Carrying the message throughout the valley...



GRATITUDE GAZETTE

www.temeculacentraloffice.org

Volume 2021.9 September 2021

951-677-1535 24 Hour Hotline

The End of Summer

So Labor Day weekend has passed and we approach Autumn 2021. I don't know why, but I tend to feel more settled in the fall. The temperatures begin to drop and routines for study are re-established. We have moved our pancake breakfast to September 25th this year whereas traditionally we held it in the spring. This is a time where many in our AA fellowship come together from all of Temecula Valley to feed, fellowship and **fun**d-raise. It helps me to see that I am a small part of something bigger than my home group. I see that this life-altering program is alive and transforming the hopeless sufferer of alcoholism to a new beginning of sobriety, sanity and peace. We are not a glum lot! Getting together to celebrate this new found freedom and happiness is a privilege that not all who are introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous are able to achieve. I was told by the old-timers that it is a gift and if I take it for granted; I've lost one of the key components to a happy useful life. That key is an "attitude of gratitude." I'm truly grateful for AA in Temecula Valley and I've grown in wisdom, humility and simplicity by the people I have fellowshipped with in this valley. I know this simple program worked for me and I've seen it work for thousands of others. May you find your solution today in this simple program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Anita W., Editor of Gratitude Gazette 2021

"Actual Gratitude is the Symptom of Humility."

Temecula Valley Central Office 41340 Pear Street, Ste. 1 Murrieta, CA 92562

This Month in History

A.A.

1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

From our backyard...

2007 - Appeals court in San Francisco says parole requirement to attend AA unconstitutional

Around the world...

1946 - 1st AA group in Mexico, Mexico City is formed

Reference: https://www.a-1associates.com/aa/ HISTORY_PAGE/dates.htm

Inside this issue

Recovery2
Feature Stories3
Business5
Spotlight7
Events8
Safety9
Leisure10

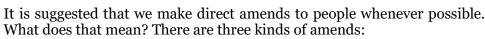
<u>– Radhanath Swami</u>

Recovery

Step 9

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

So what is Step Nine of AA Alcoholics Anonymous? Step Nine is that big step, the one we likely have created some anxiety over because it involves making amends.



- Direct Amends taking personal responsibility for your actions and confronting the person who you would like to reconcile with.
- Indirect Amends finding ways to repair damage that cannot be reversed or undone by doing things like volunteering and helping others.
- Living Amends when you show others as well as yourself that you have made a genuine lifestyle change and are making a commitment to yourself and those that you have hurt that you will and have discarded your previous destructive behaviors.

We have already begun making amends to ourselves by changing some of our behaviors, attitudes and beliefs. The part of the amends process whereby we change ourselves has an effect on everyone around us and goes on long after we've spoken directly to someone we have harmed.

To keep things as simple as possible, you can get your head in the game by focusing on the purpose of the Ninth Step and "The Three R's" that are associated with making amends:

Restoration, Resolution and Restitution.

Tradition 9

Our groups ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

In the real world, businesses and groups are "organized." There is a hierarchy of authority so that some of the organization have authority to direct the actions of others. In A.A., no one has this kind of authority. The groups are a "fellowship of equals." Decisions are made by the group as a whole and not by one or a few members. By creating and maintaining this atmosphere of "true fellowship", we ensure that even the newest members can quickly gain a feeling of belonging.

The most important person that walks into a group of Alcoholics Anonymous is the newcomer. Without them we will surely die as an individual and as a whole. If we try to organize him, he will flee, after all, his life is already unmanageable. When we let go and stop trying to do the organizing and let God show us what to do, "divine order" takes over in our lives.

Concept 9

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

A leader in A.A. service is a person who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back and help them with their job. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better and give credit to the source.

Virtue 9

Discipline

Training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character.

To bring under control; to train or develop by instruction.

9th Step Prayer

Higher Power, I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for Your guidance in making indirect amends.

Most important, I will continue to make amends by staying abstinent, helping others and growing in spiritual progress.



