



# The Friendship Club



Volume 1  
Issue 4



2025

A 501(c)3 non-profit  
founded in 1979

Seven days a week, meetings are held (over 50 each week) ensuring that individuals in recovery and seeking recovery have access to support and companionship.

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## Contact Us

1316 Apache Ave  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505.982.9040  
info@friendshipclubsantafe.org  
www.friendshipclubsantafe.org

## Our Mission

Welcome to the Friendship Club of Santa Fe. Our mission is to provide and maintain a multi-use community center that promotes activities and events focusing on mental, spiritual and physical recovery. We provide an inviting, supportive environment where people in recovery can heal and help one another.

## Board Members

Mary S.	Marie G.
Franco S.	Pat D.
Lou T.	Alvaro L.
Chris G.	Carlo B.

## Newsletter Collaborators

Marcia R  
Pat D  
Mary S  
Mario S

## ABOUT THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

With a rich history dating back to the 1970s, the Friendship Club has been a reliable safe harbor for individuals struggling with the far-reaching effects of addiction. The club organizes a variety of events and activities, including dances, marathon 12-step meetings, holiday meals, potlucks, social get-togethers, and more.

*COMING SOON! The Complete History of AA and the Friendship Club*

## Connecting with AA in Santa Fe – Some Behind-the-Scenes Tips

Although the Friendship Club hosts a wide variety of recovery groups and activities 7 days per week, you might want to connect with recovery groups and activities outside the Club. Here are some options to explore as you search for *Alcoholics Anonymous* information, literature, and more.:

**AA World Services** provides the structure for self-supporting local service offices. *Santa Fe is part of Area 46, and identified as District 2, in New Mexico.*

**Start your search** for support and resources at <https://nm-aa.org>. This site provides ways to connect with AA if you need help related to Santa Fe recovery options and has information about Area and District events, activities, and ways to become a volunteer. It is well organized and worth a visit.

**In the parking lot** of the Friendship Club, you may have noticed a staircase leading to a door on the second story of the building. This door leads you to the meeting place for *Renacer*, the AA group "en Espanol" (6 pm on Monday – Friday) and houses the AA Central Office <https://santafeaa.org/central-office/> for Area 46, District 2 in Santa Fe, providing an organizing hub for Area 46, District 2, and coordinates a variety of service opportunities. You can also obtain AA approved books and literature from this office, by email or phone: [centraloffice@santafeaa.org](mailto:centraloffice@santafeaa.org), 505.982.8932

Santa Fe area AA also publishes *El Farolito*, a newsletter available online or by mail, with information about AA related activities, events and updates from AA districts in Area 46. Visit the site to find out about events, submit an article, donate and much more! It's an effective way to stay up to date with all things AA in New Mexico. Be sure to sign up for a very affordable subscription: (<https://nm-aa-org/el-farolito>)



# Resources

## Room Rentals

**Room 1:** 30' by 40', seats 80  
(with microphones and speakers)

**Room 2:** 23' by 33', seats 50  
(with projector and screen)

**Room 3:** 16' by 20', seats 25

**Room 4:** 14' by 16' (With permanent conference table and excellent zoom room capability)

All of the rooms have heating and air conditioning, and can be closed off from the rest of the building. Typical use is for 12 step and other recovery meetings, but we are also available to compatible uses, pending a meeting with staff to determine schedule and price. *Contact Sherm A. for a tour and/or to schedule a meeting or event:*



Room 1



Room 2



Room 3



Room 4

**The Zoom Room for hybrid meetings**



Podcast Studio

The highly acclaimed "High Desert Sobriety" podcast is recorded at the Friendship Club.

Now the cozy recording studio at the Club is available to rent for other recording projects.

## MEETINGS

Click on links or go to  
[www.friendshipclubsantafe.org](http://www.friendshipclubsantafe.org)

[in person meetings](#)  
[online meetings](#)

### Our newest Meetings

**DA (Debtors Anonymous)**  
Thursdays at 6 p.m. in room

**SA (Suicide Anonymous)**  
Saturdays at noon in room 3

**Women's CODA**  
Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. in room 3

**Red Road Recovery**  
Thursdays at 6 p.m. in room 3

### New Meetings added in 2024

NA (narcotics anonymous)  
Young People in AA (lighthouse group)  
Not Saints Men's Meeting  
Double Winners  
Happy Hour - LIVING SOBER  
CA (cocaine anonymous)

Free Thinkers AA  
Recovery Dharma  
AAA (all addicts anonymous)  
NA hybrid meeting Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in room 4

### Childcare Opportunities

AA Sunday Morning Group, 9 am.  
Young People in AA (lighthouse group), Sunday, 6 pm

## DID YOU KNOW ???



*The meaning of the Friendship Club colors?*

**YELLOW** is a symbol of joyfulness, happiness, and energy

**GREEN** is a symbol of life, renewal, nature, growth, health and wealth



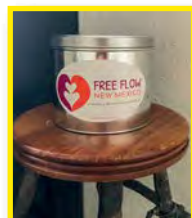
*We have a recycling center!*

Please throw your cans in the recycle bin instead of the trashcan. It is in the hallway by the bathrooms. Thank You!



