

Trusted Servants in
Your Employ:
Mary G.
Sherri G.
Charity M.
Jessica J.
JoAnn B.
Christeen M.
Debi H.
Judy H..
Tony B.

The San Jose Alano Club News

Trusted Servants on
The Board Of Directors
Cora S.
Mike A.
Karen C.
Randy G.
Edie M.
Frank P.
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Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

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A Community Asset For The Last Forty Seven Years

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A Letter To Management

"That was a great newsletter (one of the best) thanks! A quick input from a very sick individual. You mentioned in the newsletter that CA & NA insignias will soon appear in the big room. May I suggest/request you consider their size and placement carefully. My very humble opinion is that the lines between AA and outside issues is already so blurry that this may blur them further. It is already near impossible to find an alcoholic chairing an AA meeting. Sometimes I find it hard to identify. (The reason I stayed when I got here).

I'm probably off track and out of line, but sincerely feel that the root is support for AA's third tradition and our primary purpose. Thanks for you open mind. A Member"

The Above Letter is Absolutely True

I couldn't agree more that we need more distinction between drugs of choice in our meetings and I would further suggest that when we advertise an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that we provide an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and when we advertise a Cocaine Anonymous meeting that we provide just that. I further believe to attain these goals that we need meetings of choice. I am currently a member in six 12 Step meetings, and I suppose for those that know me, we could say that I am still in a great deal of denial. I believe that we need choices and that we need to honor those choices for the greater good of all the meetings.

I would suggest that we have been fighting ignorance in the valley for some time and a lot of it stems from what I believe a lack of knowledge passed on from old timers like me. On a personal level when I go to an Al-Anon meeting I introduce myself as a member of Al-Anon and stop right there.

Thank God that if I have a drug problem with say heroin that I can go to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting and get the help I need provided I am willing, and thank God that today I know the difference, some still don't and that is a shame, some are secretaries and still don't recognize the difference. I feel that this has gotten much better over the last couple of decades but the job isn't

done yet. What's your opinion? Let's put some opinions in next month's newsletter. I believe that anyone working a good program would be more than willing to do the right thing providing that the person has some knowledge as to what is the right thing. Lets all do our level best to keep the 12 step programs separate for the greater good of all.

Hora D. Vivir

The Celebration was great as the 2nd anniversary of the AA Spanish meetings at the Club. We had 70 persons in the Spanish meeting and over 100 in the outdoor celebration. Thanks to all concerned in the event.

Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention

Start making your plans now for the 8th International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous celebrating AA's 65th anniversary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 29- July 2, 2000. Want more information? Write to: International Convention, PO Box 459 Grand Central station, New York, NY 10163

These Folks will be Celebrating The Gift In June

Johnny S.	1-93	Madonna M.	1-93	Sonny P.	1-84	Olman P.	4-90
Dave W.	8-74	Mel R.	10-81	Bill C.	10-93	Tina J.	11-97
Fatims S.	12-90	Jeanetts G.	13-94	Rudolfo B.	15-97	Manny T.	15-92
Patrick C.	20-97	Jim D.	25-78	Garry B.	28-90	Marvin P.	28-84

Walter Utz Ph. D

Long time member of this club , was an author, lecturer and instructor at University of Santa Cruz. Died at sixty years old and our condolences to the family.

Charlie Limon

Charlie tried and tried to make this program. He certainly had some great qualities, and a true concern for his fellow man. He recruited many people to this program and what a shame his disease wouldn't let him stay a bit longer. Charlie died of a drug over-dose.

The Board would like to announce that we have two members of the month

Morris T. for his help with the BBQ and Sherri G. for her help with the kitchen on the Women In Recovery Day Event.

Why is it that we haven't got some kind of a mentor program going on for a lot of the kids growing up in single parent homes and at risk. Interested? Want to get involved? Want to start something?

We have Two Vacancies on the Board of Directors

Many thanks to Ernie A and Judy P. for their valuable contributions to the operation and planning of this establishment. Interested? You need a year of a program and two months of Club Membership and a strong desire and commitment to make this Club better for us and the next set of recruits.

SOBRIETY IN A WINERY

Once the decision to move to a larger club was made, the task of finding the right place began in earnest. Room to dance. A lounge to talk sobriety and relax. Room for meetings. And, of course, cards. A tall order to fill on a small budget, but where there's a will, there's a way. Most alcoholics have a considerable amount of practice finding a way to get drunk on little or no money, so this acquired skill could finally be put to good use.

After searching and seeking, a suitable building was located on Almaden St in Willow Glen across from Mariani Gardens. The Old Filipino Hall. Prior to that, it was a winery. Now it was to be a "Sanctuary for Sobriety." No doubt their Higher Power had been planning this use for this building for some time, and the time was now at hand.

A two story building with the lower floor sunk about four feet below street level, it had all the desired features, including reasonable monthly rent. A small kitchen in the basement with a few tables and chairs. A raised area on the upper floor served as a base for a nice, long oak bar. Steps at the end of the bar led to the card room, often crowded with anxious on-lookers waiting for the next open seat in the game.

A door behind the bar led to a small one-room apartment, frequently occupied by a down-and-out member helping out at the club. Refrigerator, coffeepot, tables and chairs, some of the old fashioned wooden folding variety, and a few miscellaneous knick-knacks set the mood. The Twelve Steps naturally moved with the other things from the Padre Theater club. Folding card tables saw many a game of canasta, bridge and pinochle after the meetings. Judd would sometimes play the piano in the corner while members gathered around and sang in and out of key. Shuffleboard occupied the time for many, testing their skills after signing up for their turn on the chalkboard hanging on the wall.

Cliff E. was the first secretary of the Saturday Night Family Meetings held at the club. The dance afterward attracted many from the only other Saturday Night Meeting held at the First Trinity Church on North Second Street. Johnny B. was sure to be one of the first on the floor, one of the last to call it quits. Potluck dinners in the basement rounded out the social activities. Clara B. started Beginners Meetings on Tuesday night, and the men got together for a Closed Men's Meeting each Wednesday.

Duncan M. was the first manager of this club. A little hard of hearing, but dedicated to the task with the energy of four men, Duncan would rush to open the club after work and stay long after a reasonable quitting time. The only monies he received for his effort was car fare to and from the club, and members argued about paying that, saying "why can't he pay his own way out of his own pocket?" Gratitude then, as always, strikes different people in different ways. Duncan continued to receive gas money, but most importantly, he continued to grow in his journey to sobriety, going to any lengths to get it.

The only reward we seek in the Fellowship is a daily life without drinking. The dedication of some for others, however, is occasionally recognized and honored for future posterity. We honor the memory and dedication of Duncan M. each time we attend meetings in Duncan Hall at the Fair Avenue Fellowship in the Alano Club.

Next Month Settling In & Disaster