

the GRAPESCINN

Alcoholics Anonymous of Santa Cruz County
5732 Soquel Drive,
Soquel, CA
831 475-5782

November 2022

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LOVE IN RECOVERY

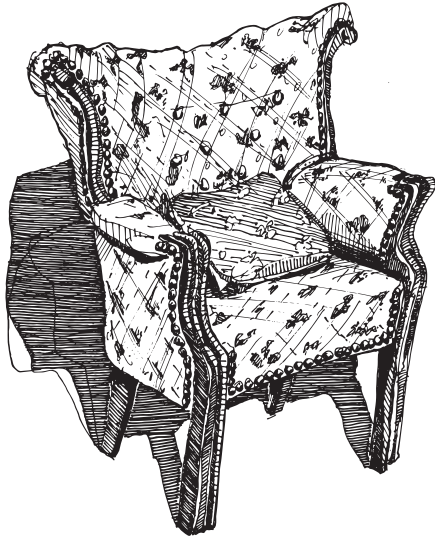
A Miracle of the program. That's what makes sense to me when I think back to leaving my husband of twenty years and remarrying him eleven years later. We'd met at 15, married at 19. Both alcoholics. I was sober when I packed my suitcase. But not for long. I had no money and no career. I landed a job as a reporter for a newspaper in the Sierra Nevada foothills. I rented a room in a boarding hotel. I was frightened. I missed my children. My boss was mean. I was lonely. I was a few days sober. And I stayed sober one day at a time because my haven in this upheaval were the rooms of AA. Alcohol wasn't the only issue in my recovery.

My thinking about romance was that of a seventeen-year-old, as Bill W says—not appropriate for a 42-year-old. I regularly ended up broken-hearted or having broken a heart clear to age fifty, when I bought my first horse and named her Baja, a gift of sobriety. She was young and had her own fears. While I was traveling in Alaska with a boyfriend who was secretly planning to move in with another woman, my mare injured herself. She kicked a gelding who thought he was a stallion. Her came down an impaled her flank on a white metal fence stake. We were both done in by the males of our species. But I'd reached my bottom—thank you Creator—and in the process, experienced major spiritual growth in that area of growing up. Healed, Baja and I attended our first horse event at the Mother Lode fairgrounds. She ran full speed out of the gate and around, yes, tall white stakes. She exploded, bucked me off. I landed on my head, out for three minutes.

When I came to, I was surprised to hear I had a



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LOVE IN RECOVERY, CONT.

horse. In ER, I begged my best friend to call my ex-husband in Santa Cruz. As soon as he got word, he drove up and took care of me. He had to return to work, but I could not return to work for a month due to head injury. During my time alone, I did some thinking. He was the only person I trusted. And now he was five years sober. We'd both worked hard to put our lives together. He'd never given up on me. We proposed to each other, I returned to Santa Cruz, and we remarried in June 2002. Everything fell into place. Our daughter married. Our son married. We have grandkids. My new/old sober husband and I spend a lot of time with them. None of these gifts would be possible without Alcoholics Anonymous. I did sell Baja, though, and I miss her terribly. If I hadn't, I would have renamed her Milagra, after the miracles of AA.

Robin S.

AA, I thought was here for folks to clean up and kick the beer,
 As I walked in full of gloom , your eyes sparkled and lit up the room,
 12 is the goal , the numbered target,
 I found parts of myself the drink helped me forget.
 Clearing up the past and healing my mind,
 Making new connections, redefining the word TIME,
 With this understanding I now walk with my Tribe,
 Together willingness flows , surrender follows
 Everyone knows that the this is the key for this ride
 The Fellowship of the COIN,
 Here I Live and the drink problem dies.

Tiffani T.

GRAPESCCIN WRITING GROUP

Next meeting: Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

Our monthly group meeting is the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 on Zoom. All AA members are invited. No crosstalk or critiquing. No pressure. If you're interested in joining us, here is the Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 825 1704 3385

Passcode: 729445

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

volunteer
 go to an
 a.a. potluck
 Read *Living Sober*
 make a meeting
 before & after a
 family gathering
 jump in a
 pile of leaves
 call another alcoholic
 don't drink,
 just for today
 gratitude
 make green
 bean casserole
 DON'T get too hungry,
 angry, lonely OR tired
 wear a
 pumpkin suit
 service
 go to an
 alcathon



