

FOCUS:What I want for a Valentine

Be My Valentine

At nearly two years of sobriety I had made a pact with God that He would be the only man in my life for awhile. After two failed marriages, mostly due to my drinking, I had come to accept the fact that you can't pound a square peg into a round hole. Up until the summer of 2005 and 39 years of age I was always looking for something (or someone) on the outside to fill the huge hole on the inside. My pact with God went something like this: "Fill me with your spirit, help me to be a good friend and mother, help me to use the Twelve Steps to be the best person I can possibly be and, if it is Your will for me and



when You think I'm ready, show me my soul mate."

From there I just became content with being single. I somehow knew that whatever God thought was best I could accept. Three months later I met my husband.

I do think it was love at first sight. He was very shy and we spent the next six weeks just looking at each other every Saturday night at the 8:15 pm St. Timothy's meeting. We spent time getting to know each other before I introduced him to my daughter who was just five years old at the time. We hit a few rough patches in that first year and at times I wondered if it would work out. I think we

continued on page 4 column 1

Monthly Topics

Here's Looking' at You!! This month's Featured Meeting is the Solutions for Gay Women's Meeting at the First Congregational Church on Leigh and Hamilton, in Room 14. Only a year old and still considered small with less than 20 attending, it's gaining a loyal audience. Read about it on Page 2. If you have meetings you'd like to see featured, let us know.

This month our focus is on "What I Want for a Valentine," and the stories start on this page and continue on pages 3, 4, 5 and 7. Hope you enjoy reading what people really are looking for in a true love.

March's topic will be **Tuning Out Negativity**. How do you do it, what tips can you offer, and how do you keep up your spirits when the turkeys are dragging you down? Address your stories to: ODAATCOIN@yahoo.com. **Deadline is February 22, 2012.**

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FEATURE: Gay Women's Meeting at the First Congregational Church



A friend I knew from AA called me after drinking and said she needed to get back into AA.

I went to her home and we talked. At one point she said that she felt unaccepted at the AA meeting she was going to because she was “just an old lesbian.” I don’t know if this was real or imagined, but it truly seemed to be getting in the way of her recovery. I suggested that we go to a meeting in the San Jose gay fellowship the next night. “Oh, but that’s Thursday and there is no gay meeting in this county to which a woman can go,” she said.

We did go to an open Thursday night AA meeting together, then to Lesbians Living the Promises on Friday night. But there was a void in the gay fellowship on Thursday nights. Many fellowships are a single AA group with 20 or more meetings a week at a single location. The San Jose gay fellowship is over a dozen autonomous groups each with a single

meeting and a lot of member overlap. The annual “Sober and Free Conference” attended by hundreds, and fund raising events throughout the year, unite the gay groups and their community.

When I felt there was enough interest in a new Thursday night meeting, I recruited an organizing committee. We met three times then launched the meeting. Thursdays at 7:30pm, we meet at the First Congregational Church of San Jose (UCC) at Hamilton & Leigh. The first meeting was March 3, 2011. (We hated to give up our March 3 tickets to the Stanford Women’s Basketball game against rival Cal, but we couldn’t really start the meeting the second week of March.)

The secretary invited one of our widely-respected long-timers to chair the first meeting. Much to our surprise, she said that she started the Lesbians Living the Promises meeting over 20 years ago, and this new Thursday

night meeting will save lives too. Co-incidence is how our Higher Power stays anonymous.

Several women in the gay fellowship have said that when it was a rough day for them, they were grateful there was an AA meeting with a bunch of people they knew. There are many regulars with 20 - 30 years of sobriety. My friend from the Twelve-Step call that inspired the meeting eventually found that room. When members share, it is from the heart and honest, including the ups and downs of life. People “tell on themselves” to remain accountable. We laugh and we cry tears. Many of us feel that the others in that room helped save our lives.

We love when newcomers share and remind us what it was like before sobriety. We always hand them our phone list and tell them to call us, even about nothing, just call. With all that quality sobriety time in the room, it is a great place to find a sponsor. The meeting has grown through (1) more awareness, (2) newcomers that keep coming back, and (3) AA members moving into town.

The meeting format has several interesting features. One member of the org committee suggested that we read an AA pamphlet once a month. After the first pamphlet-reading meeting, many of us realized that it was good basic AA, and that it is free, yet valuable. After speaking, the chairwoman does not call on

continued on next page

Gay Women's Meeting continued from previous page

members to share. Members voluntarily share one at a time for 3-4 minutes. Sometimes the chairwoman does not realize who she inspires to speak. This is an Open women's meeting. A gender-specific meeting does not have to be Closed. Sharing is limited to alcoholics and those with a desire to stop drinking. Indeed, one woman said she was grateful that the meeting is Open. When she chaired this meeting, she was able to bring her 21 year old

daughter. They connected in a new way that evening.

We close the meeting in a circle with the AA Statement of Responsibility.

Who is responsible?

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.

At the close of the first meeting, saying those words really had special meaning for all of us.

Geena R.



What I Want for a Valentine

When I came into recovery, one of the suggestions that I did not take was staying out of a relationship for the first year. I had all these "feelings" which I didn't know how to process in a positive way, and simply reacted to them, as I had been doing throughout my life.



Anyway, after many self-destructive relationships for many years, the pain got intolerable. I was at a crossroad with my recovery: Either change or die. I decided to do something that I'd avoided: I could not get into a relationship for a year, or however long it took, in order to love myself and feel complete without having someone else co-sign my existence.

I did it for a year and a half...as it took a bit longer to get over the last relationship and form a solid relationship with my Higher Power and myself (it went hand in hand.)

