

Monthly Publication
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Alano Club of San Jose, Inc.

October 2019

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Alano Club of San Jose
Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 3rd, at 6:00 pm
Members Welcome

Fair Avenue Fellowship
Steering Committee Meeting
Training for New Secretaries
Oct. 10th, at 6:00 pm
All Are Welcome

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The Alano Club of San Jose News

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www.alanosj.org

The Alano Club is your Club. Our mission is to:

- Provide a safe & supportive environment where 12-step recovery can take place
- Provide information to help those new to recovery
- Provide encouragement through fellowship within a twelve-step community
- Provide a place where twelve step meetings can take place
- Provide a social setting for events and other recovery-related activities

We have been a community asset for over sixty-eight years.

Sobriety Milestones

Name	Milestone	Years	Name	Milestone	Years
David I	10/01/1997	22	Sedrick A	10/01/2007	12
Abe G	10/01/2014	05	Buzz S	10/02/1973	46
Daniel Y	10/02/1985	34	Kevin R	10/03/2008	11
Greg D	10/03/2012	07	Jonathan K	10/07/2016	03
Chris M	10/09/2006	13	Jerry C	10/10/1980	39
Gary E	10/12/1976	43	Michael D	10/13/1985	34
Karen D	10/13/1997	22	Geno H	10/16/1985	34
Angel B	10/18/2007	12	Steve M	10/19/1983	36
David D	10/19/2008	11	Kathleen S	10/20/1992	27
Crystal G	10/22/2018	01	Allen C	10/25/2018	01
Eric P	10/28/1994	25	Rosemarie C	10/29/1968	51
Ed M	10/31/1991	28	Lee A	10/31/1997	22
Liz H	10/31/2000	19			

Member of the Month – Anthony “Kiki” M.

We would like to acknowledge Kiki M. as our member of the month. He is a huge part of our establishment. He loves this club and it shows in everything he does. Thank You for all that you do.

Reminder: Monthly Membership Dues Have Changed

	Month	Six Months	Thirteen
Regular Member	\$25	\$125	\$250
Senior	\$15	\$75	\$150
Fixed	\$15	\$75	\$150
Couples	\$15 (each)	\$75(each)	\$150(each)
Lifetime			\$2,500
Out of Town (75 Miles or More)			50% Off

Dues can now be paid online at www.alanosj.org using PayPal.

Activities & More at the Alano Club of San Jose

Alano Club of San Jose Presents

The Time Warp

Dancing & Fellowship

Saturday October 12th

8:00 pm to Midnight

Admission is \$5 at the door

1122 Fair Ave San Jose CA. 95122

Raffle & Door Prizes / Contests / Game Room / Snacks and Refreshments

DJs Playing Hits from Your Favorite Decades

60s & 70s @9pm / 80s & 90s @10pm / 2000s & up @100pm

Kids Halloween Party

October 26th from 2pm - 4pm

Come and enjoy pumpkin painting
and get a Halloween basket.

68th Annual Heritage Dinner

October 19th, 2019, 5pm - 7pm

Adult Tickets \$20 & Children Tickets \$8

Serving Chicken Parmesan or Eggplant Parmesan
& Spaghetti for the Kids

The Alano Club of San Jose – 12 Step Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous		Narcotics Anonymous	
Sat & Sun	8:30 am	Sat & Sun	10:00 am
Mon-Fri	9:00 am	Sun	10:00 am (Spanish)
Sat	10:00 am (Men)	Thu & Fri	6:00 pm (Women)
Daily	12:00 pm	Sun	6:30 pm (Speaker)
Sun	1:30 pm (Women)	Mon & Tue	6:30 pm
Sat	1:30 pm (Spanish)	Sun	7:30 pm (Spanish)
Mon-Fri	4:00 pm	Tue	8:00 pm (Spanish)
Sun	5:00 pm (Men)	Tue	8:00 pm (Book Study)
Mon-Thu, Sun	6:00 pm	Fri	8:00 pm
Sat	6:00 pm (Newcomers Q&A's)	Sat	8:00 pm (Speaker)
Tue	6:00 pm Veterans Meeting	www.AlanoSJ.org	
Fri	6:30 pm (Speaker)	Check-out our newly revised web site.	
Mon-Fri	7:30 pm (Spanish)	<i>This is a Great Way to Introduce a Friend to the Club.</i>	
Mon	8:00 pm (Tagalong)		
Tues	9:30 pm (Men)		
A Medicine Crow Talking Circle			
Sat	12:00 pm		
Co-Dependents Anonymous		AI-Anon	
Sun	5:00 pm	Mon	8:00 pm
Wed	6:30 pm	Tue	12:00 pm

***NOTE:** All Meetings are “Open Meetings” Unless otherwise noted.

The Alano Club Needs Your Help.

