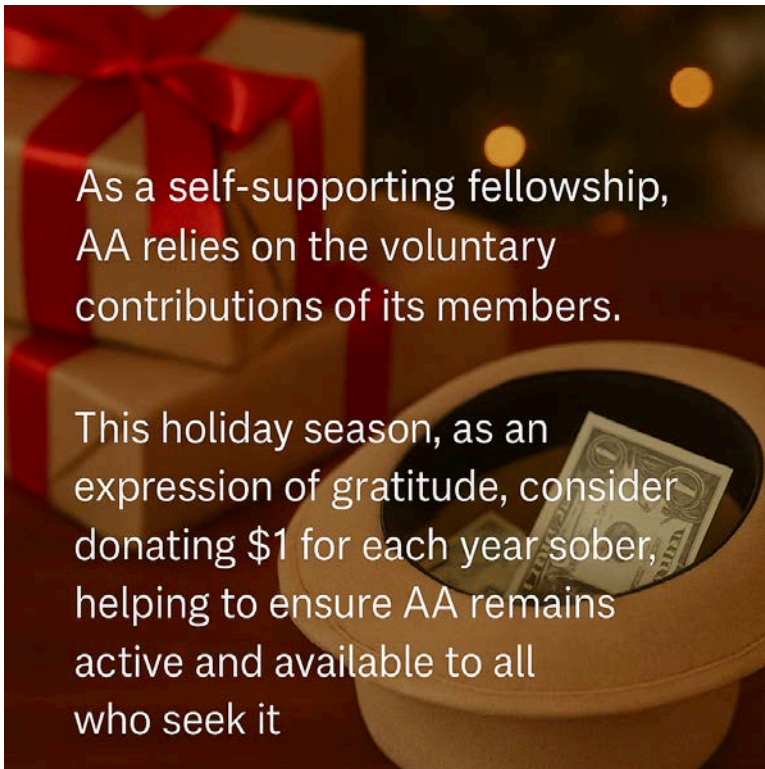
General Service District Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

New General Service Orientation starts at 6:45 pm

Location: Mid County Senior Center

or via Zoom (link at aasantacruz.org Event Calendar)



As a self-supporting fellowship, AA relies on the voluntary contributions of its members.

This holiday season, as an expression of gratitude, consider donating \$1 for each year sober, helping to ensure AA remains active and available to all who seek it

420 Melrose Ave., Santa Cruz

Thursday, December 25th, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

(Meets 4th Thursday every month on Zoom)

Meeting ID: 892 3730 0658

Passcode: 857738

Bylaws Committee

Tuesday, December 16th, 6:00 pm

(Meets 3rd Tuesday every month)

Contact via email:

bylaws@aasantacruz.org

Intergroup Steering Committee

Wednesday, December 17th, 7:00 pm

– 8:30 pm

(Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, hybrid/Zoom)

Joint Committee on Safety – Events

Planning Meeting*contact for

reschedule*

H&I Committee Meeting *contact for

reschedule*

Wednesday, December 24th, 7:00 pm

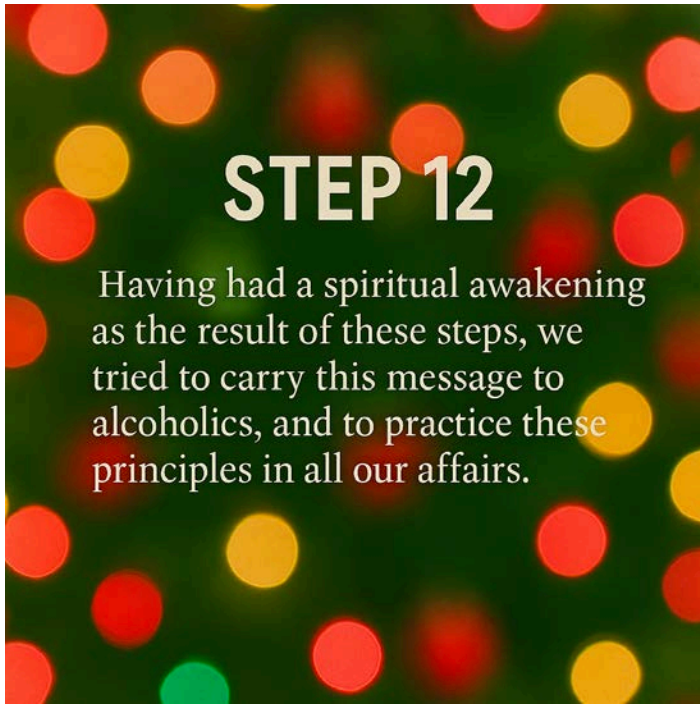
– 8:00 pm

Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church

link to contribute donations
to the greater AA community

<https://aasantacruz.org/suggested-donations/>

STEP OF THE MONTH Step 12 reminds us that recovery is



not meant to end with us. The gift of sobriety is sustained by sharing it through service, sponsorship, and by living these principles in our daily lives.