It was and continues to be the best relationship I've ever had. It's a love fest, and it's ever growing, unconditional and most rewarding.

so wonderful, so fantabulous with myself and my Higher Power, that I was fully in acceptance that if I didn't find a partner, I would be all right! Woohoo! So, armed with my self-love and happiness, I went to an AA Round-up and met the love of my life. Again, let me be clear... I wasn't looking for anyone. I was finally okay with my Higher Power, myself and my friends. Funny thing was that my wife had also done a hiatus on relationships for over a year, and was in the same spiritual place. We weren't sure what that meant or where we would go from there, but we knew from our past

I recommend it highly.

Now, here's where my Higher Power has the laugh. I finally felt so ok,

experiences what we didn't want... which made our definition of what we wanted in a relationship that much clearer.

We've been together for over seven wonderful years and I have to say that it's the healthiest and most loving relationship I've ever been in. The best part is that we are still committed to our relationship with our Higher Powers, our AA, and then ourselves. I like to say that she is the perfect frame for my canvas.

In a museum we find masterpieces, with frames to complement them. We are human masterpieces, and finding a mate to complement (not complete) us allows us to be a wonderful team in AA. We enhance each other. I didn't know it then, but that's what I needed for a Valentine.

Anonymous

Be My Valentine

ontinued from page 1

were both constantly doing a Tenth Step without the other person really knowing -- just doing what we were taught to do. In that first year of courtship I realized that there were two people in the relationship and not just me. I remember journaling and having an "ah-hah!" moment, and I wrote "Wow! There are two people here and not just me!" We shared a lot about what it was like, what happened and what it was like now. We shared our experience, strength and hope with each other. Our stories were totally different in a lot of ways, but the same feeling of utter despair and failure were the same.

I think our successful relationship came from first discovering the Twelve Steps, a relationship first with God and the willingness to constantly take a Tenth Step (taking a daily personal inventory and promptly admitting our wrongs.) We don't always have a perfect relationship, but most days it's really darn good. So good that I would not trade my life for anything, even if that means being an alcoholic. I think we both had to be in that really, really dark place to be willing to change and admit our character defects. When we disagree we always work through it because we have the Twelve Steps.

I believe in my heart that when we were ready God brought us together and not a second sooner. No alcoholic screaming fights that once filled my previous life and my daughter's. We have a home filled with peace, love and laughter. We end each day on our knees in prayer, and for that I am truly grateful.

Jill B.

Topics Upcoming:

April	Doing for Others	March 21, 2012
May	Controlling your Temper	April 18, 2012
June	Being an Example in AA	May 23, 2012

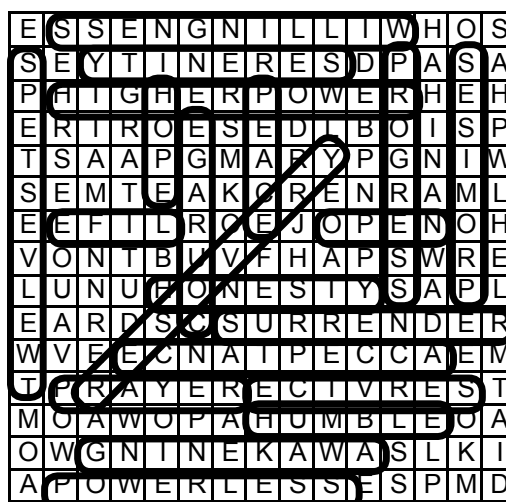
COIN Production — Editor: Fran D.; Layout & Design: Brian M.; Photography: Valerie W., Richard U.; Editorial Research: Valerie W.; Promotion: Catherine M.-S.

HELP WANTED: If you would like to write of your experiences or become part of the COIN staff and help in finding people to write of their experiences or if you would like to flex your own creative juices and receive writing assignments, then please contact the COIN editor at odaatcoin@yahoo.com.

Answer to last month's quiz with modifications

THE TWELVE STEPS + Puzzle

Correct answers are shown below
(we appologize for any misspellings...)



ACCEPTANCE AWAKENING COURAGE POWERLESS
GRATITUDE HIGHERPOWER PRAYER PROGRESS HONESTY
HOPE HUMBLE LIFE PEACE OPEN PROMISES REC(S)OVERY
SERENITY SERVICE SURRENDER TWELVESTEPS WILLINGNESS



My Ideal ~~Man~~ Valentine

I have been sober for a little over 3 years (and single for more than 4 years...but who's counting?) When I was 15 months sober and after completing the 12 Steps, my sponsor encouraged me to consider dating again. Being one to always follow my sponsor's suggestions...I figured I'd give the dating thing a whirl...it had to be much like riding a bike, right?

So after dating one man who did not drink for about 60 days, I was excited to meet with my sponsor to report in on how my dating in sobriety experience was going. After giving her a download of my dates...her response was simply... "Hello, alcoholic behavior, without the alcohol!"...so that was the end of that.



I left that meeting with my sponsor with a "homework assignment" in hand...which was to make a list of the things I'd like in my "Ideal Man" (a wish list, if you will...or "dyslexic gratitude" list.) To be (rigorously) honest, I'd rather take up bike riding again...but I thought it would be best to follow my sponsor's suggestion (yet again.)

Given I completed that homework assignment nearly 2 years ago and did not find my Ideal Man amongst all of the coal in my Christmas stocking...perhaps he may exist in the form of "What I Want for a Valentine"...

