

Trusted Servants in  
Your Employ:  
Mary G.  
Jessica J.  
JoAnn B.  
Judy H..  
Tanya S.  
Jessica J.  
Debi H.  
Angie C.  
Tony B.

# The San Jose Alano Club News

Trusted Servants on  
The Board Of Directors  
Cora S.  
Mike A.  
Thomas G.  
Steve H.  
Karen C.  
Randy G.  
Edie M.  
Frank P.  
Felix L.

## Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

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Tel 297-1878 Fax 297-4100

**November 1998      A Community Asset For The Last Forty Seven Years      Volume 47.11**

### Our 50<sup>th</sup>/47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Went Great!

The food was absolutely great, Steve H. has a way with food preparation that is very good, very special. If you were not there you wouldn't understand, if you were there you know what I'm talking about. Cha-Cha was able to help the Club a great deal with the raffle and then the raffle after the raffle. If you were not there you wouldn't understand, if you were there you know what I'm talking about. So I guess what I would like to do is thank everyone that participated in a really good event, and invite all that didn't to the 51<sup>st</sup> /48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, to be held some time next year!

### New Hospitals & Institutions Representative for the FAFG

H&I carries the message of AA to those either confined or unable to attend an outside meeting. This is an outstanding method of service work and if you are interested in participating please contact our new H&I representative, Michelle G. @ 408 776-9028

### ***These Folks Have Something to Celebrate in November***

Reggie Y. 11/1/81	Gilb	Gilbert S. 11/1/96	Robert C. 11/1/95	Kevin M. 11/1/88
Ken H. 11/2/83		Jose R. 11/3/93	Don M. 11/12/83	Fred Y. 11/14/80
Tanya S. 11/15/97		Chuck H. 11/16/81	Henry R. 11/21/82	Raymond C. 11/21/97
Charles M. 11/27/83		Richard K. 11/27/84		

### Do You Secretary An AA Meeting?.....Would You Like Too?

Part of the requirement of this service position of the FAFG is to attend a Secretaries Workshop held on the last Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m., in the Downstairs Meeting Room. This meeting is an hour long and run by our Group Conscience Secretary. Anyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Some people move our souls to dance. They awaken us to new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom.

Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.

### **Sponsor Box:**

The Fair Avenue Fellowship has put up a sponsor box in Duncan Hall. If you or someone you know is ready to begin the program of recovery and need a sponsor, there are cards to “fill out and drop-in”. One of our sponsorship coordinators will be in contact within days.

### **For A Long Time**

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin-REAL LIFE! But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business...time to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life. D’Sousa

### **Woman’s Meeting**

A new meeting has joined the Fair Avenue Fellowship! A Woman’s Meeting is now here on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Come out and show your support.

### **The Christmas Boutique**

The annual Christmas Boutique will be on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. We usually have a lot of unique one of kind type gifts that you may want to take a look at. If you are interested in renting a table at the Boutique the fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for future members.

When something is “new and improved”, which is it? If it’s new, then there has never been anything before it. If it’s an improvement, then there must have been something before it.

### **The Board Says Thanks!**

Bill R. and Richard C. spent the better part of the day working on our Swamp Coolers by putting new materials in them, they now work as though they were new. For this the Board would like to award you both the position of member of the month.

Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893-1986) American biochemist

### **It’s That Time Again:**

The Board asked the current manager to put a little note in the Newsletter. The little note should say that parents really ought to be responsible for their children when bringing them here to the Club. That’s what the note ought to say and that is the way that parents should be responsible for their children. So if this note helps any, I sure am grateful and if not, we need a little more effort somewhere!

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t, and the other half have nothing to say and keep on saying it. Robert Frost (1874-1963) American Poet

## **READY OR NOT, HERE WE COME**

The excitement of owning their own clubhouse ran high among the members, spurring many to spend long hours in revamping and refurbishing the place, always cheered on by a steady stream of onlookers coming for their first look-see or returning for periodic progress checks. Anxieties built up waiting for the great moment, until the decision was made, "Let's do it!" It was a Saturday, October 20th, and the initiation of the club was to be the eight o'clock meeting of the Alano Family Group. Last minute details found volunteers still scrambling while managers Glenn and Thelma G. made ready as best they could. Secretary Joe C. opened and Chairman Sam B. led the largest meeting of the year for that Group as 110 AA's listened and shared in the topic "AA Participation". The largest collection of the year, \$26.00, still left the Group \$26.60 in the hole, but the inauguration was complete. Less than a month later, Dr. Earle spoke at the first club dinner on November 17th. The club was open for business.

The new place quickly became the center of Valley AA activity, continuing to support Inter-Group and H&I meetings, adding other specialized meetings, including being host to the NCC Summer Meeting in July of 1963. A small room off the entrance lobby became the local AA library, offering Big Books, Twelve by Twelve's and assorted AA literature. Shortly after opening, several AA's began an attempt to bring about a closer feeling of unity among the increasing number of Groups in the County, and in March of 1963, SCAN (Santa Clara Alcoholic News) made its appearance, issued from the club using the library as an editors office. That lasted until July 15th when the first real Central Office was opened downtown in Room 208 of the Porter Building at 57 E. Santa Clara St. The club continued to serve as the main meeting place for Inter-Group and most other special committees and Groups. Another small room across the entry stairs from the library became home for a night watchman after a few attempted burglaries made it an obvious necessity.

General improvements continued to be made, including a barbecue in the back and a pool room in 1966, but membership roles shrank to less than half the over 300 mark reached on opening day. Glenn and Thelma retired in December 1965, being replaced by Ralph A. and assistant Lee L. The five man Board of Directors became engrossed in trying to find ways to promote the club. The 1965 General Membership meeting almost exclusively dealt with ways to gain new members, including inviting people to the club, paying one months dues for new members, courtesy cards with maps on the back, contacting members who had dropped out and a concentrated membership drive. It was decided to hold quarterly membership meetings, and the final note was "Circulate and Talk Alano Club!" The struggle continued, and at a special board meeting on May 15, 1967, the decision was made to lay off manager, Ralph, as of June 1. They couldn't pay the \$400 a month salary.

Even though membership dropped, those that stayed with the club enjoyed many festivities. Regular dances with live bands, beauty pageants, fashion shows and bingo livened the halls. White Elephant sales were combined with socials for fund raising. Raffles were popular over the years, prizes including a color TV, Niagra Lounge Chair and one year, a brand new car. Parking was a problem, so a wooden water tank and pump house to the side had to go. Gravel was donated, which helped, but the obvious solution was more land. About a quarter acre by the club was owned by the church next door, and was available for \$11,000 That seemed the answer, but when the club applied for money the Wells Fargo Bank wanted all members with jobs and property to co-sign for the loan. Jack, one of the members, sold labels to Joseph George Liquor Distributors, one of the largest in the area, and knew Joseph, personally. Jack had told him he was a member of AA and mentioned the difficulty, so when Joe called the bank and threatened to move his accounts to another bank, the loan was approved immediately.

Next Month : Troubled Waters