Our Meetings Are Struggling. We Need Committed People to Secretary Our Meetings. If you are interested in becoming a secretary or would like more information on becoming a secretary and its requirements please contact Tony Baron or Terisa Martinez at the club.

We Appreciate Anyone Willing to Commit

Please Support Your Club Advertisers!



Montana Silver 796



A&H Heating and Air



Thomas Sharkey Attorney



Sue Saign Family Law



HazMat



HazMat

If you are licensed and bonded with a Trade, and or run your own Business,
 We welcome you to advertise with The Alano Club of San Jose, Inc.
 Your Business Card will also be placed on the Alano Club website.
 We continue to support your business!

www.alanosj.org

Please Support Your Club Advertisers!

The Spedding Real Estate Team

We Love to Serve



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If you are licensed and bonded with a Trade, and or run your own Business,

We welcome you to advertise with The Alano Club of San Jose, Inc.

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We Would Like Your Input

**Anthony (Kiki) Martinez would like your input.
How can we make the Alano Club better?**

Do you have any ideas of how we can improve our club?

Your Ideas or concerns can be anonymously placed into an idea box at the coffee counter.

A Story From A Member

Aloha Alano Club of San Jose

This letter is long overdue. I have so much love for this club it is difficult to put into words. It's funny when I think about it because I discovered the magic here purely by accident. My first sponsor would tell me to meet him somewhere and I would show up but he did not. But because I showed up, I discovered new meetings and made new friends. On one of those occasions, he asked me to meet him at, "Alano East [The Alano Club of San Jose]." I was lost on 24th street and called him for directions and he laughed and said, "Keep driving, 24th street turns into McLaughlin." I kept driving and finally arrived to a full parking lot and a bunch of folks standing outside smoking and talking.

I was a little nervous but felt better when Gilbert welcomed me. Some of us still remember how Gilbert used to sit on the bench and make people feel welcome. He seemed to have a way of talking to you that made you feel comfortable. So, after I had my cigarette, I noticed that my sponsor was late so I tried to call him but he did not answer. I heard the bell ring so I went into the 6 o'clock meeting, not realizing that this would be my first AA meeting. I heard the promises for the first time and almost started crying. I knew then and there that I wanted to what was happening in that room. But I did not come back for a while. During this period in my sobriety (less than 90 days) I was struggling to eat and keep a roof over my head. I was couch surfing and taking handouts from my friends still caught in the disease.

It became dangerous for me to continue hanging out with my friends so I broke into my house and slept there for a time without any power. I missed a court date in family court and lost custody of my children and there was a residence exclusion order kicking me out of my house. Thanksgiving was the next day and I was sobbing over spending Thanksgiving without my children. I called my aunt in Omaha who told me, "Michael, God's got those kids! You take care of you and all will be alright." Aunt Delores knew and I felt some solace but not much.

One of my friends that was still in the disease had apparently gone to AA before and decided to loan me \$5,000 to get a lawyer so I could see me children. The condition was that I had to stay clean and sober. The following week the sheriff's showed up with my wife to kick me out of the house. I was sleeping on a sofa recliner when they woke me up with a flashlight shining in my eyes. They had the nerve to ask for some of my Krispy Creams. Law enforcement is like that I guess, can't resist a donut. I went back to couch surfing.

In early December I was back in family court and we agreed that my wife and children could move back into the house. It was Christmas Eve, I had 90 days of sobriety and I was helping them move into our home. Notice that I did not say I was celebrating 90 days of sobriety. I spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at home with my family and on December 26, 2001 I moved out of the house and into my car. It was in the low 20's that morning. I'm sleeping in my car underneath all my clothes with the heater on. I got so hot that I turned off the car and quickly started getting cold. I was parked at the end of the block. My alcoholic mind was hoping that she would see me suffering and let me back in but that didn't happen. I did the same thing the next day with the same result.

On December 29th, while freezing my car around five in the morning, I had an urgent need for a bathroom so I drove to the Alano Club of San Jose hoping that they would be open but they were closed. I saw a man out front sweeping the stairs, I found out later that his name was Val. I told him what was going on and he asked the manager for permission for me to come in. The manager was Tony Baron. After I relieved myself, I stopped by the manager's office to thank him and noticed that he had a computer on his desk. I told him that I am pretty good with those things and let him know that I would be happy to help him with any problems that he may have.