What I Want for a Valentine

- 45 – 50 years old
- 5'10+
- Accepts and loves my young offspring
- Active /athletic/fit
- Adventurous
- Affectionate (but does not smother)
- Amicable with ex-wife/girlfriend (if he has one)
- Clean & Sober
- Communicator
- Dog lover
- Embraces my character defects
- Family oriented
- Fashion sense (no goofy shoes)
- Fellowship of friends (longtime)
- Financially stable
- Forgiving and understanding
- Hair (dark - optional)
- High-energy
- Honest
- Independent with own hobbies/interests
- In recovery & working a program
- Kind
- Love & tolerance is his code (including of children)
- Materialistic – NOT!
- Neat & orderly (bonus points)
- No excessive hair on back, neck, or coming out of ears
- Not addicted to his computer, cell phone or his couch
- Non-smoker
- Polite
- Respectable
- Responsible
- Sense of humor
- Spiritual
- Trustworthy
- Willing to try new things (just "willing" in general)

...To thine own self be true...Happy Valentine's Day!

Debbie H.

Editor's Bag

Happy February, all you wonderful Valentines! Even if you don't have a "valentine" to call your heart-throb, it's not because you aren't lovable. You are. We all are. And now...? How to attract one...

In Chapter 8 of the Big Book there is a significant passage for me which reads, "Patience, tolerance, understanding and love are the watchwords. Show him these things in yourself and they will be reflected back to you... Live and let live is the rule. If you both show a willingness to remedy your own defects, there will be little need to criticize each other."

In my first two marriages, when I was still drinking heavily, I could barely understand these words, much less adhere to them. I was like the seagulls in the movie Nemo who kept crying out, "Mine! Mine! Mine!" dashing around madly, grabbing everything in sight. I was so afraid I was going to lose out somehow.

Once in sobriety I learned that I needed to "be an example in everything I do." If I criticize and complain, rather than compliment him on his positive behavior, I receive the same kind of treatment. I married a man in the program who had five years' more sobriety than I did, and he had already learned to be very careful with the use of his tongue as a sword. He knew how much he had hurt people when he was drinking, and he was sure he didn't want to do that to me now, in sobriety.

We attended the Friday night "Living Solutions Group" of Alcoholics Anonymous together every week, which allowed both AAs and Al-Anons to speak. There we got to hear a comprehensive laying out of a problem from both sides of a couple, and how they addressed the topic at the meeting, and then when they went home. Typically, we would hear about it the following week, on how it had been resolved. When that soul-mate of mine died after sixteen years of marriage, I wasn't sure I would ever be able to find anyone to take his place.

I didn't. I found someone to fill my heart in an entirely different way. I asked God for guidance, and these were my basic criteria for a mate: Good, kind, gentle, honest, honorable, self-sustaining through his own contributions, and someone who adored me. Oh, yes, and he had to love to make love. I need someone who likes me as I am, and one whom I like AS IS. Is this easy? Not really. We are always going to be two different people. We will always do something the other one

doesn't really like.

But how is this new Valentine different, Fran?

This is what I learned in my past relationship: Keep my mouth duct-taped shut and my derriere glued to my seat (thank you, Helen L.) Any time I think I have to spell out a wrong-doing, I need to remember how many fingers are pointing back at me. Can I fix my own faults first? Boy, that alone will keep me in my seat. There is no nagging allowed. Period. Be courteous, complimentary, kind, thoughtful; call my sponsor often. Now I compliment him on all the things he does that I like. The things that annoy me are not that important. I go to a meeting and talk to my women friends. We all have the same problems, which are basically immaterial. Keep my side of the street clean. If there are any differences that can't be resolved, or appear to be going unheard, ask for a quiet hour to talk about grievances between both of us. We both probably need to have our own say; if one is angry, the other one feels it.

Let go, let God. He has his program, I have mine. I am so glad God brought him into my life and packaged him to be receptive to the Twelve Steps. I am unbelievably happy for this Valentine in my life, who tells me every day how much he loves ME. Heart-throb.

Until next month, Fran



Tomorrow's Valentine

Seriously, what kind of topic is this?!

“What I want for a Valentine”?! I have almost everything a recovering person could want at my age. Why should I be interested in what I want in a Valentine? The gifts with which I have been blessed seem beyond counting. To enumerate: the soul mate companion person I'd always hoped for — gentle, kind, loyal, handsome, strong, and willing; a beautiful home, on a street I've loved for thirty years;

a garden where I can lose myself amid the flowers and the weeds and the birds; a whole loving AA family that increases year by year. Freedom to live life as I believe the Higher Power wants me to “...happy, joyous and free.”

We of Alcoholics Anonymous know how to do life. We celebrate birthdays and weddings. We cry over broken hearts, lost jobs, divorces. We know how to celebrate the lives of our departed members. We have retreats to meet new people, deepen familiar friendships, discuss new ideas, and be alone. On a daily basis we share meals together to talk, laugh, cry, whatever is appropriate for the moment — perhaps to listen, perhaps to talk. Phone calls, even if in the middle of the night, happen and fulfill both parties.

A quote from the Big Book (Page 100) describes what has happened for me:



“If you persist [walk day by day in the path of spiritual progress] remarkable things will happen. When we look back, we realize that the things which came to us when we put ourselves in God's hands were better than anything we could plan.”

And to the topic: For Valentine's Day, I don't need a him or a her. What I really want is a deeper relationship with the God of my understanding. I want the discipline to meditate so I can meet “the stranger” I am promised to meet, if I stay around and “do what we do.” I want the courage to sit in the silence, breathe and “Be still and know that I am God.”

I need the willingness to do the 10th Step so I can catch my low self-esteem when it shows up. I need to understand that depression can become my default thinking style almost instantaneously, from

the moment of waking to the last good night. I must fight and pray against this lethal thought pattern which leads to discouragement, even despair. Admitting to others that I am having a difficult time, a little humility, and “talking things out” seems helpful, when I have the willingness to “Let Go and Let God.” To really surrender, then perhaps I will have “...a conscious contact with God as we understand...” the most splendid Valentine I could possibly ask for and receive.

