

ORIGINAL GOLD QUARTZ

Date Founded: September 1949 GSO#: 609021 History Updated: May 2020*

Updated 10-5-22, Updated 8-24-23, Updated 3-18-24

Location: First meetings at someone's home, then Peace Lutheran Church, the Rod and Gun Club on Alta Street, the GV Fellowship, and finally back to Peace Lutheran Church.

Meeting Day and Time: Friday, 7:00 p.m. (1-1/2 hour meeting)

**This history of the Original Gold Quartz Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is a compilation of histories written first, by Clayton G (transcribed by Edna), covering formation through the 1960's, and continued by Scottie H., in 1998 for a Unity Day Project. Updated by Susan L and Beth M., both of whom have regularly attended the meeting for more than 25 years) Updated by District 20 Archives in August 2023 and March 2024.*

This form is a shortened history without last names to be displayed on District 20 website. (5-22-24)

According to Clayton G., AA started in the Western Nevada County area, in Grass Valley, in 1949 with what is now the Original Gold Quartz Group. Presumably, this Friday night meeting at 8:00 p.m. started in someone's home.

Possible Founding Members: (Taken from the Guests sign-in book from Friday night AA meeting **1954**. Green book in District 20 Archives. Although this book doesn't say it is from the Gold Quartz Group, it can be assumed so. Some of these names may be spouses of the AA members. The names may be illegible, but are noted here as best as can be made out. The members signed their full names.)

Kirk K. (sober in **1949**, taken from Gold Quartz Birthday book); Tom O. (possibly sober in December **1941**. Taken from Guests book and celebrating 13 years at **12-10-54** birthday meeting. Osborn was a founding member of the Gold Diggers Tuesday night meeting).

According to Clayton G., in **1953** the Secretary was Earl V. from Alta, California.

Seventy seven people altogether signed the guest book from local and nearby towns to attend a Grass Valley picnic on Sunday, **August 1, 1954**.

Some early members who lived locally and attended the Original Gold Quartz meeting from **1954 to 1959:** (From Green Guest Book in District 20 Archives)

Norma C., GV; L.K. J., GV; Lorest H., GV; Floyd and Alice B., Roseville; Dan and Thelma D. are listed on 11-12-54 from Montrose, Calif. (Dan D., sobriety date: 9-15-53, was very active later and is one of the Founding members of the GVF.); W.A. W., GV; Wilma M., GV; Janeh D. H., GV; David E. P., Nevada City on December 10, 1954 (David, known as Deacon was a founding member of Gold Diggers Nevada City Group); G.E. B., NC; Kathryn C., NC; Charles F., GV; Mikie and Jim W., GV; Thelma D., NC; Tai T., NC (Tai was a founding member of Gold Diggers Nevada City Group); Violet D., GV; Arthur Y., NC; Gene Deluoy C., GV; Don N.,

GV; Lois T., GV; Hal and Eve L., NC; Ruth V., GV; Eddie B., NC; Mary Boncoeur F., NC; Hortense B., NC; Nancy O., NC; Sally S., GV; Beth H., GV; Nellie W., GV; Roy C. and Jones, GV. Many others are listed in Guest Book as being from nearby cities.

In **1956**, Clayton states that the Gold Quartz group may have been held at the Woman's Improvement Club, which was an arm of the Congregational Church. At the Improvement Club, there were rows of wooden benches and, as the members were called on to speak, they would come to the front of the room to a podium to give their story.

At Clayton's first meeting in Grass Valley (sometime after **11-24-1956**), there were five local members and six members from Roseville. (There's no recordings in Guest book of this date. The book jumps from **Feb 1956 to January 1957** with no dates or recordings in-between.)

Floyd B. from Roseville brought a carload of members to the Grass Valley meeting almost every Friday night for years. The Secretary of the group in **1956** was Earl V. from Alta. He had been Secretary at this time for three years. Earl's sponsor was Floyd B. of Roseville. Earl had been driving over from Alta, rain or shine, snow banks or storms, many times having to dig his way through snow banks and chop down fallen trees on the road. His great pride was he had never failed to get through and open the meeting on time. He kept asking for members to take over the meeting, but to no avail. He was Secretary for three more years after Clayton came into the program in **1956**.

Clayton G. became Secretary in **1959** and was Secretary for two years before a new volunteer took over.

