



THE GRAPESCCIN
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INTERGROUP
NEWSLETTER
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
JULY 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 GrapeScin 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!

- **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!** **At Central Office** for office support and answering the phone. Call or email the central office to ask about working with your availability. We need volunteers and back ups as well! Be on the list!
- **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 and Institutions**; carry the message! Often just a once a month commitment. If you are interested visit handisc.org or email SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed!:

- **Activities Chair** A unique opportunity to be of service; plan and network AA events
- **Area Reps for areas 1,4,5,7,9,10** represent an area by showing up to meetings in the area and help keep them connected to the greater AA community by supporting them in electing an intergroup rep.
*Show up to the Intergroup Meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center 829 Bay Ave Capitola or on zoom from 7-8pm to inquire or volunteer about these positions!

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

- * **CRUZYPAA** Volleyball tournament and sandcastle contest @ Seabright Beach 6pm
- * **Birthday Speaker Meeting ~ July 5th**
Doors open 6pm, meeting from 7pm-8:15pm ~ 829 Bay Ave. Capitola. Come potluck fellowship and hear **Tess C.** from Palm Springs!
- * **4th Step Workshop** 10-12 every 2nd Saturday @Ben Lomand Fellowship



ONGOING BUSINESS MEETINGS

- Bridging the Gap **Mon July 7th 6:30pm** ~ first Monday of each month
102 Rancho del Mar, Aptos / Zoom ID: 979 7159 5498 Pass: 1935

- Cruzypaa “what’s that?” Santa Cruz County Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous. Meets 1st & 3rd Sundays **July 6th & July 20th 1pm-2pm**
Trade Winds Church 4525 Soquel Dr. Soquel

- Intergroup Council Mtg. **Wed July 2nd 7-8:30pm**

On the first Wednesday of every month @Mid County Senior Center 829 Bay Ave.

- Web Committee Mtg. **Thurs July 12th 7pm-8pm**

The Web Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8847009> Mtg ID: 884 7009 1801 Passcode: 2272

- General Service District Mtg. **Wed July 10th 7:30pm-9:30pm**

New General Service Orientation starts 6:45 Mid County Senior Center
Or on zoom, find the link at aasantacruz.org Event Calendar



- ByLaws Committee: 3rd Tuesday every month **July 15th 6pm** contact via email at bylaws@aasantacruz.org

- Intergroup Steering Committee **Wed July 16th @ 7pm-8:30pm** This meeting is the third Wednesday of the month (hybrid/zoom)

- Joint Committee on Safety Events Planning Meeting **Thurs July 24th @6pm-7pm**
This committee meets every fourth Thursday on Zoom. Use meeting ID: 892 3730 0658 Passcode: 857738

- H&I Committee Mtg **Wed July 23rd @7pm-8pm** Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Ave. Santa Cruz

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY...

What was the Oxford Group?

A.A. founders; Bill W and Dr. Bob were members of this group we hear mentioned in the Joe and Charlie tapes. Originally a Christian organization focused on personal spiritual transformation and surrendering to God's plan, founded by Lutheran minister, Frank Buchman, in 1921, they believed that "fear and selfishness were the root of all problems" and that the solution to living without fear and selfishness was to "surrender one's life over to God's plan." It emphasized the pursuit of the four moral absolutes: honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love.



(←*Frank Buchman*) Ebby Thacher, who we lovingly know as Bill W's sponsor, visited Bill in November of 1939 and refused a drink stating "I've got religion." It was three members of the Oxford Group who had convinced the courts to parole Ebby into their custody, where they exposed him to the principles of the Oxford Group. Ebby, after experiencing a profound spiritual shift, visited his struggling friend, Bill, who after seeing the light in his old friend's eyes, gained hope. Bill W, with Dr. Bob and the support of psychologist Carl Jung, used the principles given to them by the Oxford Group to successfully create the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Oxford Group has since evolved into the Moral Re-armament Group and in 2001 was renamed The Initiatives of Change and is alive and well today "building trust across the world's divides of culture, nationality, belief and background.



Simply put, The Oxford Group was and still is a Spiritual Movement based in Christian roots. AA emphasizes a God or Higher Power of your own understanding.