*And a disposal system for cigarette butts!*

And, while you're at it, please put your cigarette butts in the big ashtray outside by the tables, not on the ground. Thank You!



*We have joined Project Freeflow*

Next time you are in our bathrooms consider donating to Free Flow New Mexico, whose mission is to help end period poverty in Northern New Mexico. No individual should miss work or school, because of lack of period products.



**FREE FLOW**  
NEW MEXICO

<https://freeflownm.com>

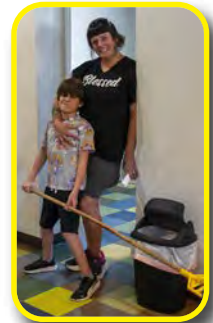


## SPOTLIGHTS

### JULY 4TH



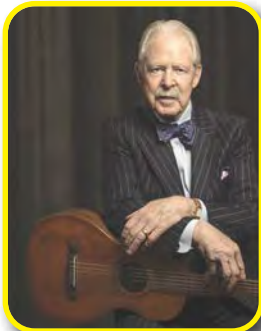
Our Fourth of July was spent connecting, eating, and dancing. The weather was beautiful and the Friendship Club was full all day. It was a great opportunity to reconnect and make new friends. The day felt peaceful and abundant, thanks to all of you!



### CONCERT

#### John Henry McDonald and A Guru Named Frank

To learn more about John Henry (and Frank), listen to his songs and stories, or watch a video of one of his performances check out his website at <https://johnhenrymcdonald.com>.



The Friendship Club hosted a unique fundraiser in July, featuring *"an original one-man musical performance and play"* written by John Henry McDonald. The audience was treated to a lively blend of story-telling and original tunes; painting a vivid picture of one man's journey through drug addiction, alcoholism, and homelessness to a life of recovery

anchored by *"A Guru Named Frank."* His performance took about 10 years to develop: the songs and parts of the storytelling have changed a bit over time, although the core of his performance stays the same. Connecting with the audience is of utmost importance and he says, *"sometimes I perform, and sometimes the performance plays me."*

Given a choice in the late 1960's between jail or Vietnam, John Henry chose Vietnam. He returned from that war with a "brokenness" of spirit. Searching for a way out of that pain, he turned to drugs and alcohol and started down the dark path that so many of us know - addiction, homelessness, ruined relationships, and hopelessness. Yet, even in his darkest times he kept his love of folk, gospel, and blues music, along

with *"a talent for telling a good story."* He traveled on the road, opening for more well-known bands, finally landing in Austin, Texas. In 1973 John Henry put down the bottle and began his journey into sobriety with guidance from the man that he credits with saving his life, Frank Roberts. In his performance he paints a picture of Frank "in coveralls, with a pickup truck and holding a 45 automatic." When John Henry asks for help, Frank tells him to get a job, not a "gig" and leave that guitar behind. Later Frank tells him it is time to stop running and make a stand. He points out that John Henry has the precious gift of sobriety, "so don't blow it." John Henry calls Frank for help and advice for the next 34 years and counted on him for directions (never suggestions) such as "get a job" or "pray." Frank, with his brisk, no-nonsense style, and blunt instructions provided the lifeline John Henry needed on his journey to living a happy and productive sober life.

John Henry forged a successful career in financial services in Austin Texas for more than forty years, and now lives part time in Santa Fe, offering fundraising performances three or four times each year for a variety of causes. John Henry generously donated 100% of the \$1700 that was raised from his performance July 11, to the Friendship Club, and we are so grateful!

*A huge thank you to John Henry  
and to all who attended the concert!*

And More ...

## Volunteers

The Friendship Club depends on its volunteers! Volunteers often receive gifts of appreciation from the Club such as meals and parties together, gift cards, and tee shirts.



## VOLUNTEERS

WHAT IT TAKES TO  
BE A VOLUNTEER:

*"many hands  
make light work"*

Anyone can volunteer at the Friendship Club!