Anonymous

Service Opportunities: Santa Clara County A.A.

Are you looking to be in service in A.A.? Or has your sponsor “suggested” service to you? Or have you heard how great it is and want to get in on the good stuff? Or are you just feeling a little guilty? No matter - this section is for you. What follows is a partial listing of service opportunities in A.A., together with some pertinent information. If you'd like us to include something we've missed, please let us know.

Please remember, groups are autonomous and have different needs with different service positions available. Sobriety requirements, length of commitment, and other particulars of service are a matter of group decision. So, the information presented here is to be used as a guideline only; consult with your group about the specifics.

HOME GROUP SERVICE

Meeting Secretary: Setup and facilitation of the meeting according to the group's guidelines or tradition.

Sobriety requirement – 6 mos. to 5 years. Term – 6 months

Treasurer: Collects, protects, and distributes the money collected at each meeting.

Sobriety requirement – 2 years. Term – 1 to 2 years

Literature Coordinator: Buys literature for sale and for distribution from Central Office.

Sobriety requirement – 6 mos. to 1 year. Term – 6 mos. to 1 year

Coffee, Set-up, Clean-up: Often these are different service positions.

Sobriety requirement – 3 mos. to 1 year. Term – 6 mos. to 1 year

Grapevine Rep: Provides the Grapevine for the group and advises on items available from Grapevine.

Sobriety requirement – 1 or 2 years. Term – 1 or 2 years

PI/CPC Rep: Represents the group at the PI/CPC meetings and reports to the group.

Sobriety requirement – 1 or 2 years. Term - 1 or 2 years

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I): Represents the group at the H&I meetings and reports to the group.

Sobriety requirement – 1 or 2 years. Term – usually 2 years

Intergroup Rep. (IGR): Represents the group at the Intergroup meetings and reports to the group.

Sobriety requirement – 1 or 2 years. Term - 2 years

General Service Rep (GSR):. Represents the group at the District meetings and reports to the group.

Sobriety requirement – 2 to 5 years. Term – 2 years

INTERGROUP and CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE

PI/CPC Committee: Our information voice to the general public and professionals.

Sobriety requirement – 2 years. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Outreach Committee: Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings.

Sobriety requirement – 1 year. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Diverter Volunteers: Providing after hours phone coverage.

Sobriety requirement – 1 year. Term – open, but at least 1 year

12th Step Volunteers: Phone and visitation contact with callers in need.

Sobriety requirement – 6 mos. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Daytime Office Phone Volunteers: Takes all incoming calls to Central Office.

Sobriety requirement – 2 years. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Newsletter Committee: Prepare monthly newsletter

Sobriety requirement – open. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Activities Committee: Organize many great activities.

Sobriety requirement – open. Term – open, but at least 1 year

Communications Committee: To make sure we all get the word.

Sobriety requirement – open. Term – open, but at least 1 year

ARCHIVES CORNER

1. The question was asked about what happened to Henrietta's husband. You may remember that Henrietta Seiberling was the lady who introduced Bill W. to Doctor Bob when Bill was stranded in Akron and needed to talk to a drunk to maintain his own sobriety. Henrietta was married to Frank Seiberling's son John who was the offspring of the man who was one of the founders of the Firestone and Seiberling Rubber companies. Henrietta and her husband separated but never divorced and Henrietta moved into the Gatehouse with their three sons. She and Doctor Bob's wife, Ann, had been praying for Doctor Bob who had admitted his drinking problem at a gathering of some of the Oxford Groupers. Bill's call to Henrietta was regarded by her as an answer to her prayers.
2. On June 6, 1967, Bill W. wrote the following letter to a friend: "I am beginning to see that all my troubles have their root in habitual and absolute dependence upon my personal prestige, security and romantic attachment. When these things go wrong, there is depression. Now this absolute dependence upon people and situations for emotional security is, I think, the immense and devastating fallacy that makes us miserable. This craving for such dependencies, this utter dependence upon people and situations can only lead to conflict. Both on the surface and at depth. We are making demands on circumstances and people that are bound to fail us. The only safe and sure channel of absolute dependence is upon God himself."

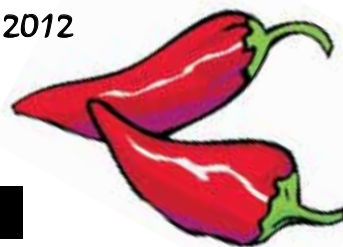


This picture is from a unidentified 1919 newspaper.

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL INTERGROUP CHILI COOKOFF!

CELEBRATING THE HOME GROUP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012
12 NOON TO 3 PM
 LINCOLN GLEN CHURCH
 2700 BOOKSIN AVE.
 SAN JOSE, CA



\$10.00 donation per person

12-1 pm Chili tasting and judging
 1-2 pm Chili and cornbread feasting with sumptuous desserts to follow
 2-3 pm AA Speaker Meeting - unless the fire department shows up first!

HEATED!!! CHILI COMPETITION
NO PRINCIPLES OVER PERSONALITIES...
THIS IS ABOUT GROUP BRAGGING RIGHTS!!!

