

Trusted Servants in Your Employ:  
 Mary G.  
 Jessica J.  
 Diana V.  
 Judy H..  
 Tanya S.  
 Debi H.  
 Corrinna F.  
 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.  
 Frank P.

## Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

1122 Fair Avenue  
 San Jose, CA. 95122  
 Tel 297-1878 Fax 297-4100

**March 1999                      A Community Asset For The Last Forty Eight Years                      Volume 48.3**

**Would You Like To Help A Bit More? Want To Give Some Back? Then Consider This**

**We have immediate openings on the following volunteer committees:**

**The Board of Directors has decided to put some committees in place to better our Club.**

**Steering Committee (Strategic Planning for the Club).....Thomas Graham 297-4464**

**Activities Committee (Activities Planning for the Club).....Cora Stewart 223-1151**

**Membership Committee (Maintenance of Member Base),Cha-Cha Wills 274-0588 Steve Holloway 272-3906**

**Finance Committee (Financial Planning) Thomas Graham 297-4464 Cha-Cha Wills 274-0588**

**Facilities Committee.....Steve Holloway 272-3906 Frank Peralta 280-5157**

Please give them a call and see if it might be something you and the club and the newcomer would benefit from?

These Great and Wonderful People Will Be Celebrating in the Month of March

<b>Coach B. 3/01/93</b>	<b>Paul P. 3/01/79</b>	<b>Guadalupe G. 3/5/98</b>	<b>Andre M. 3/07/90</b>
<b>Jesse M. 3/07/89</b>	<b>Angie C. 3/08/98</b>	<b>Jose Z. 3/08/98</b>	<b>Daniel R. 3/12/87</b>
<b>Glenn S. 3/12/92</b>	<b>Esequiel Z. 3/15/94</b>	<b>Bruce B. 3/16/91</b>	<b>John T. 3/17/95</b>
<b>Carolyn S. 3/19/77</b>	<b>Roy F. 3/21/87</b>	<b>Ruben A. 3/21/98</b>	<b>Josephine D. 3/23/89</b>
<b>Royce F. 3/25/89</b>	<b>Dennis F. 3/27/85</b>	<b>Mike A. 3/28/92</b>	<b>Congratulations!</b>

**Nothing so needs reforming as other peoples habits. Mark Twain**

**The Board of Directors would like to give special thanks to our newest member of the month:** That would of course be Chester R. for his help with the signs around the Alano Club. They just look great. For those of you that haven't noticed he is a better speller than I am. Again, from me and the Board .....Thanks Chester!

**Dorothy's' Story and our History Part One**

I know Tony asked people to write their memories of the Club from '85, but mine go back to '79

The day I finally had enough I called Central office, they told me the nearest meeting to my home was the Alano Club of San Jose, but they wouldn't recommend going there because they allowed addicts in the club. Since I was on marijuana maintenance a the time, after all I wasn't going to quit drinking forever, just dry up enough so I could drink like a lady and my connection had suddenly been struck clean and sober and was attending AA meetings, the idea of a Club that catered to some addicts sounded good to me.

I don't know what kind of a building I expected, but it sure wasn't an old school house. At the time a member named Tuffy had attended grammar school in this building.

The sun was shinning but the spring rains had left the sparsely graveled parking lot a big mud hole, as I parked my car I thought I'd never get out of there. Little did I know nineteen years later I'd still be parking in the now paved parking lot.

When I walked in it looked like a Club all right, a few men setting around listening to the juke box, a man on crutches, his leg in a cast, tending bar. He introduced himself as Dave and poured me a half-cup of coffee and told me a meeting would be starting shortly in the next room and there would be no charge for the coffee. I figured that is why he only gave me half a cup. I learned later that was a "new-comer" cup of coffee, and we all laughed sixteen years later when a stroke left me unable to hold a full cup of coffee and the counter help would tell me they were giving me a "new-comers cup".

The coffee room wasn't much to look at, at the time. Two round hatch-cover tables in the center, a couch, a few wobbly bar stools and the booths. The drapes were dusty and a little tattered, the walls needed painting and held no pictures. Later Toni S., a member of the board of directors, who owned a decorating business donated striped draperies and a plaid wall paper that had been ordered by a customer who had changed his mind about plaids and stripes. I don't remember a TV until about two years later when some one gave us a very old, very used set. We weren't into watching TV, we were into recovery.

There was a sign on one the round tables stating it was a Hospitality Table, Glenn Goyal always held court at that table. Glenn told me that unless a person was a member of the club they could not come into or be served in that room, they had to order their food and coffee at the window where the glass bookcase is now, unless a Club member invited them in.

Like all new-comers and some old timers, I could not separate AA from the Club, and since they said at meetings “We have no dues or fees” I could not understand why I should pay to join the Club. About four months later it finally got through to me that if people didn’t pay dues, there would be no Club, so I parted with my three dollars and was assigned badge#28. I have since become a Lifetime member and still wear my badge most of the time.

My normie non-Alanon husband had become addicted to the steak and eggs Sunday breakfast and since the rule was “No badge, No service” he paid his three dollars and was assigned badge #29. Irv L., with his racing forms under his arm, Sue and Ralph S., Vince Mc., Don P., Les P., Hank C., Richard G., Joe M., and Glenn G. often joined us on Sunday morning for good food and fellowship before the meeting. About that time swinging doors were installed to keep the non-members out of the coffee room, once those doors came down the member/non-member prices were introduced. Some people still fuss about the pricing, but the paid up member should have a few privileges.

Next Month Dorothy #2

## **Many Thanks to Edie M. and Randy G. for their help on the Board**

We received resignations from both board members, due to extra work duties at their jobs for pay. They both were good contributors to the Club and we will miss them at our Board meetings. If you are interested in being on the Board and have one year of compliance with a twelve step program and have been a paid Club member for at least the last two months then come to the next Board meeting on Marth 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. We could use your help!

## **Saint Patrick’s Day Extravaganza**

**Don’t miss out on this one.** Kevin (Irish) will be providing entertainment and Steve H. (the Chef) will be cooking a little traditional Corned Beef Briskets with a little Cabbage on the side.

Member price \$3.50      Future Member \$4.75 Entertainment is free. Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>

## **Up The Irish**

**I grew up thinking that drugs were cool,** until I finally realized I was being a fool. The Bridge Program helped me see the light, and the knowledge to show me, what’s right.

When I thought I was having fun at the bars, cruising around in sharp looking cars. All I was doing was ruining my life, hurting my loved ones, children and wife.

Now I know there’s another road to choose, that doesn’t involve taking drugs or booze. Through other addict’s pain, I realized I was wrong. I only wish it hadn’t taken so long.

Being clean and sober day after day, having my higher power to show me the way. And taking the steps, theirs twelve in all, with my sponsor to help me if I stumble and fall.

Gilbert’s son, the author is in Prison