Most people in early recovery quickly learn the value of SERVICE work and its place in an individual's recovery program.

The Friendship Club offers an opportunity and a safe space for people to get involved in service through volunteer work. Volunteer commitments at the Friendship Club can consist of working a coffee bar shift; helping to clean up and tidy around the club; helping set up and tear down for special events; and several other roles and activities.

The Friendship Club serves as an approved entity for those needing to complete mandated Community Service hours. If interested in earning those hours at the Friendship Club see Mario S., Volunteer Coordinator - Coffee Bar Manager, or Sherm A., Executive Director, for more information. 505.982.9040

## Christmas in July: Celebrating Our Amazing Volunteers!

It may have been warm outside, but inside the Friendship Club, we brought a little holiday cheer early this year! On July 11, 2025, we hosted a "Christmas in July" themed *Volunteer Appreciation Party at Pantry Dos* of Santa Fe NM — a chance to celebrate the wonderful people who give their time and energy to make our club such a special place.

The event was all about our volunteers. We enjoyed a wonderful meal from Pantry Dos, festive treats, fun activities, and plenty of opportunities to relax and connect with friends. It felt like a mid-year holiday boost — because we didn't need to wait until December to show our gratitude.

*We celebrated together. We laughed together. And we were reminded of just how special this community is. The Friendship Club thrives because of volunteers like you!*



Interested in joining the volunteer team?  
The party was also the perfect time to learn more.  
Whether you have a little time or a lot,  
we always welcome new hands and hearts



## SPOTLIGHTS



### **Higher Education Event: Recap & Upcoming Opportunity**

On August 9th, the Friendship Club hosted a special Higher Education event in partnership with the Educational Opportunity Center.

We were thrilled to welcome 13 participants who had the chance to meet with a college and career advisor. This no-cost resource is

designed to help individuals take the first step on their educational journey, whether that means exploring college options, planning career goals, or finding the right path forward.

*Stay tuned for future opportunities.*



### **Yoga & Community at the Friendship Club**

On August 16th, the Friendship Club hosted a relaxing afternoon of yoga, meditation, and community connection. The event, sponsored by Emily B. from the Young People Lighthouse Group, was a wonderful success with more than 12 participants joining in.

After the class, everyone enjoyed a shared potluck meal, making it not only a time of wellness but also of friendship and fellowship.

*We're excited to share that more events like this are on the horizon — stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to recharge, connect, and grow together!*



## **Pinon Award**

### **Honoring excellence in the nonprofit sector**

Since 1987, the Santa Fe Community Foundation has selected and awarded the Piñon Awards to local nonprofit organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the community. First held in a board member's living room, the Piñon Awards ceremony has become a fall tradition filling the La Fonda ballroom with awardees, supporters, and friends of the Foundation.

The Friendship Club has always depended on donations, room rentals, community grants, and the heartfelt efforts of an army of volunteers, providing a safe and welcoming place for those in recovery. The “time and treasure” donated in this way is appreciated and acknowledged throughout the year.

The Friendship Club is one of four award recipients out of 130 non-profit organizations from northern New Mexico, and is grateful to the many volunteers who keep the FC open and running smoothly.

**This year the Friendship Club will receive a well-earned award from the Santa Fe Community Foundation - the Pinon Award, an honor built on the foundation of that hard work and support from the community.**

The award comes with a \$5,000 unrestricted grant. The awards will be presented at an event on October 7, 2025, at La Fonda on the Plaza.

The Friendship Club will receive the *Quiet Inspiration Award*, honoring the Club's work since 1979 among a wide range of people both in the recovery community and in quiet collaboration with the wider community. The lived mission and vision of the Club has earned the respect, trust, and support of Santa Fe over time, quietly building a vibrant coalition of groups and individuals that thrive within its walls and small but serene outdoor spaces.

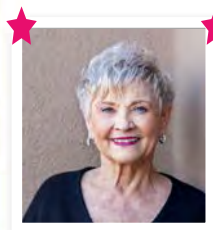


## MESSAGES and UPDATES

Thank You!



**MARY S., Board President**



part of the mission of the Club.

I am happy to be a member of the Friendship Club for over 22 years. It is an honor to serve on the board and be

**SHERMAN A., Executive Director**



All Addicts Anonymous, and more, meet in person and via our state-of-the-art Zoom Room, making connection very accessible.

We continue to thrive and grow, offering support to those in recovery. Groups including Debtors Anonymous, CoDA, Suicide Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous,

**MARIO S., Coffee Bar Manager and Volunteer Coordinator**



Friendship Club as Coffee Bar Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.

