

THE VALLEY VIEW

The Voice of the Valley

HEADLINES

Inside This Issue:	
What's New	1
Lend a Hand	2
Where are You?	3
Love and Service	4
Call for Stories	5
Coming Events	6
Calendar	7
Group Contributions	8
Contacts	9
Crossword Puzzle	10

Valley Service Center
 Office: 925-829-3160
 24hr Hot Line:
 925-829-0666
 Toll Free:
 888-859-3230
 Email: info@valleyservicecenteraa.org
www.valleyservicecenteraa.org

What's New?

The recently completed Membership Survey shows that A.A. is 2/3 male, 87% white, and the number of members over-60 is increasing while the number of those under 20 is decreasing.

~~~~

Tri-Valley Fellowship is now open 1/2 hour before and after each meeting (times in the Meeting Guide App)

~~~~

“Fun in Sobriety” (a new Grapevine book) is now available from the Valley Service Center

Coming Soon:

- January 14, “The Plain Language Big Book” - Informational Session Online - 1:00pm
842 6106 18984 / 1935
- Registration is now open for the Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly on March 1-3, 2024 in San Francisco at the Marriott Marquis.
- June, 2025, International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Vancouver, Canada.
“90 Years—Language of the Heart”

To receive the Valley View each month, email us at:
info@valleyservicecenteraa.org

YOU HAVE A STORY

When I hear you share what it was like, what happened, and how it is now, I begin to identify with you, and in a small way, I am not alone anymore, or unique, or isolated.

Sharing my story and hearing yours is how healing begins, for both of us. The Valley View Newsletter is inviting you to share your experience, strength, and hope. A few members have contributed their thoughts. (see pages 3 and 4).

..... You also have a story to tell, and it might make a difference for someone else today. Let us hear you.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

“Our Primary Purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Ways you can help carry that message:

- Board Member-at-Large - 1 hr/mo
- Hotline volunteers
- Workshop Coordinator
- Accessibilities Chairperson
- NCCAA Liaison
- Central Office Volunteers - 2 hrs/mo

Speaking of Service

If you have the privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous, we have a comprehensive ***Service Manual*** that is combined with the ***Twelve Concepts for World Service***. Published every few years, it is filled with updated helpful information.

Several members participate in a **Third Legacy Workshop** every Wednesday night at 6:00pm. You can join in online at Zoom ID: **996 628 347** , password: **warranties**. They're reading the Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts together and discussing what they find. Grab a Service Manual and join in.

Where are you?

Am I the only one noticing less attendance at in-person meetings in these post-covid days?

It is true that on-line and hybrid meetings have enabled members who otherwise can't get out, to attend meetings. Health issues, age issues, distance or even busy schedules, can keep us remote. But I am also aware that I can use these as excuses to not bother going to meetings in person.

This is where a personal inventory might help.

Am I truly willing to go to any length, or even put just 51% of my effort into staying sober? Am I complacent? Am I comfortable with my current state of recovery? In my drinking days I certainly was willing to put more than 50% of my time into drinking, traveling to drink, and thinking about drinking. And just guess where you stood in my thinking. Is AA really of primary importance?

As we see in our literature, publishing the Big Book fueled the spread of the program, but it didn't replace actual meeting attendance, Twelfth Step work and the personal contact of fellowship.

It is easier to stay home, turn on the device, not even bother to get dressed, and I can even hide my square and then get something to eat, all while I appear to be listening. I do not even have to see you. Besides, it is cheaper. No basket to donate into since 'everyone knows that zoom doesn't cost anything'. After all, someone in the group can afford the \$15.99 a month. So what about ensuring that the message is being carried? After all, I got it, didn't I?

Members' physical absence at meetings has consequences. Intergroup suffers, the District suffers, the Area suffers, and so does A.A. as a whole. But most importantly, the potential newcomer doesn't get the life-saving message of recovery. I must admit that during covid I attended meetings only online, so I made no in-person contributions and sent only a few checks to the online meetings. For some reason however, I did continue sending an anniversary birthday contribution to the General Service Board, the so-called 'Birthday Plan'.

However, I did feel a little guilty, for as a past servant of A.A., I certainly knew better.

What has prompted this letter has been my observation that the loss of attendance at post-covid meetings is endangering A.A. In some cases it's so drastic that I know of at least four meeting and groups that may soon be closing because they can't even make their rent, let alone contribute to the other service entities. And even in the case of groups that are doing OK, their attendance has dropped off, and so have their contributions.

Who is hurt by all of this? The newcomer, certainly me and may be even you. I know we can do better. A.A. saved my life and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to trudge this road and experience the joy of living.

Love through Service,
Bob D.