He had one or two and I helped. He offered me breakfast and wanted to pay me for my services. Cindy made me a Suicide Omelet with pancakes instead of toast and I asked for a big book and 12 and 12, as payment. My first.

I hung out at the Club almost the entire day until I finally reached my sponsor. He wanted me to meet him at his church where he served as a deacon. He brought my case up to the pastor and the other deacons and one of the deacons (who eventually became my next sponsor) offered the floor at his apartment for me to sleep. He made a few phone calls and was able to find a church-based residential treatment program that was willing to take me in without payment. I spoke to the director of the program, thanked him for the offer, but I was definitely not interested. It felt like a force-feeding of religion and I was not having it no matter how bad off I was.

The next day I was back at the Club when it opened. I bumped into a guy who I had been in Elmwood with. He told me about a recovery house where he was living. I spoke to the manager and was able to move in by trading an expensive computer monitor. From that day on, the Alano Club of San Jose has played a huge role in my life. The Club was busting with energy then. It seemed to be a major hub for recovery in San Jose. I still see Paul shaking his hand saying, "You can't change nobody," and Holy Joe sitting against the wall at the meeting with his eyes closed but listening intently. I can hear Reggie laughing loudly and Sonny saying things that make you scratch your head. The pool room was packed, the jukebox was playing, and the game room was busy.

Soon I found my fourth sponsor Reggie by accident. I had been sponsoring myself and after a bad 9th step I ran to the Club looking for help. The guy I was looking for was not there so Reggie offered to buy me a cup of coffee. As I was leaving the Club, I realized that he's a sponsor because he was sponsoring Sonny at the time. So, I ran back in to ask him to be my sponsor and he consented. One of the things he told me as he took me through the steps, is that we need to make that newcomer feel welcome. It didn't make much sense to me at the time. Then one day at meeting for the Gathered Together for Sobriety group, I volunteered to be a greeter and discovered the meaning behind a passage in the 11th step prayer, "Seek to comfort rather than be comforted" because the feeling of loneliness vanished after the second handshake.

I found that this works no matter where you are. Making someone feel welcome helps you and them just like Gilbert made me feel welcome on my first visit to the Alano Club. I tried this when I moved to Capitola and had trouble feeling apart of the fellowship there. During my last few years in San Jose, I started doing it at the Alano Club of San Jose. I like it so much because I could feel the love coming back tenfold. Reggie used to say that when he threw a punch, he would get a punch back and that when he gave a smile that he would get a smile back. It doesn't happen all the time but that's not what is important. I do my part and God takes care of everything else.

So, I created a new service position as the official Alano Club door greeter. Eddie Morales suggested that I open the door and stand outside when possible so I did. I am always open to suggestions. Sometimes Josephine and I would tag-team people when they come through the door. We just try to have fun with it as with all AA service positions. On September 30th, Kerry and Simi through a fantastic going away party for me. I still get goosebumps when I think about what they did for me and the people that showed up. There was one notable absence – Sonny Pacheco. He told me earlier that he would stop by and we go way back. I received a text from him later that he intended to come but he lost track of time because he wanted to write me a little something that I will share with you now (see below).

Friday, August 30th, 2019

He swore he was sober, he laughed and he joked,
 as he opened the door for all of us folks;
 The door was unlocked we could open it ourselves,
 he insisted he do it, he did it quite well;
 He took on this job, without any pay,
 he was our “Door Greeter”, the best one would say;
 If you were a newcomer, he’d blow you away,
 he made you feel welcomed, his name is MJ
 He got so good, I became quite impressed,
 not another like him, the best in the west;
 He did it with pride, for fun and for free,
 He treated each special, even with me;
 He was our “Door Greeter”, at the Alano Club East,
 he’ll be moving on, to bring on more peace;
 No “Door Greeter” on the other side,
 no hugs, no laughter, nobody to jive;
 “Door Greeter”, “Door Greeter”, I thank you today,
 I thank you “Door Greeter”, I thank you MJ.

Sonny Pacheco

I thought I could post this without tears but it still gets me. I have learned not to do things in AA for accolades or praise. As I said before, I became a greeter because of the wonderful side effects; I feel good. It sure feels nice when others appreciate what you do and let you know. Aloha Sonny! Aloha to the Alano Club of San Jose. According to my online dictionary, Aloha is the Hawaiian word for love, affection, peace, compassion and mercy. It can mean “hello”, “good bye”, and “love”. It all applies here.