Features



I am Just Learning How to do Life

Right Back at You Grand-Pa By Rick R.—Submitted August 2021 When my grandson was in preschool, and after many hours with him, talking about everything from stars and space to bugs and animals, and trying to give him the best perspective I could about how to respond to life issues at a level that he could understand. He came home from school one day and told me that one of the boys in his class was being bad and had gotten into trouble. I



tried to explain to him that the boy was not bad, he was just misbehaving and that he was too young to be bad. (5yrs. Old) I explained to him that maybe that boy did not have someone who could teach him how to behave properly. He continued the conversation and asked ("grandpa, if someone said I was a bad boy") I stopped him in midsentence and asked, "Who said that you were a bad boy"? He replied," no one, but if they did" I stopped him again and said, if anyone says that you're a bad boy, you can just say, "I'm not a bad boy, **I'm just a kid learning how to do life**." At a meeting shortly thereafter, the topic was on resentment, and, for lack of a better analogy, I told the story of my grandson and how I look at everyone in the same way. Most people act out, to compensate for deeper rooted emotional problems. None of us are perfect. We all have shortcomings and for me to condemn someone else, who may be

plagued by these things and has not resolved them yet, would be like piling on, and I always feel worse when I resort back to those old behaviors. I should never let my emotions, or my ego draw me into conflict with other troubled people. I must always try to take the high road in these situations. But what about when other people cross my boundaries in a negative way, do I have to be a doormat? No, I do not have to participate in it with them, if there is a way to remove myself from the situation, but I should not be judgmental either. I must refrain from pointing out that other person's faults. To me, they are like my grandson's little classmate. They are all like, (KIDS LEARNING HOW TO DO LIFE), and for me to engage in criticism in that situation would be like two old men in a care facility hitting each other with their canes because one was not walking fast enough for the other. It sounds funny, but we

. . .continued on page 4

Features

Dr. Bob, Good Old Timers Quotes

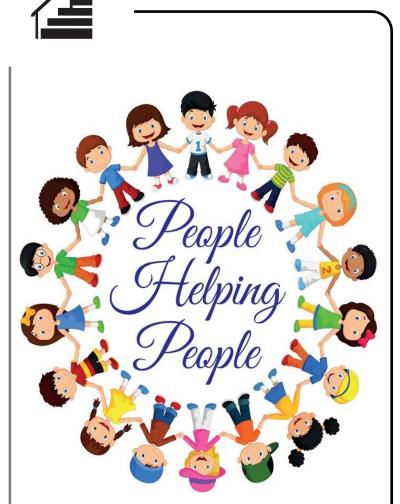
"If you had something wrong with you, that's what you talked about; you didn't talk about sports or politics."

"Bend our knees instead of our elbows and ask for His help . .

(Learning How to Do Life). . . From Page 3 do it every day. I am no better or worse than the next man. I may be further along the path than him, but no better. I pray for understanding and compassion in these situations. I must never Judge a man on his surface behavior, I must have the strength to look deeper. We are *all just like those KIDS LEARNING HOW TO DO LIFE*.

A few months after that discussion with my grandson we were running a little late taking him to his Taekwondo class and he was in his child seat behind us in the car and I was bickering with my wife about getting there on time when he interrupted us saying "Guys, I can hear you." I responded by saying, "you should have been ready yourself" " when he responded, "Grandpa, I am not a bad boy, I am just a kid learning how to do life." My wife and I broke out in laughter. God, I love that Kid.

when he responded, "Grandpa, I am not a bad boy, I am just a kid learning how to do life." My wife and I broke out in laughter. God, I love that Kid.



There are many ways to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous. We need volunteers and it is true that helping others helps us to stay sober. Our upcoming FREE Pancake breakfast needs volunteers. Our meetings need people with leadership skills to join Intergroup and General Service. Our office needs people with customer service skills to answer phones and greet customers. Each group needs volunteers to arrive early to the meeting to set up, make coffee, greet others and read. How has sobriety taught you to be of service to others? What talents do you have or want to experience from? Come join us! You will discover the gifts that are received from giving to others. **Business**



Central Office Serves the Valley

During the day, your Central Office keeps the doors open to assist recovering and suffering AA members alike and provide the following services:

• 24 Hour Hotline 951-677-153

<u>www.temeculacentraloffice.org</u>

- Organizes 12 Step Calls
- Big Books & 12x12's
- Grapevine publications & other assorted literature
- Chips & Newcomer Packets
- <u>Meeting Schedules</u>
- Information for other Central Offices
- Gratitude Gazette publication

Your office manager organizes volunteers, makes sure the office is a healthy place for all, keeps your accounting data accurate, and safe guards your inventory. The office manager and volunteers are there to support the groups and the individual members of our fellowship throughout the valley.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, volunteers take calls from suffering alcoholics and organize 12 step calls. The phone line and special call-forwarding are paid for by your central office contributions.