*Sample great chili, then vote for your favs -
 fun and frivolity - it'll be a blast!*

For more information on how to sign up your group as a

CHILI team
 COFFEE team
 SET-UP team

DESSERT team
 CORNBREAD team
 CLEAN-UP team

(we do need lots of volunteers!) call Gloria-- 408-656-9524

February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2012	March 2012		1	2	3	4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3		PI/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30pm PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm OUTREACH MTG: 5:45pm INTERGROUP MTG: 7:30pm			SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office ARCHIVES WORK DAY 11:15am, Central Office
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	4 5 6 7 8 9 10					
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	11 12 13 14 15 16 17					
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	18 19 20 21 22 23 24					
29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		SCCYPAA BUSINESS MEETING 6:30pm	NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:30pm			PICPC WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						DIVERTER/12TH STEPPERS WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING; 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:00pm				CHILI COOKOFF! Noon-3pm Lincoln Glen Church 2700 Booksin Ave. SJ
26	27	28	29			
		H & I COMMITTEE 7:00pm				

LOCAL EVENTS

- Feb. 11** Serenity First Fellowship Dance, 9:30PM-12:30AM, Serenity First Fellowship, 304 N. 6th Street, at Julian St., San Jose
Feb. 18 SNL Valentine's Day Dance, 10PM-2AM, Saturday Nite Live Group, 1388 S. Bascom Ave. @ Stokes, San Jose
Feb. 25 5th Annual Intergroup Chili Cookoff, 12PM-3PM, Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave., San Jose
Apr. 27-29 Sober & Free Conference, San Jose Hilton, 300 Almaden Ave., San Jose. www.soberandfree.org

EVENTS AROUND CALIFORNIA

- Feb. 11** Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance, 6:30PM-?, First United Methodist Church, 229 Stanford St., Watsonville.
Mar. 16-18 NCCAA 65th Annual Spring Conference, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Dr., San Ramon. www.ncc-aa.org
Apr. 14 & 15 CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly 2012, Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin St., Lakeport
May 18-20 41st Annual Hospitals & Institutions Conference, Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Dr., Redding, 96003

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

- Mar. 14-17** Seniors in Sobriety 2012 Intl. Conference, Yuma, AZ. www.bit.ly/sisconference
Apr. 5-9 AA Australian Convention "A Design for Living", Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia. www.melbourne2012.org
Apr. 19-22 2012 International Men's Conference, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. www.iaamclasvegas.org

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 2012	April 2012			1	2	3
1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4 5 6 7					SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	8 9 10 11 12 13 14					ARCHIVES WORK DAY 11:15am, Central Office
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	15 16 17 18 19 20 21					
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	22 23 24 25 26 27 28					
26 27 28 29	29 30					
4	5	6 SCCPAA BUSINESS MEETING 6:30pm	7 PI/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30pm PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm OUTREACH MTG: 5:45pm INTERGROUP MTG: 7:30pm	8	9	10 PICPC WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
11	12	13	14 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:30pm	15	16	17 DIVERTER/12TH STEPPERS WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
18	19 BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	20 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:00pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 H & I COMMITTEE 7:00pm	28	29	30	31

WE WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE WORD!!

Please send news and information about your group's activities before the end of the month
 So we can get them in the COIN. We accept them in any form,
 But emailing a flyer is best: office@asaanjose.org

Telephone Calls Received During January 2012

Daytime at Central Office.....421

Daytime 12 Step Calls.....10

(Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.)

An average of just over 8,000 hits are
made on our website each month!!

**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.**

To all the members and groups who support us,
WE THANK YOU!

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Grapevine Speakers Meeting

Fridays at 8 p.m.

Presbyterian Church

San Tomas & Homestead, Santa Clara

Second Tradition Group of AA

Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave, San Jose

Remember We Deal With Alcohol

Saturdays at 8 p.m.

St. Mark's Church

1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara

Saturday Nite Live Group

Fridays at 8 p.m.

1388 S. Bascom at Stokes, San Jose

Speaker Meeting—VA Hospital

Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday Morning Fellowship

Saturday at 10 a.m.

United Presbyterian Church

Fremont & Hollenbeck, Sunnyvale

MEETING CHANGES

NEW

It Works It Really Does (Women's Meeting): Mon. 10:30AM, Center for Training & Careers, 749 Story Road-Assembly Room, San Jose.

The Firing Line: Mon. 8:00PM, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave., San Jose.

A Better Life: Wed. 6:00PM, Emergency Housing Consortium, 2011 Little Orchard Str., San Jose.

CHANGED

A Second Chance at a First Class Life: Sun. 4:00PM, Cornerstone Fellowship Group: 1600 Dell Ave. (2nd floor), Campbell. Meeting is not a Closed Men's meeting as previously stated. It is an Open meeting and all are welcome.

Spiritual Step Sudy: Sun. 9:00AM, Oak Creek Apartments, 1450 Sand Hill Rd., Palo Alto. Meeting has moved to Stanford: Escondido Village Admin Bldg., 859 Comstock Circle, Palo Alto.

Progress Not Perfection: Sun. 7:00PM, Bernal Road Baptist Church, 160 Bernal Rd., San Jose. Meeting is moving as of January 15, 2012 to New Creation Lutheran Church located at 7275 Santa Teresa Blvd., at Avenida Espana, SJ.

Silver Serenity: Thurs. 2:00PM, St. Lucy's Church, 2346 S. Winchester Ave., at Budd. Location has not changed, but clearer directions were provided: enter Activity Center bldg. at north side near the basketball courts.

A Time for Change: Sun. 7:15PM, Cornerstone Fellowship Group, 1600 Dell Ave., Campbell. Time has changed to 5:00PM.

Sunshine Group: Thurs. 12:00PM, First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., San Jose. Meeting has moved to International Church, 3275 Williams Road (btwn. San Tomas Expy and Winchester Blvd.), San Jose.

NO LONGER MEETING

Sunday Spirituality: Sun. 9:00AM, Oak Creek Apts.: 1824 Sand Hill Road, Bldg. F, Willow Room, Palo Alto.