Michele D	10/24/1976
Marty W	10/11/1978
Nancy N	10/13/1980
Vanessa S	10/21/1981
Sally Ann	10/16/1985
Sheri	10/31/1987
Lee J	10/30/1988
Erik H	10/18/1991
Briana K	10/26/1991
Barbara H	10/13/1992
Denise R	10/14/1994
Clare T	10/17/1994
Tim M	10/28/1994
Penny C	10/22/1995
Tim E	10/2/2000
Kimberly H	10/30/2000
John S	10/20/2002
Brigid F	10/1/2006
Casey L	10/1/2007
Kathy D	10/4/2007
Christine R	10/26/2012
Gary H	10/7/2013
Rose T	10/15/2014
Joe Newman	10/19/2014

In memoriam

Dan C	10/4/1947
Ken C	10/12/1986

Want to list your A.A. anniversary in the GrapeSCINN? Email your name and sobriety date to: grapesccin@gmail.com



NOVEMBER SPEAKER MEETING

Birthday Speaker Meeting

Hosted by: CRUZYPAA
 Tony H / Rule 62 Sacramento, CA
 10 years – April 25, 2012
 December 3rd 2022 7PM
 Doors open 6:30PM
 Mid County Sr. Center
 829 BAY AVE. CAPITOLA, CA 95010



WHAT IS THE DIVERTER?

When anyone attempts to contact Alcoholics Anonymous by phone in Santa Cruz County after the Intergroup Central Office closes for the day, that call is diverted to the phone of an alcoholic. That alcoholic will provide general AA and AA meeting information, or have another alcoholic contact the caller to provide general 12-step service, if necessary.

My experience with the Diverter began a little over three years ago and has proven to be a life saver, not only for myself. Like many AA service positions, the Diverter will put you in contact with many alcoholics, week in and week out. That simple contact will often change the tide of a rough day, situation, or mood and more importantly, insure group and personal sobriety. Simply put, the Diverter is often the lifeline to that still suffering, raw and fresh alcoholic. The alcoholic who, wanting so badly to get sober, will do anything to get anything to relieve the acute emotional, mental, and physical pain of alcoholism.

Who then does this alcoholic speak to when contacting AA. Who? Bureaucratic prerecorded message spitting out meeting times and locations? No, Santa Cruz Central Office runs the AA Diverter with a 24-hour rotation of live AA members, ready at all times to send out a 12-step call or direct the caller to an AA meeting.

Who makes this possible? You and I, fellow members of AA, run the Diverter. Here's an example of a Diverter call:

It's 6:30 on a Monday evening. The phone rings...

"Good evening, Alcoholics Anonymous. This is XXX. How can I help you?"

"Um, I—uh—wanted to find out if there was a meeting tonight?"

"Sure. There's a few at 7:00 and a bunch at 8:00".

"8 would be better."

"Ok. Did you have a particular kind of meeting you wanted to go to?"

"What do you mean?"

"Like a women's meeting, mixed meeting, big or small, that kind of thing."

"Oh, they have those?"

"Yeah."

"Ok, well um, I guess, like, one with not too many people and definitely not one with just women."

Long pause.

"Can I answer any questions?"

"Well, it's just that I've never been to an AA meeting before. What are they like?"

I went on to describe to her the general format of an open discussion meeting. That we say "God" and pray a bit but aren't associated with any religion. That you don't have to introduce yourself if you don't want to, and that there are NO compulsory fees.

This satisfied her somewhat but she was still apprehensive.

"Well, it's just that it's going to be really weird going to some AA meeting and I won't know anybody there."

"Well, you've met me over the phone, right?"

"Yeah."

"Well, my shift here ends at 7, and I'm going to an 8pm meeting at the little red church across from the Nickelodeon. It's pretty small, coed, and if you want, I'll come up and say hi. That way, you'll know somebody there."

"Ok, that sounds good."

"And meanwhile, try not to take a drink, but we won't kick you out if you do."

As it happens, she did show up to the meeting, and I see her from time to time. She's still sober today. What a gift to have had that experience! Serving on the Diverter made that possible.

OPEN DIVERTER SHIFTS

3rd Monday 7pm to 11pm

4th Monday 7pm to 11pm

1st Wednesday 7am to 9am



NOVEMBER 2022 EVENTS

Wednesday, 2 November @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Intergroup Council Meeting

Saturday, November 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Birthday Speaker Meeting

Mid-County Senior Center 829 Bay Ave., Capitola, CA

Sunday, November 6 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

CRUZYPAA Monthly Meeting

Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St, Santa Cruz, CA

Wednesday, November 9 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

General Service District Meeting

Wednesday, November 16 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Intergroup Steering Committee

Intergroup Council officers and all Area Reps are invited.