AA LITERATURE:

The books *Emotional Sobriety Volumes 1 and 2* have now been compiled into one hardcover copy for sale at the central office! Pick up your copy or ask your groups' literature person to keep some stocked for your homegroup!

Emotional Sobriety is a compilation of personal stories of living in recovery. Here is one..

Win or Lose (Aug 2001)

As a hard-charging marketer, I used to focus only on winning. I worshiped people like football coach Vince Lombardi, revering him as the patron saint of conquest. So any time one of my victories was less than complete- or, God forbid, I actually lost - my sense of failure was absolute. And this always made me a sitting duck for self-pity - the handmaiden of John Barleycorn.

Joe C., my sponsor, picked up on this soon after we met. He gave some good advice. "Take the words 'success' and 'failure' out of your vocabulary. Replace them with 'honesty' and 'effort,'" he said.

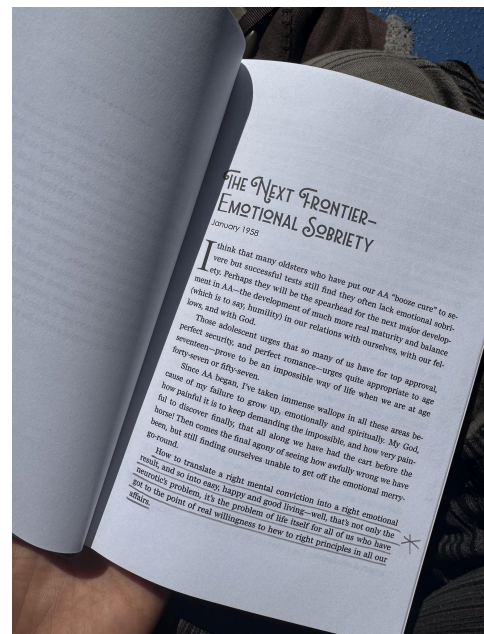
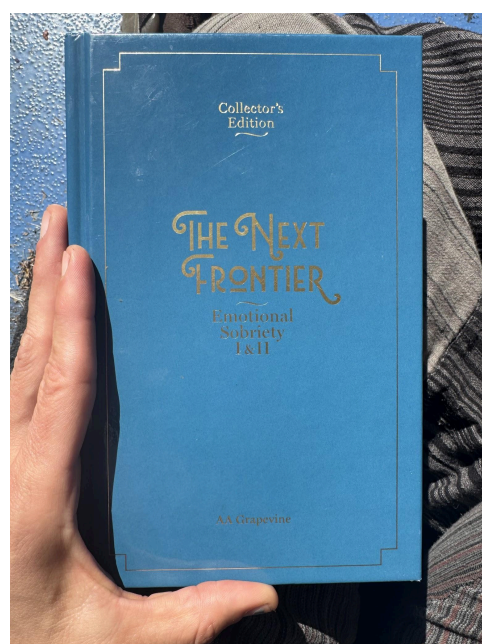
I wasn't yet ready. I was an advertising hotshot who thought he knew more about competition than did Joe, an electrician at the time. So I continued my Type A behavior and reveled in constant conflict at home and on the job. But his words

haunted me for years.

In time, I began to weary of the anger, resentment, and hate fostered by my competitive attitude. One day, another old timer, Claude W., asked, "Why are you so afraid of losing? Don't you trust God?" Heatedly, I pointed out that, like him, I was in marketing and was paid to succeed.

His response had roots in the same stock Joe had planted years before: "Don't you know that success and failure share a common denominator?" He paused and then really let me have it. "Both are temporary."

His words have stood the test of time. They helped me to stay sober and to find joy in my chosen profession, with my family, and among friends. I thank God, Joe, and Claude for teaching me this lesson in plenty of time to reap its rewards.



Sponsorship is an essential part of our program. Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

“The program teaches us how to be of service and not live in self centered fear. Sponsorship gives me the opportunity to share the magic and wisdom that comes from working the steps myself, which taught me that I can choose fear or love at any moment. That's a message that is really fun to know, practice and pass on; the result ultimately being personal freedom and joy. A sponsor gets to love you until you can love yourself and they've had to learn all that from working their program just like you are doing.” -Barbara M. on sponsorship

