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Jessica J.
JoAnn B.
Judy H..
Tanya S.
Debi H.
Michele T.
Tony B.

The San Jose Alano Club News

Trusted Servants on
The Board Of Directors
Cora S.
Mike A.
Steve H.
Thomas G.
Cha-Cha W.
Michele A.
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Edie M.
Frank P.

Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

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February 1999 A Community Asset For The Last Forty Eight Years Volume 48.2

Steve Danzig AKA Steve Kolanda died of heart failure early in the month of January, we had a impromptu service for Steve here at the Club. Steve was born in Long Island City, New York and is survived by his father, two brothers, a sister, and lots of nieces. Steve was 47 years young an army veteran who served in Germany, enjoying life, a profession and sobriety to the fullest in my opinion. He was always quite happy to see you and to make a new friend. He was a good friend and neighbor of mine for some time now. I can remember a night when Steve H. & Steve D. stayed up all night donating their time putting a new floor in the kitchen. I for one, many of our staff and members of the Club will miss him. I suspect wherever he is, he will be stirring up a little chaos whenever he can!

Tito Villarreal tried to make this program for a long, long time. Tito won't have to try any longer he died of a drug overdose. In his time around the program Tito was able to carry a message to others that this program does indeed work. His death brings a stronger message "There but for the grace of God Go I".

"The key to being a good manager is keeping the people who hate me away from those who are still undecided." – Casey Stengel

These Great and Wonderful Club Members will be Celebrating a Milestone Soon!

Tony P.	2/1/88	Rudy R.	2/1/97	Dorothy F.	2/1/79	Robert D.	2/4/98
Maggie T.	2/8/97	Kennan B.	2/8/98	Luther B.	2/9/90	Jose B.	2/14/89
Rebecca M.	2/14/95	Jerry V.	2/15/91	Arturo G.	2/15/90	Jack S.	2/17/88
Pedro F.	2/17/95	George P.	2/18/90	Kimmy H.	2/21/93	Ted G.	2/22/82
Judith H.	2/28/98	Phil M.	2/22/84	Peggy K.	2/28/60	Cora S.	2/24/87
Stace R.	2/26/81	Che' D.	2/26/98	Allen V.	2/26/96	Rodney R.	2/26/88
Lori T.	2/28/98	Congratulations!		Congratulations!		Congratulations!	

A Tribute to Martin Luther King

Many thanks to all of those dedicated individuals who helped make this event such a great success. The food was just wonderful and the other activities were just great. A Special thanks to the cooking staff that did their work on a volunteer basis as did all of the other participants.

Our Board Would Like To Thank Michael T. and Declare Him Member of the Month

This honor was bestowed on Michael for his donation of a automobile to be given to a lucky contest winner.

Thanks Michael!

A NEW BEGINNING

October became a traditional month of celebration, the first charter received October 23, 1951, the Fair Avenue opening on October 20, 1962. October 1976 was also significant, but in a different way. Alano West opened its doors, Al B. had been apprehended in Los Angeles and Tony B. was just beginning in his new role as manager. The embezzlement, theft or whatever you called it, had drained the club financially, and an Anonymous Donor had come through with a \$2,000 no interest loan to be repaid when things got better. The members of the board had volunteered their services at the counter to defray the costs of hired help. Rough going, but life goes on.

On December 21st, club attorney, Dan O'. brought a check for \$4,500 from Security Savings to cover losses, another attorney was handling the other losses for the bonding company that protected the club. \$2,100 in recovered checks had been turned over, and arrangements were being made for Al to make restitution. The anonymous loan was repaid, the balance put into savings. On January 18th, money from the bonding company was received, the new board elected and officers selected: Dick P., President, Charlie F., Vice President, Grautzie F., Secretary, Kathy O., Treasurer, all supported by Dave O., Willie K., Buzz S, Katie W. and Manuel M. Later, Katie resigned, replaced by Andre L.