Please ask at your next business meeting if you are contributing monthly to your Central Office. Contributions goes to pay for the convenient services above you receive. If your group has stopped contributing (or never started), please bring it up at your next business meeting and take a group conscious.

Let us know when and how we can help. - Your Central Office Team

Service Opportunities

Central Office Volunteers Needed

Great response last month to fill the open slots. The shifts may be filled but starting an opportunity list! 4 hours, 2, hours, 1 hour, however you can help with your time in the future.

12 Step Calls

Add your name to the 12 Step Call list for male & female. Spanish speaking volunteers also needed.

Please contact Ken for more info 951-677-1535.

Volunteers

- 1. Debi 2. Sarri
- 3. Derah 4. Yolanda
- 5. Shawna 6. Jim
- 7. Tara 8. Dennis
- 9. Tony 10. Karen
 - ony 10. Kart

14.

- 12.

11.

13.

...and YOU!

Business



Central Office Activity



Please spread the word, we need to be informed of changes to the meeting schedule. Since we have opened up to meetings in person; many changes have taken place. Please check the website and contact TVCO to update the schedule.

It's just what we do to keep the valley moving forward in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Committee Meeting	Day of the month	Location	Fin Agenda
H&I Committee Meeting	1st Monday as needed 7:30 pm	Temecula Valley Alano Club (See address below TVYPAA) Call ahead 951-837-7780	T
TVCO Board Meeting	1st Tuesday 6:30pm	Central Office 41340 Pear Street Suite 1 Murrieta, CA 92562	
Mid So-Cal Area Meeting	2nd Sunday 9:30am	See the MSCA website http://msca09aa.org/	Do you your g
District 17 GSR Meeting	2nd Tues 6:30pm	Springs Church- Park in Rear 41735 Winchester Rd #D Temecula, CA 92590	Contac S secretar
Intergroup Meeting	3rd Tuesday 6:45pm	Springs Church- Park in Rear 41735 Winchester Rd #D Temecula, CA 92590	
TVYPAA	1st and 3rd Sunday 4:45pm	Temecula Valley Alano Club 27470 Commerce Center Dr Temecula, CA 92590	

Financial Reports, Agendas, Meeting Minutes



Do you need a report for your groups business meeting?

Contact the TVCO Board Secretary at: secretarytvco@gmail.com

Comments, suggestions about the Gratitude Gazette?

Please email the editor at: tvcocomms@gmail.com

Spotlight

Are we ready to dig back into self-reflection and steps insight? Welcome to Spotlight. This section is a dedication of experience, strength and hope working through the steps in an interview format.

A Reflection on Step Nine

An interview with TEDDI P by Anita W Sept. 2021

<u>ANITA W</u>: This step initially appears most difficult. What character quality allowed you to move forward to practice this step?

TEDDI P: This was a hard question for me. While mentally reviewing character traits, I thought saying that I was disciplined and persistent sounded great, but unfortunately not true. It was not a character trait that propelled me forward to take this step, but trust. Trust was a process that I developed working the first 8 steps. The process was working, my life was getting better, and I trusted Alcoholics Anonymous and the steps to continue working in my life.

<u>ANITA W:</u> The "promises" of Step 9 are often read in meetings to encourage us to act. How have you seen the promises fulfilled in life?

