



# THE GRAPE-SCCIN



## February Birthday Speaker Meeting

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 7pm**  
**1080 Emeline Ave Bldg D**  
**Santa Cruz**

Special thanks to  
Make My Day group for  
hosting the Jan mtg  
at Santa Cruz High  
with speaker Dan G

\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*

## BIRTHDAYS

**Apologies and correction regarding last month's GrapeSCCIN birthday section:**

**Rhonda W's birthday is on Jan 6, not the 7<sup>th</sup>, and she turns 14 this year (not 13)**

### FEBRUARY

Kathryn D	33 yr	Feb 15, 1982
Dale K.	31 yr	Feb 1, 1984
David L.	29 yr	Feb 2, 1986
Carl B.	28 yr	Feb 5, 1987
Michelle F.	28 yr	Feb 14, 1987
Janice B.	27 yr	Feb 14, 1988
Tom E.	27 yr	Feb 26, 1988
Frankie K	27 yr	Feb 29, 1988
George T.	25 yr	Feb 22, 1990
David C.	20 yr	Feb 3, 1995
Alan A.	19 yr	Feb 15, 1996
John N.	17 yr	Feb 14, 1998
Jude W.	17 yr	Feb 2, 1998
Glenn D	16 yr	Feb 1, 1999
Scott G.	14 yr	Feb 23, 2001
Julia M.	7 yr	Feb 3, 2008

~~~~~  
**BE OF SERVICE & HELP COORDINATE A FUN EVENT:**  
**Interested in volunteering for the Spring Fling**  
**Subcommittee? Call Central Office at 475-5782**  
~~~~~

## February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 7:30PM Intergroup Council Meeting & ELECTIONS Aptos Village Park	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 7:30PM General Service Meeting Aptos Village Park	12	13	14 10:00AM 4 <sup>th</sup> Step Workshop <i>Ben Lomond Fellowship</i>
15	16	17 6:00PM Bylaws Committee <i>Central Office</i>	18 7:30PM Steering Committee <i>Central Office</i>	19	20	21
22 7:00pm Bday Speaker Meeting ( <i>returns to traditional Emeline location for remainder of 2015</i> )	23	24	25 7:00PM H&I Meeting <i>Central Office</i>	26	27	28

### Service Opportunity

Are you -- or is your sponsee -- looking for a service commitment with fun and fellowship? The Santa Cruz County Intergroup Council elections are right around the corner! Come to Aptos Village Park at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4 and Wednesday, March 4.

### New Meeting

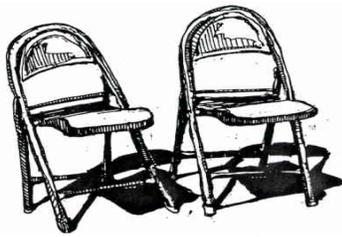
A new meeting began on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Held every Tuesday night at 7 p.m., the "We Agnostics, Atheists, & Free Thinkers (WAAFT)" group meets at Loudon Nelson Center, Room 2. LNC is at 301 Center St. in downtown Santa Cruz.

### Meeting Schedule Updates

Do you see a meeting on the schedule that isn't meeting anymore? Please call Central Office at 475-5782. Thanks for helping keep our info current!

# Chair's Corner

Artwork by Ken C



**“Eager hearts and hands have lifted the spire of our cathedral into its place. That spire bears the name of Service. May it ever point straight upward toward God.”**

- As Bill Sees It, page 155

Well here it is, already time for my last Chair's Corner. It comes on the tail of Saturday's electric Birthday Speaker Meeting at the Santa Cruz High School auditorium. It was attended by nearly 400. The speaker was moving and gave us lots of laughs. And the sobriety countdown tallied 1,112 YEARS OF SOBRIETY being celebrated! I was elated to see our fellowship come together with so much spirit and I was moved by the service of the Make My Day group and those in Intergroup who brought it to fruition.

I'm still humming from that event, while I sit here reflecting on the last year as chair, and I found one passage that really captures what I'm feeling:

“Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the well-understood fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given surely brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God's scheme of things—these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes. True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.”

-- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 124

We are so blessed.

In humble gratitude,  
Clarissa

## From Central Office

Saturday Evening I went to the Birthday Speaker Meeting at Santa Cruz High School and it was a real encouraging evening for our Birthday Meeting. The crowd was huge the birthday number were huge and the donations were also something we haven't seen in a long time.

Was it the extra publicity, the location the large numbers of January birthdays or the location? What do you think? Please let us know as we are looking at changes to the Birthday meeting and we could use some input. E-mail us at [info@aacasantacruz.org](mailto:info@aacasantacruz.org)

Humble Servant

Bob S.

Spotlight on Literature: *EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY - The Next Frontier*

Growing up in sobriety means different things to each recovering alcoholic, but one concept seems true and consistent: the rewards for reaching emotional sobriety are serenity, emotional balance, and an increased joy for living. The selected stories from the AA Grapevine in *Emotional Sobriety* show that when people in recovery have the willingness to work the program to find solutions, rather than stay stuck in problems, they let go of fear, put aside selfish demands, practice outgoing love, and become more connected to their Higher Power, family and friends.

In 1958, The Grapevine published an article by AA co-founder Bill W. about the ongoing challenges of recovery that he faced long after he stopped drinking. The article was called "The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety." Therein Bill explained how he had found peace of mind by letting go of his expectations and practicing what he calls "outgoing love" -- a love less concerned with what one gets and more with one gives. It was, as he put it, *the St. Francis Prayer in action*.

For some, the next frontier in recovery from alcoholism may be letting go of faulty, unrealistic dependencies; for others, it may mean illuminating persistent character defects. But for all of us, the rewards of serenity, emotional balance, and joy of living are true jewels in this life of recovery.

From the story, "The Ability to Love" (May 1962) from a man from Lexington, Kentucky:

*Hope began to grow in me, there came to my mind what I always considered two key words in AA – willingness and grace. I must become willing to seek love more than I sought to be loved and ask God's grace in granting this. We are our desires. If I began to desire the ability to love, so would it be granted... Slowly, very slowly, I began to feel a stirring in my soul. I am not sitting alone with guilt and shame. I am sharing, I belong, I am a real part of the group. God grant that I may continue to seek not so much to be loved as to love.*

Stop by your Central Office where you can find this book and many others that will put some zip and inspiration in your recovery life.

*(The spotlight above was written by an anonymous columnist)*

**REMINDER ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE**

When was the last time you picked up a Grapevine, otherwise known as "AA's meeting in print?" The monthly publication is chock full of interesting articles and stories.

For example, the October 2014 issue had a special section on the theme "Those Good Old Slogans" where members shared their favorite stories about the sayings that help keep them sober. There are eight related stories in that issue, including one author who speaks of how the slogans have been transformed from 'corny' to the 'cornerstone of his program.' The first story in the issue is from a member located just over the hill from us in Santa Cruz; the author is a teacher in San Jose. The February 2015 issue's special section is on sponsorship.

Learn more at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org). The site has lots of useful features including an online calendar that lists conferences across the country -- and even the world. If you'd like to support the Grapevine, there are subscriptions that are "print-only," "online-only," or "print AND online."

-- above Grapevine info is from your GrapeSCCIN editor