Panel 36 General Service Conference Delegate, currently Intergroup Representative.

Love and Service

Very early in my recovery I started hearing about the importance of Service in AA.

My Primary Purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, and I do that with Love and Service. In the November 2023 Grapevine it says, "love without service is sentimentality, and service without love is an empty gesture." I'm moved to serve by my love for AA and the people we help.

In the beginning I emptied ash trays for the smokers and washed coffee cups. After my first year of recovery, I was asked to share my experience with my home group; later the Group elected me as Secretary of the Wednesday night meeting at the Crossroads Fellowship. Back in 1989 you had to have a year before you could secretary a meeting. I was filled with fear, as many are, when I first came to AA; just walking into meetings made me anxious. By serving A.A. I became a part of the group and began to break down my self-centered fear. I started to feel like I fit in.

When I was five years sober, I thought I had all the answers and did not need AA anymore. One night I came home and learned that our friend, Mark, was found dead in Golden Gate Park of alcohol poisoning. That night I realized I was at a crossroads and needed to decide whether I was going to go out and drink, or get to a meeting and recommit myself to the program. Fortunately, I made it back to AA that night. I was elected Treasurer at Tri-Valley Fellowship. With a new sponsor, I began working the Steps, the Steps I thought I could work alone. No wonder I was slipping away.

As the years passed, I took on other commitments, serving as meeting Secretary, Intergroup Representative, and the Special Events coordinator. I volunteered for the annual Anniversary dinner, the Language of the Heart Brunch, and the Gratitude breakfast. I sponsor women and have learned a great deal about myself. I attend a minimum of three meetings a week, although these days I attend 5-6 meetings a week.

I have been a General Service Representative (GSR) for my Home Group where I learned that the General Service Office (GSO) has the same Primary Purpose I do - to carry the message. I heard our past delegate Teddy talk about being of service and what we should do before taking on commitments. Before making myself available for a position in AA, I need to check with my family and employer to ensure I have the time the job requires. But most importantly we should never let fear stop us from volunteering, as there will always be someone to help us learn the job.

I am currently the Tri-Valley Fellowship Treasurer and the Intergroup Hotline Chair and volunteering to help with the Anniversary dinner in January. I do not tell you all these things so you will think highly of me, but to demonstrate how being of service has saved my life. I am of service to AA because it is a pleasure, it is my duty, and it keeps me sober.

- Terry S.

STORY SOLICITATION

"Do You Think You're Different?" Pamphlet Update

Deadline for submissions: April 30, 2024

The Trustees Literature Committee is seeking stories from AA members with diverse backgrounds. This is in response to the 2022 Conference Advisory Action that the trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet ***"Do You Think You're Different?"*** to update the stories to represent greater diversity.

The Trustees' Literature Committee requested that consideration be given to stories from multicultural populations, stories from A.A. members whose experience reflects multiple factors, and from diverse populations not addressed in other current A.A. literature.

Please encourage members in your area to write their personal stories for possible inclusion in the revised pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different." Stories should reflect "in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now."

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.

Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

Instructions for submitting your manuscript:

Deadline: Please submit on or before **April 30, 2024**

Submit your story by following this link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5a77c27d179d4856b32eed86b01e3426>

Additional ways of sending your story: Email: pamphletstories@aa.org

Subject Line: "Do You Think You're Different?"

Postal Mail:

Attn. Literature Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

On the envelope: The word "**Pamphlet**" should be written on the envelope
and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.



**Lower Ticket Price for 2024*
Get your tickets before they sell out!*



**Valley Service Center
54th Annual Anniversary Dinner
January 27, 2024**

Join us for an evening of Fellowship,
Dinner, Sobriety countdown, Raffle

Great food!
Guava-Marinated Skirt Steak or
Pasta Pomodoro with Tomato Basil Sauce
Side dishes and Dessert
Soda and Water \$1/each

**Special Guest Speaker
Hiro S. Long Beach, CA.**

Get your Tickets Now for **only \$20**
Venmo @VSCspecialevents or
your Intergroup Rep
(Please indicate meal choice for each purchase)

Robert Livermore Community Center 430 pm Doors Open
Cresta Blanca Ballroom 6 pm Dinner
4444 East Avenue, Livermore 7 pm Raffle
(Entrance/Parking on Toyola Way) 8 pm Speaker