Sunday, November 20 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

CRUZYPAA Monthly Meeting

Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St, Santa Cruz, CA

Saturday, November 26 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Santa Cruz Fellowship Birthday Speaker Meeting

412 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA



CENTRAL OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Various shifts are available, If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office manager, Kerri at 831-475-5782 or email officemanager@asantacruz.org

A WORD FROM YOUR TREASURER

Over the past several months revenue in the form of donations and literature sales has fallen while expenses associated with running Intergroup have gone up. We have been operating in the red during this time. While our finances remain sound this is not sustainable over the long run.

In addition to remaining solvent there are many things that we would like to do at Intergroup.

- Hold more fun activities and opportunities for fellowshiping
- Bring in speakers from out of town for our monthly Birthday Speaker Meeting to share their experience, strength, and hope
- Keep our Central Office open to provide opportunities for service, remain sober, and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety

Our Seventh Tradition states "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." Please donate what you can to your local Santa Cruz County Intergroup using the Venmo or PayPal links below.

Clint R, Treasurer

Venmo @asantacruz

Paypal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/intergroup923>

I am responsible.

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AREA 73 HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

- GSR Liaison: 6 months sobriety

Correctional Facilities:

- Salinas Valley State Prison - Needs Visiting Sponsors: Male, 5 years sobriety
- Ben Lomond Fire Camp - Needs Coordinator: Male or female, 3 years sobriety.
- Water Street Jail/Women - Needs Coordinator: Female, 3 years sobriety.
- Juvenile Hall - Needs Coordinator: Male and Female, 3 years sobriety.
- Water Street Jail/men - Needs Coordinator: Male, 3 years sobriety

Rehabilitation Centers

- Behavioral Health/Dual
- Diagnosis Facilities:
- Behavioral Health Unit - Needs Secretaries: Male or female, 3 years sobriety.
- Casa Pacific - Needs Coordinator: Male or female, 3 years sobriety.
- El Dorado Center - Needs Coordinator: Male or female, 3 years sobriety.
- Telos - Needs Coordinator: Male or female, 3 years sobriety.

Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans

- Paget Center - Needs Coordinator: Male or female, 3 years sobriety
- Meetings at Santa Cruz County Jails (Water St. Men's and Women's, Blaine St. Women's, and Roundtree Men's Facilities) are restarting as soon as we have cleared volunteers. Secretaries needed all facilities URGENTLY.

If you are interested in any of the above service positions please email: SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com

All Jail Facilities: One year sobriety, 5 years since last felony & 2 years since last misdemeanor required. Orientation and clearance required for service at both men's and women's county corrections facilities. You must complete an application before orientation can be scheduled. Live Scan background check cost will be covered by H & I.

All other H & I Facilities: Please visit fillhandisc.org to fill out the volunteer form. We will be in touch with you to initiate your volunteering and assistance in placement into an open meeting.

Contact the Santa Cruz County H & I committee at: SantaCruzCountyHI@gmail.com website at HandISC.org

H & I Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm at 420 Melrose Ave., Santa Cruz (Trinity Presbyterian Church)

Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service

What: IVSS provides one-on-one in-person sponsorship to A.A. members confined at Ca. State Prisons. This program has been successfully tested at San Quentin State Prison as role model to roll out to other institutions in California, as well as potentially throughout the U.S. and Canada. The response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. We currently have over 60 confined alcoholics who are getting the benefits of one-on-one sponsorship.

Why: Due to State Prison regulations and federal PREA requirements, regular H&I meeting volunteers CANNOT sponsor inside members at the institution they serve. Our solution is to create an “inside visiting sponsorship service” under the auspices of the NorCal H&I Committee which operates in addition to, but entirely separate from, our H&I meeting activities at the prisons.

How: A special group of A.A. volunteers go into the prison as VISITORS. The clearance procedure for visitors is very simple – just a basic one-page questionnaire. The volunteer will meet with the A.A. on the inside at least once a month during the normal visiting hours at the facility.

Who: Male A.A. members with at least five years of continuous sobriety, a good working knowledge of the Big Book, and it is suggested to have previous sponsorship experience.

Outside volunteers are matched with inside members requesting the service. After the first meeting both members are free to decide if they want to work together – like all sponsorship, it is entirely voluntary on both sides. This extremely exciting program is a fantastic means of furthering your 12 Step work and helping to ensure the continuation of Alcoholics Anonymous existence!

But what about anonymity? Due to our dedicated P.O. Box and the cooperation of the prison administration, your anonymity is protected. Your name and address aren't revealed.

IVSS is now being rolled out to the Salinas Valley State Prison.

If you have a desire to participate in this groundbreaking program (A.A.'s “on the inside” have never had the opportunity to take advantage of a one-on-one sponsor in the eighty plus years that Alcoholics Anonymous has existed) please see the contact information below:

“Every new volunteer is another inside member served”
Dave R. at svsp.ivss@gmail.com.