Truly Grateful Group: Wed., 8:15PM, Neighborhood Center, 208 E. Main St., Los Gatos.

SNL SPEAKERS

Feb. 3: Jen S., 4D Group, 11 Years

Feb. 10: Chistine G., Gathered Together
for Sobriety Group, 5 Years

Feb. 17: Darryl P., East Palo Alto, 26 Years

Feb 24: Elise L., Winchester Fellowship, 3 Years

Birthday Night Speaker

Feb. 25: Kevin R., SNL, 26 Years

St. MARK'S SPEAKER MEETING

Feb. 4: Diane O., 37 Years

Feb. 11: Doug N., 5 Years

Feb. 18: Shannon, Winchester Fellowship

Feb. 25: Alisha, 5 Years

Birthday Contributions

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT	YEARS	CONTRIBUTIONS	BIRTHDAY
Brooks McD.	56	Richard M.	02/06/1956
Artie	50	Annie K., Anonymous	01/07/1962
Brian M.	22	Anonymous	01/18/1990
Tom K.	42	Anonymous	01/15/1970
Dino S.	1	Eric L.	01/16/2011
Paul C.	33	Robbie R., Paul C.	01/10/1979
Dick K.	30	Friends from the Bay Area	09/10/1981
Colleen K.	30	Friends from the Bay Area	12/31/1981
Ward A.	36	Friends from the Bay Area	01/26/1976
Jim Q.	22	Friends from the Bay Area	01/10/1990
Kevin K.	17	Friends from the Bay Area	02/02/1995
John P.	11	Friends from the Bay Area	02/05/2001
Marcella M.	29	Neale S.	01/24/1983
Mary Pat P.	29	Neale S.	01/28/1983
Kanaka S.	25	Kanaka S.	11/25/1986
Bob S.	49	Bob S.	01/24/1963
John S.	20	John S.	01/25/1992
Caesar G.	35	In Memorium from John S.	01/25/1977

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!! 537 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!!

If you would like to participate or honor a friend,
please use the birthday forms at your Meeting or Central Office.

In Memorium

Caesar G., beloved member of Alcoholics Anonymous, passed away in January. He lived a rich and full life right up to the very end. He will be greatly missed by many.

InterGroup Minutes: January 4, 2012

- Bill H., Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by a Moment of Silence and the serenity prayer.
- Glen read the definition of Intergroup.
- Pam read the 12 traditions.
- New Intergroup Reps: Julie, Glen, Colin, Brian, Bill and Jeff
- Visitors: Ryan and John.
- Birthdays: Mary Kate, 19 years. Elfriede, 29 years. George, 3 years. Rich, 32 years. Pat, 30 years.
- 7th tradition.
- Additions and corrections to the agenda: 1) Date was corrected from the 3rd to the 4th. 2) Brandon is no longer SCYPAA representative. Was changed to Sarah, the current representative, who's phone number is 408-394-4318.
- Additions and corrections to the minutes: 1) In the North County General Service section: District 04's motion corrected from "Suggest a Spiritual Parity of the Grapevine," to "Suggest a Conversation on Spiritual Parity between the Grapevine and La Vina."
- The price of the E-book application was changed from \$6 to free. It is the books that are \$6.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report, Steve J.

- Rent was paid for the first quarter. IGR has \$300 in the prudent reserve. Laura is to be the new treasurer.
- I/G Chair, Bill
- Noted that Intergroup should be a safe place for all IGR representatives to ask questions and share concerns. Along these lines, it is the responsibility of IGR representatives to speak up when they do have concerns about an issue so that concerns can be addressed sooner rather than later.

Central Service Board, Jo Ann C-J

- The Board met on 12/15/2011 at Central Office.
- Contributions overall for the month of November was a \$3024.01 improvement over November, 2010. This was due to improved general contributions.
- Special envelope contributions from groups in 2011 have totalled approximately \$8000.00 as of 12/13/2011.
- December contributions and literature sales were slow as of the board meeting.
- All bills are paid and the prudent reserve is at 3.4 months with the goal being 6 months.
- Please thank your groups for the continued contributions and support.

Central Office, Bruce

- "Language of the Heart" is available as an E-book.
- The Big Book and Twelve and Twelve are available as E-books on aa.org.
- New Procedures guide passed out.
- In December, Corey and Bruce have spent a good amount of time thinking about how to better serve the groups in our area and would love to hear new ideas about things Central Office could be doing.
- PI/CPC, Susan
- PI/CPC is presenting to two new schools in January and February: Fremont High School and Silver Creek High School.
- Trying to expand into more DUI classes.
- Will be electing a new PI char. Requires 2 years sobriety, working knowledge of the 12 and 12, and has hopefully volunteered for PI/CPC before. Also will be electing a new PI co-chair. Please inform groups.

12 Step Committee, Rose

No report.

Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator, Michael M.

- Need more diverter volunteers and 12 step volunteers.
- Most need volunteers for the 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday slots and the 6:00 AM - 9:00 AM time slots.
- Phone switchover went very smoothly.
- Diverter workshop on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at Central Office.
- Diverter volunteers must have 1 year sobriety and a working knowledge of the 12 and 12.
- 12 step volunteers must have 6 months sobriety and a working knowledge of the 12 and 12.

Outreach, Mary Pat

- Need support and committee volunteers. Please carry the message to your groups.
- Mini-training next month at IGR meeting on how to do outreach at meetings.

The Coin, Fran

- This month, the topic was "Gratitude for the past year." Coming topics are on page 5 of the coin.
- Chuck would like member to bring him interesting historical facts for his archives article.
- Looking for write-ups on specific meetings for the "Featured Meeting" article in each month's Coin.
- Post office no longer wants flyers to be mailed inside The Coin newsletters so the information will be included inside The Coin.