TEDDI P: All the promises have come true for me. I don't remember when I first noticed specifics, but I'm especially grateful for the peace and serenity I have today. It's not that I don't have situations or problems, but by using the tools AA has provided, I'm able to put my head on my pillow every night and sleep peacefully even with unresolved issues. One of the first things my sponsor told me was to "Suit up and show up." It sounds so simple, but that one phrase really simplified my life, I only do the things that I'm supposed to do, and I'm no longer baffled by life. I no longer compare my insides to your outsides and come up short. I take care of my side of the street and leave others to take care of their side. If I remember that I'm okay.

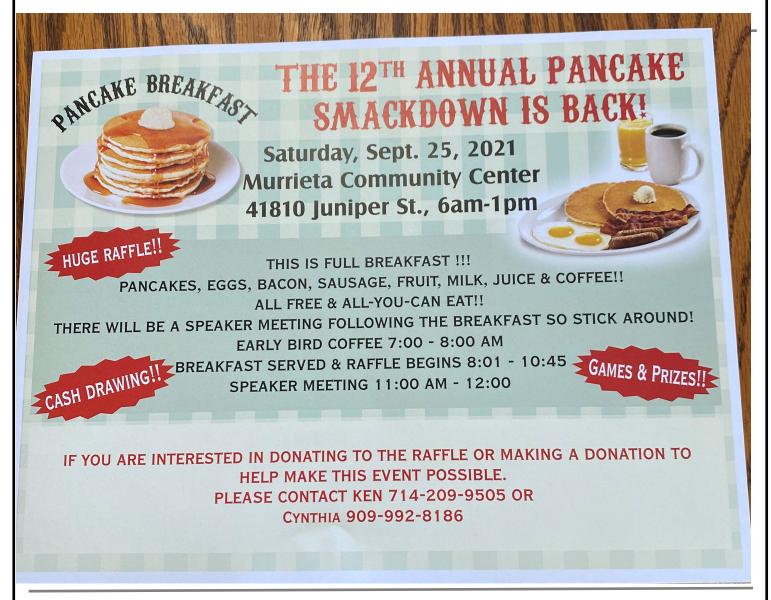
ANITA W: How do you do the 9th Step? **TEDDI P:** How to do the 9th step? My sponsor told me that we do the steps in order, and I started on the 9th step after the 8th step (who knew). Don't you just love AA, it's so simple that even an overthinker like me can't screw it up. It was better to do this step with guidance from my sponsor. I made amends to the people on my 8th step list. I discussed what I was going to say with her prior to talking with the individual involved. My usual method of apologizing included phrases similar to "I only did it because you did....or if you hadn't done that, I wouldn't have had to ...". That's why I had to talk to someone first and practice so those words wouldn't come out. It wasn't about me taking their inventory to justify my behaviors, I had to keep my eyes on me. I didn't have to make amends to everyone on the list immediately. I simply had to be willing. My family and close friends already knew I was going to AA so that's where I started. Direct amends should be made face-to-face, not over the phone, in a text message or letter whenever possible. After completing the amends, the hard part is listening to the other person. Listening to how our actions affected them. Sometimes they were still angry and didn't believe that I would change. I understood that people had heard me professing to change many times before. I didn't argue with them. I just listened and knew that the true amends would show up in my actions.

ANITA W: What is the difference between apologizing and making amends? <u>TEDDI P:</u> The primary difference between apologizing and making amends is that apologizing is just words, "I'm sorry;" while making amends involves change. Yes, we start our amends by saying those important words "I'm sorry," but it's not an amend without change. I always said I was sorry after drinking when I learned how my behavior affected those I loved,

(continued on page 12...)

Events

Many upcoming events have been cancelled, postponed and moved online due to the restrictions in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. Please call the host before traveling and check the



More events coming; please check back soon or visit

Temecula Valley Central Office Events page http://www.temeculacentraloffice.org/aa-events/



SAFETY FOR THE NEWCOMER

We *ALL deserve RESPECT* and the right to get sober in a healthy empowered environment.

Everyone regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, creed, disability, and sexual orientation, all deserve a chance to get sober without harassment of any kind.

Like one old timer in Hawaii used to say " the good, the bad, and the ugly are in meetings just like on the street."

BE AWARE

Trust is earned.

If someone makes you uncomfortable in any way, tell the secretary and a friend and do not give them your contact information. A sponsor guides you through the steps and shares their experience as to how they have stayed sober.