Questions or Service
Lisa T. 925.451.2033
Special Events Chair

Sim V. 510.673.2362
Co-Chair

**Danville – Diablo
Speaker Meeting**
Alcoholics Anonymous
1st Saturday of the Month
8:00 PM - Doors Open at 7:30pm



Celebrate Your Birthday!
30, 60, 90 day, 1 year+

2023
Dec 2 – Nancy C. Downey CA
2024
Jan 6 – Darrel T. Alamo CA
Feb 3 – Brynna S. Portland OR
Mar 2 – Russell S. Miami FL
Apr 6 – Ann M. San Ramon CA
May 4 – Gemma B. Los Angeles
Jun 1 – Lee C. Santa Maria CA
Jul 6 – Georgia B. Los Angeles
Aug 3 – Yuko P. Los Angeles
Sep 7 – tbd
Oct 5 – Brent H. St Charles MO

Watch via ZOOM
Zoom ID 885-8083-0460
Password 146975

Join Us!
For the
Big Speaker
Meeting

**COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
222 W. El Pintado
Danville, CA

NO DRINKS
allowed in the Sanctuary
ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING
on the church grounds

**Join us for Dinner
with the Speaker**
- 5:30pm before the meeting -
Patti's Restaurant, Danville RSVP by noon
Friday to pratt@danvilleaa.org

General meeting inquiries or questions - danvillediablosm@gmail.com
Add email to Distribution List <https://tinyurl.com/1stSatDQSM>

**2024 PACIFIC REGIONAL
SERVICE ASSEMBLY**



<https://praasa.org/>
S.F. March 1-3, 2024
*** Registration now open ***
Volunteer on Website

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA 06

**INFORMATIONAL
SESSION**

**PLAIN
LANGUAGE
BIG BOOK**

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024
1:00 PM PST



VIRTUAL SESSION: CLICK HERE
Meeting ID: 842 6106 1894
Passcode: 1935
Interpretation in English and Spanish

2025 International Convention of A.A. — Vancouver, B.C.- July 3-6, 2025
<https://www.aa.org/international-convention>

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

- December 31 thru Hourly Marathon Meetings
 January 1, 2024 Tri-Valley and Crossroads Fellowships
- January 3 Area 53—Hospitals & Institutions - Orientation 7:00 pm
 1st Christian Church, 29th & Fairmont, Oakland
- January 6 Danville Diablo Speaker- 7:30pm (Darrel T - Alamo, CA)
 22 W. El Pintado, Danville, CA
 also: 885-8083-9460, Password: 146975
- January 9 VISIC Intergroup Meeting - 07:30 PM
 Only: 871 5409 5843, Password: IG94566
- January 9 Tri-Valley Fellowship Business Meeting - 06:30 PM
 6500 Dublin Blvd.
 Also: 516 196 4435, Password: 807945
- January 13 Crossroads Fellowship Business Meeting - 09:00 AM
 386 Preston Court, Livermore, CA
- January 14 Informational Session Online - “The Plain Language Big Book” - 1:00pm
 842 6106 18984 / 1935
- January 20 CNCA06 Area Committee meeting - 10:00am—3:30pm
 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954.
 Also: 632 553 607 / 1935
- January 27 54th Annual Anniversary Dinner - Doors open 4:30pm / Dinner @ 6:00pm
 Hiroshi S. — Special Guest Speaker
 Cresta Blanca Ballroom
 4444 East Ave, Livermore, CA
- January 29 District 70 Business Meeting - 6:30pm
 Faith Lutheran Church
 20080 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley
 Also: 774 061 7133 / CNCA

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“If you tell the truth today, that becomes a part of your past.

If you tell a lie today, that becomes a part of your future.”

