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The San Jose Alano Club News

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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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Car Wash

This event to be held at your very own Alano Club. Saturday July 11th, your donations of \$5.00 for a car and \$7.00 for a truck will be most appreciated and the proceeds will help pay our water bill. Why do banks charge you a “non-sufficient funds fee” on money they already know you don’t have?

Golf Classic

For those of you that don’t consider yourself golfers. We have a golfers relief program; you can sponsor a hole with a message to all of those who think that they are golfers for the Golf Classic. You just need to send us \$50 and the message that you would like displayed on a sign at one of the golf holes. Like “Bet you can’t birdie this one Tony, Signed your wives” Proceeds go to the Alano Club of San Jose. Since light travels faster than sound, isn’t that why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Bar-B-Doll, I Don’t Think So! Bar-B-Que, Now You’re Talking

Back by popular demand for your Epicurean delights: Chef Randy, will be cooking up a BBQ Treat and all you need do is show up and purchase. This will be on Saturday, July 25th following the 10:00 am meeting. How do I set my laser printer on stun?

The Gigantic Yard Sale That You Can Be Part Of!

This will all take place on Saturday, August 1st. The ways that you can be part of this are many:

- A. You can donate articles that we can sell to make money for Club operation
- B. You can rent a stall and make money for whatever you like. \$10 member, \$15 Future Members
- C: You can Sponsor a Hole In the 13th Annual Golf Classic.

The Alano Club of San Jose Would Like To Acknowledge Two Fine People

For Members of the Month it would have to be Angel D. for planting flowers under the giant Eucalyptus Tree and for Olman P. for donating two great literature racks to the Club. Ever thought about doing something like this? Ever thought about why somebody else would? The Board Says Thank You.

These good folks will be celebrating a milestone in recovery in July

Alvin H.	7/01/97	Dan G.	7/04/96	Tony B.	7/04/73	Ernie A.	7/04/94
Bret D.	7/06/97	John M.	7/07/88	Fred G.	7/07/85	Sherri G.	7/07/94
Gregory G.	7/14/97	Ed Y.	7/14/87	Gerald S.	7/15/92	Rodney A.	7/16/96
Elease K.	7/16/93	Angel D.	7/17/74	Solomon T.	7/22/88	Rick N.	7/23/86
And of course the new kid:		Al E.	7/22/51				

SETTLING IN & DISASTER

As time went by, the club and the membership matured. Of the thirteen regular meetings in the valley, three were held at the club. Inter-group Service Council met there on the third Thursday of the month, featuring "Guest Speakers - Entertainment - Refreshments". Family Night every Thursday traded "Games" for "Guest Speakers", but the welcome mat was always out. Open daily from 7 PM to Midnight, sooner if Duncan could get there, later if there was money to be made. Duncan made a special effort to open early during the cold winter months, and with poker charged at 15 cents an hour, every bit counted. But sometimes, there weren't enough 'bits' coming in to meet the demand going out. Bob S., owner of the San Jose Window Shade Company on South Second Street, a charter member of the club and tracing his sobriety to 1942, said "Turn it over to me, and I'll get the bills paid." Things were turned over, and between he and Duncan, things got better: the bills were being paid - on time, and there was actually a surplus. Only problem with that, however, was that every time the kitty got up around a hundred dollars, they'd throw a big steak dinner. Stomachs got filled and the kitty got emptied. One Day At A Time was becoming an Easier, Softer Way.

The message was being carried and carried well. Sometimes, however, the experience, strength and hope in the message isn't well received by all, especially the experience part. At one open meeting, a speaker carried a message of recovery, and when finished, the group responded with a hearty applause. One lady remarked to another, "Wasn't that a beautiful talk!", to which the other replied "Oh, I heard her talk a couple of months ago, and she's nothing but a tramp." A third lady sitting just ahead of these two overheard the conversation and fumed. The next morning, Thelma G. was on the phone and within a week, the Midday Women's Group was meeting at 12 O'clock. The first closed women's meeting was off and running in privacy.

Days grew into weeks, weeks into months and, of course, months into years. Poker games went well past closing, often lasting 'til early in the morning. Sobriety was the order of the day, but we all need a breather sometimes. Jules became the new manager, and progress continued. Many summer Saturday nights, the Alano Club Family Group meeting drew over capacity crowds, forcing late arrivals to stand outside, hanging into open windows to hear about sobriety.

It was on a Saturday night that fate dealt the blow that would test the character of this group. The meeting was well attended, many more gathering from other meetings around the valley to join in the festivities of the regular Saturday night dance. The night seemed endless, but the last dance finally came, bringing the evening to a close. As the crowd dwindled, a few remained to clean up, emptying ashtrays, returning tables and chairs to their regular spots. The lights went out, the door was locked and the clubhouse settled down for the night. But over in the corner, a small cardboard

box began to smolder, then glow, finally bursting into flames that would turn the upper floor into a mass of charred memories. A cigarette, not quite extinguished, carelessly thrown in the wrong place had the final say at 1274 Almaden Avenue.

The program teaches us to live life on a daily basis, facing each event with a clear mind and a resolve to go ahead even under the most adverse conditions. The strength of the Alano Club today is a tribute to how well our predecessors acquired this ability.

Next Month.....Hard Times Get Better