Mario, a Santa Fe native, embodies the spirit of community service, driving positive change through his positions at the



### Board Member Spotlight: Pat D.

Pat came to Santa Fe in 2023. Originally from NY, she and her sister drove cross country in 1975, ending up in Bellingham, WA. A week after arriving, she met her future husband (*in a tavern - love at first drink*) and they ended up in Seattle. She and her husband became enthralled with Alaska and moved there.

Pat listened and became sober, recently celebrating 36 years of sobriety. Her husband also became sober, but unlike her, did not embrace the program. Pat's connection to Santa Fe began at a workshop at Upayah Zen Center, and she immediately felt a strong pull to this area. After her husband's death she decided to retire and move elsewhere. At the same time, she joined an online group, *Do It Sober*, on Zoom, and met two people from Santa Fe, which prompted another visit to the city. She moved here, once again following her inner voice and made good friends, one of which she recently travelled with to Scotland.

Pat was an active member of AA in Anchorage from 1989-2022. Once in Santa Fe, she found the Friendship Club, where she felt welcomed by friendly AA groups, discovered

a lot was going on, and also appreciated the parking at the club. She looked around for a way to volunteer, and became a FC board member, attending events in her role as greeter and organizer. She then joined the newsletter team, and continues to be an active member of our community.

Her story includes family alcoholism; her 'baby' sister became sober via AA, introducing Pat to the program. She also saw firsthand, as a nurse, the wreckage drinking brings to lives. She began to feel scared because she never knew what would happen while she was drinking. Her inner voice spoke again, telling her to get help or there might not be another chance; she made the choice to become sober and find structure in her life without drinking, found people to talk to, and created her own spiritual program. It seemed like a miracle, to join "her people". Kept coming back and stayed, another miracle.

Pat learned to seek spiritual solutions, pay attention to what's happening in her head, make amends, knows she needs to live in the slow lane instead of living in the fast lane. She experiences herself in a more integrated way, where her insides now match her outsides.

Please Donate



THANK YOU!

The Friendship Club continues to need your donations. Please consider making a one time donation, or setting up a recurring donation by clicking the button above or go to our website: [www.friendshipclubsantafe.org](http://www.friendshipclubsantafe.org)

Tax ID 85-0324089.

Alternatively you can mail a check to: The Friendship Club of Santa Fe, PO Box 6723, Santa Fe, 87502.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Sandoval Firm, Rick Sandoval  
Santa Fe Community Foundation  
Recovery Communities of N.M.  
The Pantry Dos  
Century Bank  
The Church of the Holy Faith  
St. Bede's Episcopal Church  
Manny Gallegos  
Altamira Financial Group/Kerry Lee  
Del Norte LOV Foundation  
General Mailing & Shipping Systems  
US Bank  
Enterprise Bank and Trust

Hutton Broadcasting  
State Employees Credit Union  
New Experiences Counseling & Consultation, Tiffany Wynn, PhD, LPCC  
The Ranch House  
Sissel's Fine Quality Indian Jewelry  
Plaza Cafe, Southside  
Richard Alarid  
Subway on Cordova and Devargas Mall  
BACA'S Plumbing & General Construction, Inc.  
Doris G. Walbridge Fund  
AND EVERY MEMBER of the FC





## EVENTS



**NOT TO BE MISSED!**

SEPTEMBER IS RECOVERY MONTH!

# THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB CELEBRATES RECOVERY!

*Sharing the Promises  
of Recovery*



SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 27,  
2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

1316 APACHE ST,  
SANTA FE

**JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY RECOVERY CELEBRATION EVENT!**

The Friendship Club provides an inviting, supportive environment where people in recovery can heal and help one another.



## MORE EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> IS  
NATIONAL 988 DAY.**  
MONDAY, SEPT. 8  
4 PM - 6 PM

Friendship Club  
1316 APACHE AVE  
SANTA FE, NM

988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and emphasizing the importance of mental health and suicide prevention.

Call 988 if you or someone you love is experiencing a mental health crisis.

LET'S BREAK THE STIGMA.  
IF WE CAN CULTIVATE A CELEBRATION AROUND OPENING UP ABOUT OUR IMPERFECTIONS AND HARDSHIPS, WE MIGHT SEE MORE PEOPLE DOING IT.