- anonymous



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP	1/23	2/23	3/23	4/23	5/23	6/23	7/23	8/23	9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	7th Tr.	Literature	Total funds
Individual			10.00	20.00	2.00	0.00	95.00	549.00	81.00	185.00	406.00	0.00	1,348.00	2,031.22	3,379.22
Aptos Women's Conf.													0.00	0.00	0.00
As Bill Sees It							450.00						450.00	0.00	450.00
Big Book Energy									75.00		75.00		150.00	0.00	150.00
Broken Elevator											842.00		842.00	61.50	903.50
By the Book		228.25		241.50			224.40			138.60			832.75	0.00	832.75
Carrying the Message												392.80	392.80	240.00	632.80
Crossroads Fellowship	1,800.00											5.00	1,805.00	1,408.00	3,213.00
Dist 70													0.00	42.50	42.50
Friday Night Live							118.95					94.80	213.75	32.00	245.75
Friendship Group		143.00										61.00	204.00	0.00	204.00
Happy, Joyous and Free	53.70							208.00				64.60	326.30	137.75	464.05
Hard Knox								100.00					100.00	0.00	100.00
Hilltop Group						359.15	386.37				332.17		1,077.69	0.00	1,077.69
Jaywalkers		494.38		168.00								265.47	927.85	53.00	980.85
Knuckleheads			132.00				133.00						265.00	130.00	395.00
Ladie's Lifeline	205.41	150.19		223.50	196.33	42.46		47.00	136.80		168.52	924.32	2,094.53	265.00	2,359.53
Language of the Heart													0.00	54.00	54.00
Mochu Park													0.00	20.00	20.00
Monday Night Live								201.32				183.12	384.44	454.75	839.19
Muslim Community Cntr													0.00	228.00	228.00
No. Cal. H&I								178.35					178.35	99.25	277.60
Primary Purpose		868.93		1,128.43			971.87						2,969.23	106.25	3,075.48
San Ramon Com. Cntr													0.00	0.00	0.00
Sat. Morning Breakfast	828.71						364.16	143.98	184.92		83.66	81.54	1,686.97	194.25	1,881.22
Serenity Seekers													0.00	0.00	0.00
Sunday AM Coffee - Dublin		92.29	83.51	85.00	84.90	93.61	83.40	191.40	143.10	90.60	187.20	140.57	1,275.58	60.50	1,336.08
There is a Solution					56.00								56.00	26.50	82.50
Triangle Fellowship													0.00	110.75	110.75
Triple Twelve				50.00			130.00	20.00	35.00		55.00		290.00	0.00	290.00
Tri-Valley Fellowship			84.25		78.25			53.75				500.00	716.25	392.50	1,108.75
Unscripted Men's Grp	366.30						1,152.60						1,518.90	0.00	1,518.90
Women Staying in the Book			128.40	63.77	271.50	121.60	117.00	81.97		114.97	152.44		1,051.65	243.25	1,294.90
Words of Wisdom	202.72		208.22			212.50					132.67		756.11	100.75	856.86
Workshops						81.00							81.00	232.50	313.50
Total	3,456.84	1,977.04	646.38	1,980.20	688.98	829.32	4,226.75	1,774.77	655.82	529.17	2,434.66	2,713.22	21,913.15	6,525.55	28,438.70

STAY CONNECTED

Our Address is: **Valley Intergroup Service Center
6500 Dublin Blvd
Suite 216
Dublin, CA 94568**

on the Web at: **valleyservicecenteraa.org**
or Email us at: **info@valleyservicecenteraa.org**

7th Tradition Contributions can also be made using **valleyservicecenteraa.org/contribute/**

..... the Venmo address is **@ValleyServiceCenter**

to support Special Events (Anniversary Dinner or Summer Picnic) Venmo funds to **@VSCSpecialEvents**

>>> Note: Venmo contributions to Tri-Valley Fellowship should be sent to **@Trivalley**.

Those are 7th Tradition contributions to a **Group**, NOT the **Valley Service Center**

New Address for CNCA06 Area Contributions ...

1390 N. McDowell Blvd

Suite G - 339

Petaluma, CA 94954

<https://www.cnca06.org/donations/>

The General Service Office addresses:

For contributions: **PO Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407
<https://contribution.aa.org/> ***

For correspondence: **PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163**

The address for District 70 (Southern Alameda County):

**PO Box 3412
Hayward, CA 94544**

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) :

**P.O. Box 192490
San Francisco, CA 94119-2490
<https://www.handinorcal.org/contribute> ***

** Online Contributions are more efficient. Paper donations are more costly to process.*

JANUARY 2024 - CROSSWORD

1		2	3		4		5	6	7
8				9			10		
		11							
12								13	
		14					15		
16	17			18					
19		20		21			22		
		23	24		25	26			
		27		28		29		30	31
			32						

Across

- 2. Southern Pacific (init.)
- 5 Not new
- 8 It was like second _____
- 10 Easy as ____
- 11 Employers' Reassurance Corporation (init)
- 12 "_____, , Strength, and Hope."
- 14 As Bill _____ lt.
- 15 Not max
- 16 Not from
- 18 Boundaries
- 19 Needed when 'up a creek'
- 21 _____, ho, ho.
- 22 Bill _____ (the Science Guy)
- 23 Operating system
- 25 Begin to sleep, or to signal agreement
- 27 _____, what, where.
- 29 Word appearing 12 times on pg 62
- 32 "We asked with complete _____"

Down

- 1 Listing what items are in stock
- 2 "The _____ we took"
- 3 Blended veggies or fruit
- 4 "Made a _____ to turn our will and our lives over ..."
- 5 "... became as ____ _____ on spiritual matters"
- 6 Roman numerals on a fifty-one year medallion
- 7 "We were without _____"
- 9 "_____ have we seen."
- 13 What locals call San Francisco, 'The _____'
- 17 A program for folks who are powerless over food
- 20 'Skid _____'
- 24 _____, Na, Na
- 26 Orbit Showtime Network (init)
- 28 Obstetrician (init)
- 30 '_____ and behold'
- 31 Function (init)