Activities Chair, Gloria

- Chili Cookoff will be happening on February 25th.
- Francisco's phone number is 408-464-1020 and he is looking for volunteers to help.
- Event will be at Lincoln Glen Church from 12-3. Suggested donation of \$10.

OLD BUSINESS

- June N. - Traditions workshop is happening at The Alamo Club on January 21st. Tickets are \$15 dollars and must be purchased beforehand.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bill - District 40 wants GSO to print the Big Book in Vietnamese but needs volunteers who can read Vietnamese to proofread the chapter 5 translation before continuing. If you know anyone who can help, please contact Bill.
- Bill - District 40 general service meeting needs a liaison to report on IGR meetings to the district.

Unity Day, Gloria

- Holding a meeting on Thursday, January 12th at 7:00 PM at Harry's Hofbrau to close out 2011 Unity Day issues and discuss needs for 2012.

H & I, Bret

- Need volunteers to take meetings to Hospitals and Institutions. Varying sobriety requirements based on the facility.
- H & I conference in Redding, May 18th-20th.

Bridging the Gap, Julius

- Things are great. Volunteer positions are full.

NCCAA

- Need a new representative.
- Ryan H. says that in the meantime, he can be reached at 510-376-6911 for NCCAA information.

North County General Service, Cameron

- New DCM.
- 1 new GSR representative.
- Budget discussed.

South County General Service, Larry

- Need liaison to IGR.
- Area is putting on a public speaker training in Petaluma on the 28th from 11:00 - 12:00 on McDowell.

SCCPYAA, Sarah

- Valentine dance being held on February 11th from 7:00 PM to 11:45 PM in San Francisco. \$15 suggested donation.

OPEN FORUM

- Walter - Gilroy is trying to put together a traditions workshop. Will be free and have the capacity to host about 50 people. Motion made by IGR to support this effort.
- Dave - His meeting is having trouble getting liability insurance. Central Office will not provide and is not looking into providing umbrella coverage.
- Bruce - Copies of The Coin passed out at IGR are preliminary and contain information which is not correct. Subscription to The Coin can be had by anyone for \$5.
- Dave - The Gay and Lesbian Fellowship is putting on a show on January 21st from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM at the United Methodist Church in San Jose.

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Profit & Loss

January 2012

	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 12
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3030 · Contributions-General	19,500.09	15,269.54	19,500.09
8010 · Literature Sales	5,868.82	6,232.09	5,868.82
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	806.00	1,066.00	806.00
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	15.00	5.00	15.00
Total Income	26,189.91	22,572.63	26,189.91
Cost of Goods Sold			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold	4,162.02	4,526.49	4,162.02
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories	1,286.13	251.61	1,286.13
Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	5,448.15	4,778.10	5,448.15
Total COGS	5,448.15	4,778.10	5,448.15
Gross Profit	20,741.76	17,794.53	20,741.76
Expense			
6010 · Alarm Service	207.00	207.00	207.00
6015 · Activities Committee Expense	297.86	861.97	297.86
6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	1,775.00	100.00	1,775.00
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	46.99	98.02	46.99
6120 · Computer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6160 · Copier Expense	169.40	62.90	169.40
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	114.08	162.83	114.08
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	2,774.10	1,035.90	2,774.10
6245 · Internet Access Charges	30.99	29.95	30.99
6330 · Office Expense	8.65	488.40	8.65
6370 · Office Paper Supply	260.80	10.48	260.80
6380 · Payroll Taxes	908.68	875.94	908.68
6410 · Postage	8.42	226.18	8.42
6480 · Rent	2,470.65	2,507.30	2,470.65
6540 · Salaries - Office	6,513.90	7,583.86	6,513.90
6560 · Payroll Expenses	132.75	139.50	132.75
6600 · Signing Services	0.00	200.00	0.00
7050 · Telephone	243.68	352.88	243.68
7060 · Travel	0.00	56.29	0.00
9080 · Sales Tax (Sales tax paid on purchases)	-0.87	-0.41	-0.87
Total Expense	15,962.08	14,998.99	15,962.08
Net Ordinary Income	4,779.68	2,795.54	4,779.68
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
8030 · Interest Income	17.70	1.07	17.70
Total Other Income	17.70	1.07	17.70
Net Net Other Income	17.70	1.07	17.70
	4,797.38	2,796.61	4,797.38

9:12 AM
02/01/12
Accrual Basis

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2012

	<u>Jan 31, 12</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Petty Cash	223.30
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	27,179.74
1021 · First Republic Bank CD 0429 (12 Mo. CD @ .4%, 08/12/2012)	17,453.16 **
1023 · First Republic Bank CD 3228 (12 Mos. CD @ .6%, 02/05/2013)	16,312.92 **
1025 · First Republic Bank CD 7266 (12 Mos. CD @ .05%, 01/06/2013)	20,070.12 **
Total Checking/Savings	<u>81,239.24</u>
Accounts Receivable	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-1,678.88
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-1,678.88</u>
Other Current Assets	
1250 · Literature Inventory	16,924.25
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	546.15
1499 · Undeposited Funds	3,864.07
Total Other Current Assets	<u>21,334.47</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>100,894.83</u>
Fixed Assets	
1630 · Office Equipment	29,826.10
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	7,097.67
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-32,662.17
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-300.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>4,261.60</u>
Other Assets	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
Total Other Assets	<u>1,993.85</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>107,150.28</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	567.50
2600 · Unity Day	1,593.09
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,160.59</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,160.59</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,160.59</u>
Equity	
2740 · Temporarily Restricted Funds	10,842.08
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	89,350.23
Net Income	4,797.38
Total Equity	<u>104,989.69</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>107,150.28</u></u>

<p>**Our Prudent Reserve Accounts total: \$53,836.20 This represents 3.5 mos., or 60% of the Board established goal of 6 months of operating expenses.</p>
--

Accrual Basis

January 2012

[illegible]

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL INTERGROUP CHILI COOKOFF!