FOR PARENTS AND MINORS

Minors should not take rides from members of the opposite sex. There should always be another person with them, with one being of the same sex and age as the minor.

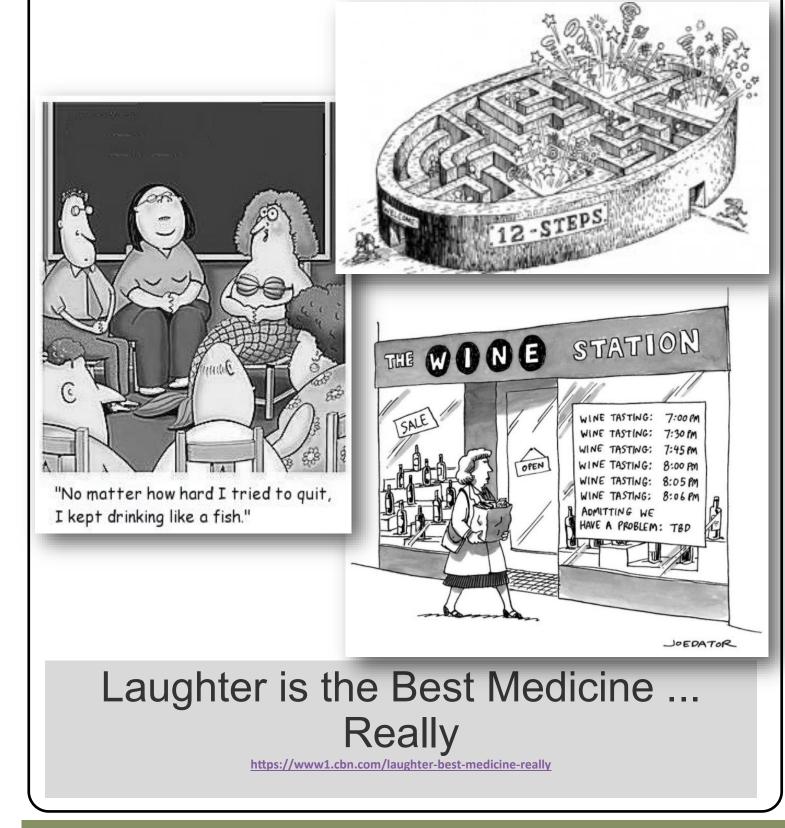
Minors should not go alone to the house of an older sober member to do step work until trustworthiness is established. It is safer to do this work in a public area like a coffee shop.

This literature is part of "**Make meetings safer**". A grass roots movement in Southern California. Started by a group of concerned group members. Each Group is autonomous and every group can write their own literature. September 2021

Leisure



See You in the Funny Papers



Gratitude Gazette, V2021.9

September 2021





Word Search of the Month

F A E R U I X U O I X W N A Z H C D O U T F W W T UMHWEFGCONOIUDXSHOCASXAD J C N A A S Y I R J M C D G L W W U K A U W R M Y E BNBGFDIEQFNPIZLYLWRRNTWHT KOFYWENSNCERWRVINIQZAKQUZ L X R Z R Q C O T S Z G Y P E P N R Z E U C H M R ZOYJLFZLYQIQTOCCUGDEMSTMS I W I P J D G U Y E Z A P C N V T W V K R Z A E Z SALTÄJWTFBMMZWCKYPYFTDNWR G Z P G Q L B I V O E W Y P G H R P R L T S K X Q Q G T O P L A O O D C H P A U M W O Q O B P E A I A O I C S N W E S Q A S Y K Q C O V R I L DR S E HQXCUYARDTKIAVMUSYUPARILS SGKZRYKLBDTHVDIUERADSIV IVSZTEUQRTANHUIOTODLWTIJO TRTDBHSOBELIEFSSRXVDWUNVR U I S U A V E T A A U A A E L J C S A T Z A G W A AGOUAFNAITWAMQWBEITGTLCMT TZPCUOGNJTTZIEMRTVPMWQIUI IHHXGUEKMVUIUQNXADHLDPHOO O H A A U F M G O V K T T V K D K Z Z N I P M X N NBOWOXPORTHRIULWSSMLRNI X D Z L C O H H P T A K R B O O D W O S Y O E G E O F A K N T P B Y N L T Y Y E B N E J Z Q X C C X R O B M P E C P Q U E Z D V O F K Z S J J O T Y E J P