At this point, the two original groups (Gold Quartz and Gold Diggers) had not had any new member stay sober for one year, so Clayton was the pride of both groups. It is said that Clayton did not understand the principle of "Attraction rather than Promotion," so he would walk the streets of Grass Valley telling everyone he knew, or anyone who would talk to him about AA and how he loved his sobriety. Soon Clayton started getting calls from troubled relatives about their family members who were in trouble with alcohol. He would go see the person or call the person on the phone. Within his first year of sobriety he had two new members. Within his first three years he had recruited six members in one way or the other and many failed attempts, also. (Some of these "babies," could be Harry C., sobriety 6-18-1960, James Martin H., sobriety date 3-29-1962 and Glen S., nicknamed: Snuffy from Auburn, sobriety date, August 1, 1964.) He would take a car load of his new "babies" to out of town meetings twice a week: to Marysville, Citrus Heights, Group 3 in Sacramento, Auburn or Roseville.

One of Clayton's "babies," Harry C., got sober on **June 18, 1960**. Within a year he started our first speaker meeting in the area. It was a great success. At one of these meetings, Harry got Chuck C. to speak. He was a great AA speaker who had spoken at the first AA World Conference and received a standing ovation. Chuck, after hearing Clayton's account of how he had gotten his babies; i.e., one from a city dump, one from a parking meter in town, one from a phone call and all the other strange ways he had of getting babies; named Clayton the "Cadaver Grabber," which a few old timers still remember.

Harry's son, John C., also joined A.A. in 1989. But in **1960**, when John C. was ten years old, he remembers attending supposedly the Gold Quartz Group with his father, Harry, and that it was

held at the **Episcopal Church on Church Street** in Grass Valley, across from the Methodist Church. John remembers cleaning ash trays. At the time, John was a member of Al-Ateen. His mother, Dot was a member of Al-Anon.

Edna G., Clayton's wife, started Al-Anon in Grass Valley in 1959 in Nevada City. Edna remembers that the Original Gold Quartz Group would give chips to members with one year or more of sobriety. The chips would be left in a box and turned over to display their names and the year. The longest sober members chips were on the top of the board and newer members at the bottom. This box was displayed every Friday night. Edna doesn't remember what year this display case started.

By **1984**, when Scottie H. started attending the meeting, it met in the fellowship hall at Peace Lutheran Church at 828 Main Street, Grass Valley. The room was smaller than it is now as they have remodeled a couple of times, and the room was packed. The weekly meeting was a Chair/Participation meeting (as it is now).

Scottie remembers that one week out of the month was a speaker meeting, with speakers from out of town. The last Friday of the month was a birthday meeting.

Shortly thereafter, probably at the time of the Peace Lutheran expansion, the meeting moved to the Rod and Gun Club on Alta Street, Grass Valley. After the move, attendance was down somewhat and the group was having some financial struggles. This could have been the motivation for the group to join the Grass Valley Fellowship when it opened in **1987**. The meeting was assured it could keep its name (Gold Quartz) and be a birthday meeting. That's why the Friday night meeting at GVF is called the Gold Quartz meeting and has always been the Fellowship's birthday meeting.

In **1993**, a group of AA members (Jerry D., Dan. D., Terri H., Bruce J., et al), felt a meeting in the style of the original Gold Quartz meeting was needed. Peace Lutheran Church was available, with the requirement that it be a non-smoking meeting. The group asked the Fellowship for the Gold Quartz name back, but that request was denied. Accordingly, the group went back to Peace Lutheran Church as a non-smoking, open meeting called the **Original Gold Quartz Group**. Some of the members (in particular, Dan D. and Scottie H.) fought hard to retain the meeting's original GSO registration number, and thus it is considered the same meeting that was formed in 1949 and met at Peace Lutheran Church in the 1980's.

Attendance at the meeting has fluctuated widely throughout its long history, and there have been a few times when its future looked dim; however, the meeting has held on through thick and thin (attendance) and has always made a comeback. Currently in **2024**, the Original Gold Quartz group meets at 7:00 pm every Friday night and is an hour and a half meeting. According to its tradition, the meeting is an open Chair/Participation meeting in which Alanon's are not only welcome, but fully participate in the meeting. Birthday night is the last Friday of each month.

Prior to formation of District 20 in 1986, the two original groups (Gold Diggers and Gold Quartz) financed the AA notice in the Union Newspaper and the telephone answering service hotline.

In **2020**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it met on Zoom: ID # 943 385 715, pw: sobergold