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The San Jose Alano Club News

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Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

Dinner 1122 Fair Avenue
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March 1998

A Community Asset For The Last Forty Seven Years

Volume 47.3

The Martin Luther King Human Rights Works

Those of you that missed it, Missed It! The meal was great, cooked in some parts by Steve S. on BBQ Chicken, Cha-Cha W. on smothered Greens, Judy P. on Spanish Rice. This was all great but it was just the beginning. David R. gave a brief history on who was Martin Luther King Jr. Milton B. was our master of ceremonies and then things got really interesting: Keynote Speaker: Steven M. Millner, Ph.D. Professor of African-American alcoholic father and how it has affected his life. What Martin Luther King Jr., did before he became a good guy, well you needed to be there? Dr. Millner has lectured all over the world, and we would like to thank him for using up his weekend night to come and talk to us. Human Rights, you don't even need to be black to appreciate them.

A Printed Retraction, and are we ever Sorry!

In last months newsletter it appeared that I was calling Jack Smith a Hack, which is slang for not being a very good golfer. Jack is a fine golfer and also our Alano Club Tournament Chairman for our 13th annual Golf Classic to be held on Sunday, July 19, 1998.

Well here is what happened to the best of my knowledge, Thackery S. was having his one year birthday and Jack S. was having his 10 year birthday and somehow the margins slipped and it looked like Jack was a Hack and Thackery was just forgot about. So Happy Birthday Thackery. And Jack, you know in your heart I would never call you a Hack. You may have had a few bad rounds, but that alone doesn't make you a hack.

Baron's Semi-Universal Law

I'm sure that if you had some bad luck on Friday the thirteenth that you wonder why that is, well, any month that starts on Sunday will have at least one maybe two Friday the thirteenths. So as you can see, it's the months starting on Sunday that we really have to watch for.

Bud Crossman Succumbs to A Second Stroke

Bud died on February 1st, Bud would have celebrated 25 years on May 17, and He was an asset to the fellowship.

A Tip For You And Yours

Small flashlight-like laser pointers can be harmful to your eyes, warns the British Medical Journal. The more powerful types can cause permanent retinal damage, and have actually been banned in Great Britain. Although the lasers used in the pointers sold in the U.S. are not as strong as those used overseas, don't stare directly into a laser pointer beam, and don't let the light from it shine in your eyes for a long time.

These Folks Have Some Cause For Gratitude, A Milestone in Recovery

Carolyn S.	3/19/77	Paul P.	3/01/79	Dennis F.	3/27/98
Jesse M.	3/07/89	Rube E.	3/15/89	Josephine D.	3/23/89
Royce F.	3/25/89	Andre M.	3/07/90	Greg W.	3/17/91
Glenn S.	3/12/92	Mike A.	3/28/92	Esequiel Z.	3/15/94
Dana F.	3/01/95	John T.	3/17/95	Karen F.	3/01/97
Robert L.	3/09/97	And Lets Not Forget		Thackery S.	2/29/97
And Yet Another Little Mistake: Dolly E. 10/06/91 (She Forgives Me?)					

The Entertainment Committee is proud to Announce:

For our Friday the 13th Valentines Day Dance we had a little less than three hundred people in attendance. Thanks for your support and we will try to continue to provide great Dances. Our next dance will be Friday, March 20th.

Welcome a New Twelve Step Group to the Club, Over-Eaters Anonymous

I was fortunate enough to attend the first meeting here, on Sunday, February 15 at 1:00p.m. in the basement meeting room. I learned a bit more about eating compulsively and I plan on learning a lot more, Newcomers and interested persons are most welcome.

Thank You

The Board would like to say thanks for the great and wonderful work being done by the Dance Committee. To remind you of the planned Saint Patrick's Night Dance, Friday March 20 at 10:00 p.m.

Saint Patrick's Day Dinner and Show

On Tuesday March 17th, we are planning on having a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and a Magic Show for the unbelievable price of \$4.00 for our beloved members and \$5.00 for those that may not have seen the light at this moment.

No matter where you've been or what you have done, somebody has "been there" or "done that" before you.

Your Alano Club Heritage

Heritage

Dave Q. 1984

NOTHING HAPPENS WITHOUT A PURPOSE

The Big Book begins with Bill W.'s struggles with alcohol, relating in chapter eleven, A Vision For You, how he met Dr. Bob, thus forming the beginnings of Alcoholics Anonymous.

One man on an unsuccessful business trip far from home forming a strong friendship with another man through a random selection from a church directory in a hotel lobby while searching for relief from his own suffering and temptation would seem to go against most odds in itself.

But, for that chance meeting and subsequent friendship to grow into a powerful miracle bringing relief to sufferers throughout the world would seem to be against any odds that even the greatest of odds-makers might conjure up. A chance meeting?

Consider the events six years later when three men, one in Kansas City and two strangers living two blocks apart in Willow Glen, began a journey that would extend this miracle, forming a fellowship that has endured for over thirty years and still grows. This is the Heritage of the Alano Club of San Jose, California.

Although the club itself did not receive its charter until 1951, the foundation was being laid ten years earlier, a year that brought the United States into a world wide struggle that lasted until 1945. In 1941, Jim H first joined Alcoholics Anonymous in Kansas City, seeking to end his own struggle with alcohol. That same year in California, Mickey C wrote to AA in New York seeking help from this new organization and was advised by return mail of group meetings in Oakland. After attending meetings for 2 or 3 months, he met Jim R, who had sought help in the same way, receiving the same response and following the same road to Oakland. They met at these meetings and started meetings of their own in Jim R's home - just two blocks from the home that Mickey C. shared with his wife.

The meetings continued and expanded as the principles of AA to help yourself by helping others brought more alcoholics into the fold, sharing their experiences and growth in their quest for sobriety. Mickey C became the first AA member in San Jose to become sober through the program.

The war interrupted Jim H's membership in Kansas City, bringing him into the service to aid in the national struggle for peace. After the war, Jim returned home to Kansas, to be transferred to San Jose in 1945 as Depot Agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1946, he re-joined AA in San Jose, becoming very active. Jim was a joiner, and at the time, Alano Clubs were being recommended for people like that. Jim approached Bob S, Dean Mc, John D and others, and John D said "If you can raise the money, we'll start a club of our own." Carl T and Bob S were among the first to contribute their \$50.00, and the move was on.

Heritage has many definitions, but one stands out above all others, as we would apply it to our own Fellowship: something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor. These brief summaries are part of a larger effort to record for posterity the heritage that our predecessors have begun. Our past should always be remembered, for that is the foundation for our future.

Next Month: The First Clubhouse

We have a little gap in our history, so while we are running these articles we will be compiling information from 1984 to present day. Have something to add? Want to help? You can even write an article anonymously.

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