Classifieds

Intergroup commitments available

Inquire with Jessica jbworkingirl@verizon.net

TVCO SWAG

Get your limited Covid chips at Central Office



Restoration	Restitution	Resolution	Discipline
Behaviors	Situation	Attitudes	Spiritual
Character	Willing	Indirect	Beliefs
Amends	Direct	Moral	Living

Answer key for August



7th Tradition Donations



Several ways to support Central Office while keeping with the 'Stay at home order'.

Venmo is a mobile payment service: Search for @TVCOAA

Or on the TVCO website: https://www.temeculacentraloffice.org/

September 2021

but I never planned on quitting.

<u>ANITA W:</u> Why does AA advise you to exclusively focus on your part when making amends?

TEDDI P: I stay in AA because I'm an alcoholic. I take the steps because I'm an alcoholic and I need to change my actions. I'm changed because I work the steps. It's about me changing; the steps are not about the people in my life changing. This is true for the 9th step. I need to work it. It's none of my business if others need to work this step. Again, this is a simple program, I take care of my wrongdoings, not yours.

<u>ANITA W:</u> Why do you believe it's good to write out your amends and share it with your sponsor or another before proceeding?

TEDDI P: I've already answered this question. But I'd like to add that there were some sensitive situations, and I wasn't sure how to handle them. Did I make amends, or would the amends hurt the person more? In some instances, my sponsor agreed with me and in others she didn't. I wanted every amend to be harmful to someone else, so I didn't have to humble myself and take this step (I was still looking for an easy way out). I also didn't know how to make amends to people whose name I couldn't remember or my Dad who was deceased or how to make financial amends to an employer who was no longer in business. She walked me through these difficult situations.

<u>ANITA W:</u> On the other side how does procrastination impede chances for long term sobriety?

TEDDI P: To reap the benefits of the program, I must do the work. When I procrastinate, my life becomes uncomfortable. When I'm procrastinating about something, it's all I can think about. I believe that procrastinating on step 9 will stop my spiritual growth and take away my serenity.

ANITA W: Are you familiar with an attempt to make amends that caused more harm than good? Explain.

TEDDI P: I've been lucky. My amends have been well received. However, I sponsored a woman who wanted to confess her infidelities to her husband. She was cautioned not to do this, since it would hurt her husband immensely. She wanted to relieve her guilt by sharing it with him. He had no idea that she had been unfaithful; was devastated and couldn't forgive her. This broke up their marriage, creating

financial difficulties and their children suffered. Warren Wiersbe said, "Truth without love is brutality" and making amends without consideration for the other person is brutal and selfish and isn't compatible with the purpose of the 9th step.

<u>ANITA W:</u> What is the root cause of attempts to make amends that end up hurting yourself or others?

TEDDI P: I think the root cause of making an amend that does more harm that good is forgetting the part of the step that states "except when to do so would injure them or others." That's why it's so important to do this step with a sponsor.

<u>ANITA W:</u> Do I owe amends that may have serious consequences should I proceed? Give an example.

TEDDI P: This is a tough one. I didn't have any amends that would result in serious consequences, and I don't think there is one answer that fits every situation. This is when praying and working with a sponsor is needed. In some situations, direct amends might be called for and in other situations it may not.

<u>ANITA W:</u> When thinking about forgiveness, how does the expression "half measures availed us nothing" apply?

TEDDI P: For me, when I think of forgiveness and the expression half-measures availed us nothing; it reminds me that I must forgive everyone even when I don't want to. Remember the words from the 11th step prayer, "it is in forgiving, that I'm forgiven". If I hold on to my anger and resentments for perceived affronts done to me; then why should I expect others to forgive me. There was one person, I couldn't forgive. He had harmed a child I love, and I was angry and unforgiving. I hated him. I was angry for years and I had double digit sobriety at the time. Eventually, I was able to let it go, but it involved praying for this person daily for years, before the anger was released, and I forgave him. I was willing to forgive him, but it was a process and I had to work and pray before I was able to forgive.

