

WIDENING THE GATEWAY

12TH ANNUAL

2016 RECOVERY SPRING RETREAT

May 13-14-15- at Life's Place in Laytonville, CA



A WEEKEND WITH AA MEETINGS AND FELLOWSHIP

Email: lifej@mcn.org for directions, or if it's real close to the event, call 707-984-8339

It's just 3 hours north of the SF Bay Area, up Highway 101 and then a couple of miles to the left. Easy to find, no dirt roads.

Scheduled events:

Friday:
7:00 pm Out-of-towners arrive
Topic AA meeting, Freethinker style

Saturday:
2:00 pm Regular AA meeting in the
Cathedral Grove
3:30 pm Barbecue and potluck meal
6:00 pm AA speaker meeting Freethinker
style (open ended)

Sunday:
9:00 am AA meeting, 1 hr, Freethinker style
10:00 am Great breakfast!

If we know you are coming we can probably have a bed for you, or at least a mattress somewhere on the floor. We can sleep 5-8 people. Otherwise you can pitch a tent. There's a motel in town too. Significant others, your kids, and other 12-steppers are generally welcome, too. No radios, please. Please bring food and drink to share for Saturday afternoon pot luck. Sunday breakfast provided, with your help. RSVP, please. Please make a donation to help pay for the event. Suggested donation \$20, or a bit more if you stay overnight, if you can spare it. If not, don't worry, come anyway. We want you here.

WIDENING THE GATEWAY

"...This was the great contribution of our atheists and agnostics. They had widened our gateway so that all who suffer might pass through, regardless of belief or lack of belief."

- *said Bill W., co-founder of AA, in 1957*
- *from Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, p. 167*

And so, this year we're going to experiment a bit.

The 2 pm meeting in the Cathedral Grove, which is the one most local people attend will be a regular AA speaker meeting, as always, though I will find a secular or un-believer speaker this year. The barbecue and potluck will be great, as always.

We're hopeful that this meeting will help make everyone feel like the AA family we ought to be.

The rest of the event we will experiment a bit with new formats, and focus much of our discussions around "Widening the Gateway".

We're hopeful to see some new people this year, since we're changing the overall theme a bit, along with the regulars.

So here's a bit about how it has usually been:

This is not one of those events with a hundred people, but typically rather small. Locals show up for the afternoon, a few stay for the evening meeting. The rest of the event is rather small and intimate, such that there is good opportunity for some real in depth recovery talk. It's pretty much all we do, and we usually come away feeling like we've just added another year to our recovery.

AA MEETINGS ARE GENERALLY OPEN TO ALL ALCOHOLICS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING. FOR THIS EVENT, HOWEVER, WE ASK THAT YOU ONLY ATTEND IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN DRINKING ON THE DAY YOU ATTEND. IF YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING, PLEASE GO TO THE NEXT MEETING AT YOUR LOCAL FELLOWSHIP INSTEAD. WE WILL WELCOME YOU THERE.