On April 20, Andre made a motion to dismiss the manager, Tony, seconded by Manuel. Kathy, Dick and Willie agreed: Buzz, Grautzie and Charlie voted no. Dave had resigned earlier. Reasons given were 1. Tony did not move the piano back on the stage, and 2. Tony did not fire a bar worker that served someone without a badge. The piano had been an on-again, off-again subject at board meetings, and membership rules had been a bone of contention for several years. Shock waves went through the club, and a special membership meeting was called for May 3rd. At the meeting, eight reasons were given, only one matching the two given Tony, but all were rebuked as Grautzie took the floor. She authoritatively summarized the facts in each case, including that only one board member had followed through on the commitment to help behind the counter. 82 voted to remove the five board members, 26 voted to retain - a clear majority. New board members were elected and Tony was unanimously reinstated with no loss in pay. The years that followed saw steady improvements in the club, albeit membership fluctuations continued. The

parking lot was paved, the front lobby tiled, the inside painted several times, improvements in the kitchen and more often than not, enough money was available for hired help. Volunteer effort then, as now and undoubtedly for all time to come, helped smooth over rough spots, but when membership in anything combines involvement with being there, those who become involved benefit to a greater degree whether or not they realize it at the time. Being a part of seems a common lacking for most alcoholics.

Becoming involved in and being a part of was a missing element for some time in my own past. Being allowed the opportunity to research the Heritage of the Alano Club of San Jose has given me many hours of pleasure, at times almost a feeling of having been there when these memories of today were in the making. Duncan Hall, Goble Hall, the basement, the poolroom, the back room, lobby - every part of the club stirs a feeling that more than just the memory of the past is alive. The struggles and triumphs, the sorrows and joys, the heartaches and accomplishments all meld into one overwhelming sense of pride in belonging. Regardless of anything else, this club and clubs like it throughout the world, hold a very special place in the hearts of many a sober alcoholic. I'm grateful that mine is one of them.

Dave Q.

Next Month: Dorothy's Story

P.S. Still looking for stories and authors from 1979 to present or a part of that time!

Actual article in Alaska newspaper.

In light of the rising frequency of human -grizzly bear conflicts, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert of bears while in the field. We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear scat. Black bear scat is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear scat has little bells in it and smells like pepper.

..... M D

Leaving the City of Regret

I had not really planned on taking a trip this time of year, and yet I found myself packing rather hurriedly. This trip was going to be unpleasant and I knew in advance that no real good would come of it. I'm talking about my annual "Guilt Trip."

I got tickets to fly there on Wish I. Had airlines. It was an extremely short flight. I got my baggage, which I could not check. I chose to carry it myself all the way. It was weighted down with a thousand memories of what might have been. No one greeted me as I entered the terminal to the Regret City International Airport. I say international because people from all over the world come to this dismal town.

As I checked into the Last Resort Hotel, I noticed that they would be hosting the year's most important event, the Annual Pity Party. I wasn't going to miss that great social occasion. Many of the towns leading citizens would be there.

First, there would be the Done family, you know, Should Have, Would Have and Could Have. Then came the I Had family. You probably know ol' Wish and his clan. Of course, the Opportunities would be present, Missed and Lost. The biggest family would be the Yesterday's. There are far too many of them to count, but each one would have a very sad story to share.

Then Shattered Dreams would surely make an appearance. And It's Their Fault would regale us with stories (excuses) about how things had failed in his life, and each story would be loudly applauded by Don't Blame Me and I Couldn't Help It.

Well, to make a long story short, I went to this depressing party knowing that there would be no real benefit in doing so. And, as usual, I became very depressed. But as I thought about all of the stories of failures brought back from the past, it occurred to me that all of this trip and subsequent "pity party" could be canceled by ME! I started to truly realize that I did not have to be there. I didn't have to be depressed.

One thing kept going through my mind, I CAN'T CHANGE YESTERDAY, BUT I DO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE TODAY A WONDERFUL DAY. I can be happy, joyous, fulfilled, encouraged, as well as encouraging. Knowing this, I left the City of Regret immediately and left no forwarding address. Am I sorry for mistakes I've made in the past? YES! But there is no physical way to undo them.

So, if you're planning a trip back to the City of Regret, please cancel all your reservations now. Instead, take a trip to a place called Starting Again. I liked it so much that I have now taken up permanent residence there. My neighbors, the I Forgive Myself and the New Starts are so very helpful. By the way, you don't have to carry around heavy baggage because the load is lifted from your shoulders upon arrival. GOD BLESS you in finding this great town. If you can find it -- it's in your own heart -- please look me up. I live on I Can Do It Street.

.~~~~~compliments of Paul at 614

“It is hard enough to remember my opinions, without also remembering my reasons for them!
Friedrich Nietzsche

What does this say?

OPPORTUNITYISNOWHERE

Did you read it as..
Opportunity is nowhere,
Or
Opportunity is now here?