(Continued on page 13...)

<u>ANITA W:</u> Where will Step 9 lead me as I forgive myself? What are the benefits?

TEDDI P: I was a woman who came to AA without any self-esteem; I didn't think I was worthy of forgiveness. It is through the steps that I have gained self-esteem and have been able to forgive myself. I have forgiven myself for past mistakes. I also know that I'm not perfect and I continue to make mistakes. I forgive myself for these and then work the 10th step by making prompt amends. I wouldn't be able to work the 10th step without working the first 9. I don't want to have to make amends and that also helps me to change.

<u>ANITA</u> W: How is Step 9 a solution for letting go of guilt, shame and remorse?

TEDDI P: The promises have come true for me. I no longer regret the past nor wish to close the door on it. My past is one of my greatest assets. I'm able to share my experience, strength and hope with other AA's. Since I have forgiven myself, I no longer am ashamed, guilty, or remorseful. Some of the phrases heard in meetings have helped me: I would have done better, if I had known better and We are all doing the best we can. These sayings aren't a "get out of jail free card" they simply put the situation in perspective. I made a mistake rather than I'm a mistake.

<u>ANITA W:</u> How does personal responsibility empower my ability to leave the past behind and move forward?

TEDDI P: Personal responsibility is huge for me. I couldn't do it. I was responsible and had to control all the people and situations in my world but taking responsibility for my actions was too much for me to handle. I know longer focus on the past. I have taken an inventory, made a list and made amends. My house is clean. The 9th step freed me from the bondage of self and I'm a "hold my head up high" woman today.

<u>ANITA W:</u> How does closure and letting go happen when the relationship you want to heal is not possible?

TEDDI P: Making amends is not a magic wand that heals every relationship. Again, while I hope these relationships will be restored, the purpose is to acknowledge the harm I've caused and to make it right with the people involved, as much as is

possible. Even though, the person may not want to have a relationship with me, it's easier to let it go because I'm no longer guilty. I have done everything I can to make things right. I must take the action and leave the results up to God.

<u>ANITA W:</u> Who benefits from the practice of forgiveness?

TEDDI P: Everyone. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting or excusing the harm done to you or making up with the person who caused the harm. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life.

Thank you to Teddi P. for sharing your experience, strength and hope on a difficult step for most of us. I know I learned a lot from this interview done in Sept. 2021, ANITA W.

Bi-lingual Spanish : English Meeting Now Available in Temecula at the Del Rio Group! Siempre hay esperanza There is always hope Reunión Bilingüe AA * Español-Inglés AA Bilingual Meeting * Spanish-English Todos los Domingos, a las 10:30 a.m. Every Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. Lugar de encuentro: Del Rio Meeting Place 27364 Jefferson Ave, Suite B, Temecula, CA 92590 Para más información llamar al (951) 303-4000 For more information call (951) 741-0443

Everyday

HIKING BIKING NAPPING GAMING SNACKING VISITING FROLICKING HUTCHIE COOING

Friday

STARTING @ 5:00P

SCHEDULED MEETINGS FELLOWSHIP FREE COFFEE LAUGHTER / TEARS

Saturday



POT LUCK 5:00P CAMPFIRE MTG 7:30P

25th Annual ^{x2} CAMPOUT

Liberty Bells Half Cracked But Liberated

October 8-10, 2021

✓-In Friday 2:00p✓-Out Sunday 12:00p

Everyone Welcome Family & Friends

Loop "B" Hurkey Creek Park 56375 CA-74, Mountain Center, CA 92561

RV's and Trailers welcome This is a Dry Campsite: No Hook-Ups No Dump Station

> All Questions garagejim@gmail.com



RV's & Trailers 4 People \$55.00 Extra Kids \$10 Extra Adult \$20



<u>Tents: 4 People</u> \$45.00 Extra Kids \$10 Extra Adult \$20

Tents: 1 Person \$20.00 Extra Kid \$10 Extra Adult \$20



Day Use No Camping \$10



Pet Friendly Pay @ Gate

STARTING @ 3.00