CELEBRATING THE HOME GROUP

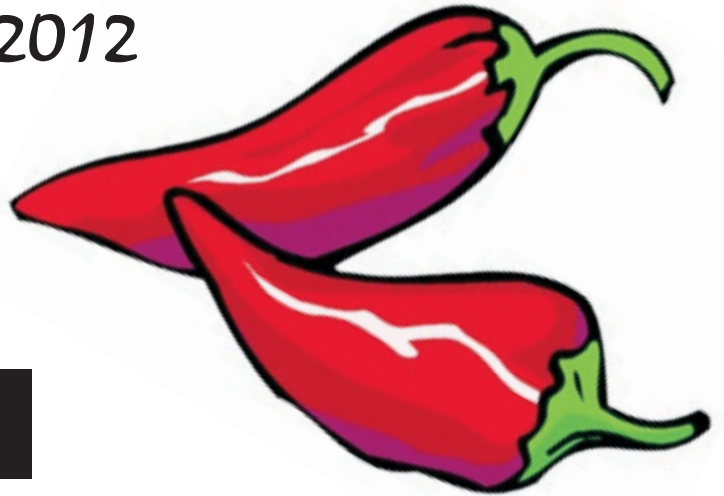
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012

12 NOON TO 3 PM

LINCOLN GLEN CHURCH

2700 BOOKSIN AVE.

SAN JOSE, CA



\$10.00 donation per person

12-1 pm Chili tasting and judging

1-2 pm Chili and cornbread feasting with sumptuous desserts to follow

2-3 pm AA Speaker Meeting - unless the fire department shows up first!

HEATED!!! CHILI COMPETITION

NO PRINCIPLES OVER PERSONALITIES...

THIS IS ABOUT GROUP BRAGGING RIGHTS!!!

*Sample great chili, then vote for your favs -
fun and frivolity - it'll be a blast!*

For more information on how to sign up your group as a

CHILI team

DESSERT team

COFFEE team

CORNBREAD team

SET-UP team

CLEAN-UP team

(we do need lots of volunteers!) call Gloria-- 408-656-9524

Intergroup Central Office

of Santa Clara County, Inc.
274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D
Campbell, CA 95008

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 3556

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



REMEMBER ...

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL OFFICE
(any amount, to a maximum of \$3000.00 per year, please)
ARE CHEERFULLY RECEIVED AT:

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE

274 E. HAMILTON AVE., SUITE D
CAMPBELL, CA 95008

*(*your contributions are tax deductible)*



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.



Please join us at the

Saturday Nite Live Group's Annual Sponsorship Workshop

This is a four-part workshop that will use the chapter, "Working with Others" as a guide for members to share their experience, strength, and hope regarding the topic of sponsorship. Our aim is to solve common problems by finding common solutions using our basic text as a reference for carrying the message to those still suffering from alcoholism.

The Workshops will be held at The Saturday Nite Live Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, located at 1388 Bascom Ave. San Jose, CA (at Stokes). Meeting time is **5-6pm** on the dates listed below along with the pages we will be reviewing.

January 15 ... 5pm-6pm	Pages 89-93
March 18 ... 5pm-6pm	Pages 93-97
May 20 ... 5pm-6pm	Pages 97-101
July 15 ... 5pm-6pm	Pages 101-103



SOBER & FREE
T W E N T Y T W E L V E

APRIL 27, 28 & 29, 2012

REGISTRATION OPENS:

04/27 @ 6:00PM / 04/28 @ 8:30AM

**SAN JOSE HILTON
300 ALMADEN AVE**

PRICE

PRE-REGISTRATION BY: 3/22/12 \$40

REGISTRATION STARTS: 3/23/12 \$45

**FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY
AFTER 7:00 PM \$15**

**SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY
AFTER 7:00 PM \$15**



www.soberandfree.org

**SPONSORED BY THE SAN JOSE GLBT A.A. FELLOWSHIP
W/ AL-ANON PARTICIPATION**

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL INTERGROUP CHILI COOKOFF!

CELEBRATING THE HOME GROUP

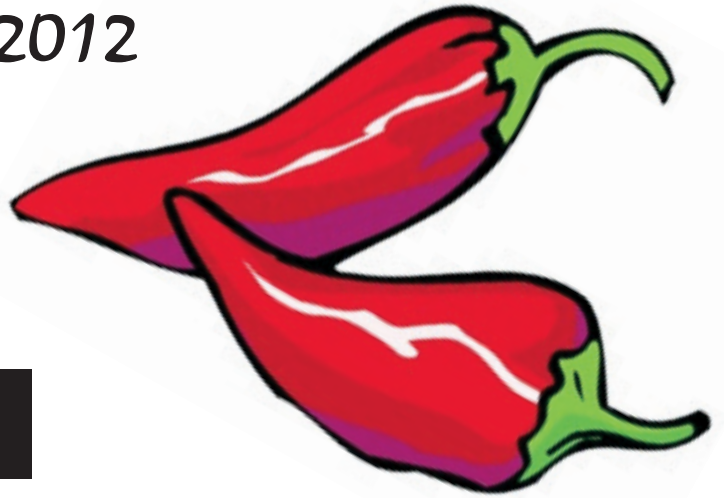
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