Carrying the message doesn't require perfection, it happens one conversation at a time, in kindness, honesty, and willingness. As we give away what was freely given to us, we strengthen both our own recovery and the Fellowship as a

whole.

The Spiritual Principles of the Twelve Steps...

1. **Honesty** - facing the truth about our lives and ourselves
2. **Hope** - believing change is possible
3. **Faith** - trusting in something beyond our own will
4. **Courage** - taking action despite fear
5. **Integrity** - being whole and consistent in word and deed
6. **Willingness** - openness to change
7. **Humility** - recognizing our limits and asking for help
8. **Self-Discipline** - taking responsibility for our actions
9. **Love** - acting with care and empathy toward others
10. **Perseverance** - continuing the practice, one day at a time
11. **Spiritual Awareness** - conscious contact and mindfulness
12. **Service** - giving back and carrying the message

What are “all our affairs”..?

It means these principles aren't just for meetings or recovery spaces — they apply to:

- Family and relationships
- Work and finances
- Commitments and boundaries
- Conflict and repair
- How we show up when no one is watching

In practice, Step 12 asks us not only to talk about recovery, but to live it.

Tradition Twelve

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



Anonymity

Anonymity is the practice of protecting personal identity and placing principles before personalities. In Alcoholics Anonymous, anonymity preserves humility, equality—and safety—ensuring that no individual speaks for AA and that the focus remains on shared recovery rather

Tradition 12 reminds us that AA is not built on any one individual influence. Anonymity keeps us humble and our focus on shared principles and not individual personalities.

“And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to

practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.” (Alcoholics Anonymous p.565-566

“...These hard-won lessons have made us entirely willing to undertake every personal sacrifice necessary for the preservation of our treasured Fellowship. This is why we see anonymity at the general public level as our chief protection against ourselves, the guardian of all our traditions, and the greatest symbol of self-sacrifice that we know...” (A.A. Comes of Age p.293

Antonymity?

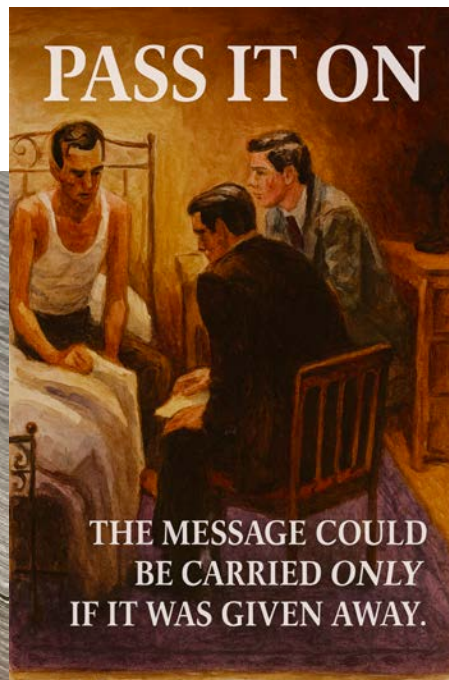
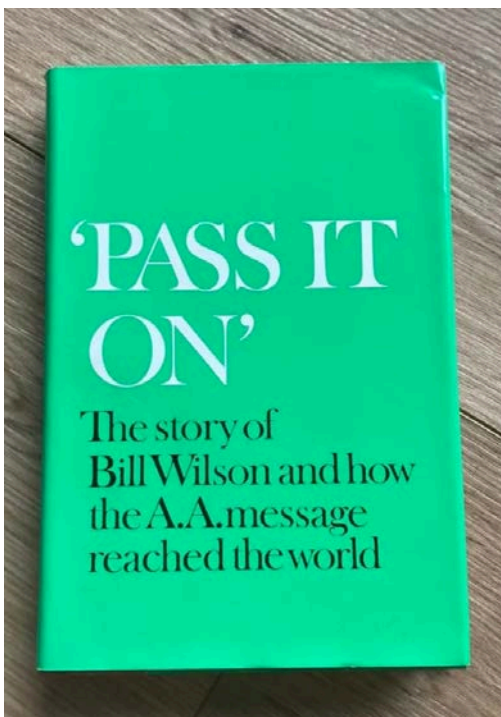


AA Literature Feature: Pass It On

THE STORY OF BILL WILSON AND HOW AA REACHED THE WORLD

Pass It On, published in 1984, documents the life of Bill Wilson, the formation of the Big Book and tells the story of Alcoholics Anonymous through the experiences of its earliest members. Rather than explaining how AA works, it shows how the message was carried—from one alcoholic to another—and how humility, service, and shared experience allowed the Fellowship to grow.