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF SHARING PRESENTATIONS FOOD FUN

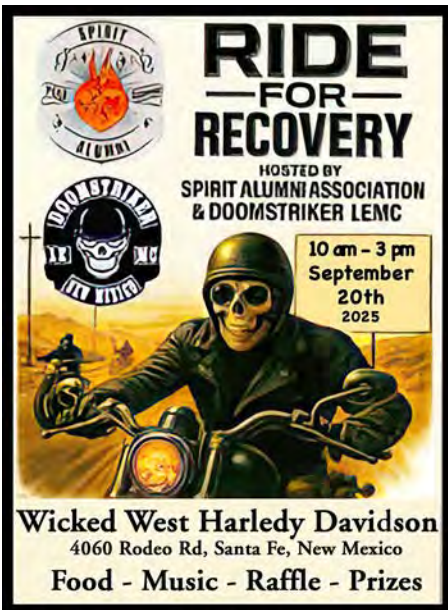
### National 988 Day & Volunteer Appreciation

Join us on Friday, **September 8th from 4–6 p.m.** as we celebrate National 988 Day along with our Volunteer Appreciation Party. It's a time to honor our volunteers and raise awareness for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — all in one meaningful gathering.  
*Pizza and salad from Dion's will be provided!*

### Educational Workshop

Be sure to join us on Friday, September 12th from 2–3:30 p.m at the Friendship Club of Santa Fe in room number 4 - you don't want to miss an important educational workshop sponsored by the Yellow Ribbon Organization and Project Semicolon. Together, we'll learn, share, and build stronger support for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

*Sack lunches will be provided!*



**RIDE FOR RECOVERY**  
HOSTED BY  
SPIRIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
& DOOMSTRIKER LEMC

10 am - 3 pm  
September 20th 2025

Wicked West Harley Davidson  
4060 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Food - Music - Raffle - Prizes

### Spirit Alumni Ride for Recovery

Join us on Saturday, September 20th at Wicked West Harley-Davidson in Santa Fe! The Friendship Club will be part of the Spirit Alumni Ride for Recovery from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., with a booth set up to share information about our community.  
Stop by and say hello!

### Featured Events

- *July 4, p. 5*
- *Concert, p. 3*
- *Yoga, p. 5*
- *Higher Education, p. 5*
- *Volunteer Dinner, p. 4*

STAY  
TUNED!

*One of our members highlighted in the news!*



**PRIME TIME  
PUBLISHING**  
**FEATURE STORY**

**Sam Bair: Nonagenarian Woodworker  
Carries on Lifelong Craft**  
By BRIAN D'AMBROSIO

### Upcoming Events

- *Recovery Day*
- *988 Day*
- *Ride for Recovery*
- *Yellow Ribbon training*
- *Pinon Award*





Removing alcohol and drugs won't suddenly fix all your problems but it will give you a chance to actually start working on them.

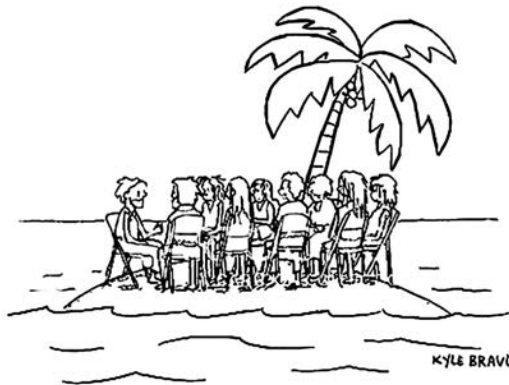
Gratitude turns what we have into enough.

Here's the details of that support group for compulsive talkers -- it's called OnAnonAnon



Definition of SOBER-

Son Of a Bitch,  
Everything's Real!



"My name is John, and I'm an alcohoic. My sobriety date is ... well, you already know. It's the same as all of yours."

God grant me the  
serenity to accept the  
people I cannot change,  
the courage to change  
the one I can, and the  
wisdom to know it's me.



Lois and Bill Wilson lived out their lives at their home in Bedford Hills where Lois's devotion to Bill never ended.

Her unwavering love became the catalyst for one of the greatest moments of the 20th century ...  
Al-Anon



**Newsletter**  
Volume 1 | Issue 4  
**Fall 2025**



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Suicide Prevention Hotline

**988**

Please use this number if needed and also pass on to others.

**CHOOSE LIFE**

**YOU MATTER**

## In Memoriam

"Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear."

.... anonymous



# Look inside for resources and the latest news!

If you would like to receive the Friendship Club newsletter via email please contact us with your request and email address:  
info@friendshipclubsantafe.org

## Questions, Ideas, and More?

*We value your input*



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Santa Fe, NM 87505



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