The book captures Step 12 in action, reminding us that AA was built not by plans or perfection, but by people willing to show up and pass along what was freely given to them.



PASS IT ON – FOUNDATIONS STILL IN USE

Pass It On documents how AAs early needs shaped structures we still rely on today:

- GROUP CONSCIENCE
- SERVICE COMMITTEES & INTERGROUP
- AA WORLD SERVICES / GENERAL SERVICE
- SELF-SUPPORT (TRADITION 7)
- SPONSORSHIP & STEP 12 WORK

These foundations continue to support AA's primary purpose.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

“Sponsoring is a part of my recovery and very beneficial! In the book it has a story about Bill failing with every new-comer he hit up. But his wife pointed out he had remained sober.

I didn't share at all for a great many years and when I asked my sponsor why nobody had asked me he said one simple answer .

You don't share anything to let people know what's going on in your recovery. From that point on I've had lots of requests and have always done it the way my sponsor does it.

A lot of times they're not ready but once in a while one sticks and the moment you see the light and love in their hearts for the program take effect it's Amazing.

I Love Alcoholics Anonymous and everyone who's trying to better their lives!!!”

– ED O



“Giving it away to save myself!” –Tina

SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS

The General Service Office has made this optional card available as an A.A. service piece for in-person/online groups that wish to use it. Please feel free to utilize, choose a section(s) or adapt the text to your group's needs.

Tradition Five states: Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Any person seeking help with a drinking problem is welcome at this group. No A.A. entity determines an individual's membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is this group's conscience that if any person endangers another individual or disrupts the group's efforts to carry A.A.'s message, the group may ask that person to leave the meeting.

This group strives to safeguard the anonymity of A.A. members and attendees; however, keep in mind that anonymity in A.A. is not a cloak for unsafe and illegal behavior. Addressing such behavior and/or contacting the proper authorities when appropriate, does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to ensure the safety of all in attendance.

The short form of Tradition One states: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity." Recognizing the importance of group unity, our group strives to create a safe meeting environment in which alcoholics can focus on achieving sobriety.

Service Material from the General Service Office

Additional Sharing:

- Safety is a topic within A.A. that groups and members can address. Developing workable solutions to help keep meetings safe can be based on the principles of A.A. In discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and placing principles before personalities.
- Predatory behaviors and unwanted sexual advances are in conflict with carrying the A.A. message of recovery and with A.A. principles.
- A.A. does not provide medical advice or detox services; it has no opinion on outside issues, including medication. Medical advice should come from a qualified physician.
- The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. Groups and members strive to create a safe environment for the alcoholic who still suffers.
- If safety concerns arise, individuals can speak with a sponsor, members of the group, a trusted friend and/or a professional to address the concern.
- Service entities, such as areas, districts and intergroup/central offices, are available to help provide A.A. services and shared experience. All groups and entities in A.A. are autonomous. There is no government within A.A. and no central authority to control or direct its members, but we do share our experience, strength and hope.

For more information on this topic, see the service piece "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" (SMF-209) at aa.org.

Happy Holidays to ALL!! Look for local alcathons and check the AA Santa Cruz website for updates. Stay involved. You are loved and needed!!



AA
GOD
SERVICE
ACT AS IF
EASY DOES IT
THIS TOO SHALL
PASS • TURN IT OVER
LIVE & LET LIVE • H.O.W.
THINK THINK THINK • PLUG
THE JUG • EXPECT MIRACLES
ACCEPTANCE IS THE ANSWER
WHERE YOU GO, THERE YOU ARE
FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD
YOU WILL INTUITIVELY KNOW • K.I.S.S.
I CAME; I CAME TO; I CAME TO BELIEVE
HALF MEASURES AVAILED US NOTHING
TRUST GOD, CLEAN HOUSE, HELP OTHERS
IF IT WORKS, DON'T FIX IT • ONE DAY AT A TME
LET GO AND LET GOD • GIVE IT AWAY TO KEEP IT
MINDS ARE LIKE PARACHUTES • SURRENDER TO WIN
BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD • COURAGE TO CHANGE
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS • HOPE • LET IT BEGIN WITH ME
PRAYER & MEDITATION • I CAN'T; HE CAN; I THINK I'LL LET HIM
TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE • ANALYSIS IS PARALYSIS • FAITH
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE • TO BE FORGIVEN WE MUST FORGIVE
DON'T QUIT BEFORE THE MIRACLE HAPPENS • KEEP COMING BACK
NOTHING CHANGES IF NOTHING CHANGES • USE THE 24-HOUR PLAN
GOD IS NEVER LATE • LIFE ON LIFE'S TERMS • PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION
HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF, BUT THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS