



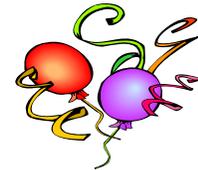
# *A View From Serenity Hill*

A Newsletter from La Hacienda

March 2005



*You're Invited....*



*To La Hacienda's 33rd Reunion*

## Tentative Schedule

### Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Registration	4:00-7:00 PM
Hamburgers	5:00-7:30 PM
Bonfire Meeting by the River	8:00-9:00 PM

### Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Registration	7:00 AM
Power Pole	9:00-12:00 PM
Speaker	10:00 AM
Lunch (BBQ)	11:30 AM
Collegiate Meeting (you can bring your lunch)	12:00 PM
Announcements/Raffle	1:00 PM
Speaker	1:30 PM
Birthday Meeting	2:30-4:30 PM
YAP Speaker & Food	5:00-7:00 PM

### Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Meditation on Serenity Hill	9:00-10:00 AM
AA Meeting on the Lawn (Weather Permitting)	11:00 AM

Make your room reservations  
for Reunion NOW!  
Check out our list of hotels and  
lodges in the Kerrville area on  
pages 5 & 6 of this Newsletter!

### Websites of Interest:

<http://ppgaadallas.org>  
<http://bigbook.got.net>  
<http://www.thejaywalker.com>  
<http://www.sobercity.com>  
<http://houston.lahacienda.com>  
<http://dallas.lahacienda.com>  
<http://corpuschristi.lahacienda.com>  
<http://lubbock.lahacienda.com>  
<http://midland.lahacienda.com>  
<http://sanantonio.lahacienda.com>  
<http://www.lahasolutions.com>  
<http://www.xaspeakers.org>

**CHRIS SAYS...****Buddies –**

Grrrrrrrr! Just got off the phone with a buddy who's about at his wits end. Ready to "end it all". Absolutely hopeless. Same story, second verse. Hear it half a dozen times a day. He's been sober a few months, a couple of meetings, no sponsor, no steps. "Life's good! No sweat. I know where those meetings are if I get to feeling bad". (That stuff comes out of your mouths and the hair stands straight up on the back of my neck!) I've said it a 100 times myself back in the bad 'ol days. Life does what it does and his life got a little bumpy...he got loaded. Quickly. Nobody there to lean on. No Conscious Contact with that HP. Just a dark room and mind full of fear. It's inevitable. When the obsession to use returns, you will use. All of us will. That's why the BB says on page 43, "Once more: The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink. Except in a few rare cases, neither he nor any other human being can provide such a defense. His defense MUST come from a higher power."

Always amazes me that we will spend all that time and money to come to treatment, only to leave and do things "our way" one more time. The frustrating part for all of us is "our way" can work for a while! Right up till that 'ol obsession kicks in again! Then we are sunk. The way out of this mess is the same for all of us. F-I-N-N-I-S-H The STEPS!!! Not two months from now, not next week, NOW!

So many of us seem to be finding a nice hiding place at step 2. "I'm having trouble with step 2". For most of us that's just plain rubbish. How long can we wrestle with one question? Do you

believe there's something out there bigger than you? "Well...yes." THEN LET'S GET ON WITH THE WORK!! Nowhere in the book does it say ya gotta get GOD all figured out before you can proceed. Nowhere. Isn't the truth that you're just a bit LAZY and you're trying to put off the inevitable? I think so.

Stop trying to do this yourself. That's probably the one biggest theme in all these stupid articles I write. Life starts to throw ya some curves, pick up the phone and call some recovery folks. That includes me. If you leave me a message, I'll call ya back. Promise. If you don't get a call back, it's because you either left me a wrong # or you left it so fast I couldn't understand it! (You little tweekers need to speak slowly!)

Finally getting warmer out there....Reunion 33 is right around the corner. May 6, 7, and 8. Make those hotel reservations NOW. This year lets all bring coats. Man, it was cold last year! Everybody is welcome. (YES, even if you relapsed! I get that question every year!) Hope to see lots of you here!

By the time y'all read this, the newly remodeled store will be back in action. Let us know if you need anything.

xoxo – Chris R.

[craymer@lahacienda.com](mailto:craymer@lahacienda.com)

**ALICIA SAYS...****Hello...**

Here we are again...Reunion is right around the corner and we are so excited...we are praying for good weather and lots of people. This is always an amazing experience for us because we are given the opportunity to see that the seeds that were planted here at La Hacienda have grown. This year should be the best ever...I

guess we say that every year, but it's true!

I recently celebrated my 6 year sobriety birthday and was blessed by reflecting on what God has done in my life this last year. I am in awe...how did He do all of this? There has been several unbelievable gifts, many painful trials, countless grace covered events, and so much more. I can honestly say that I am changed and I am not the same woman that picked up a 5 year chip. I love the promise on pg.50 that says "In the face of collapse and despair...they found that a new power, peace, happiness, and sense of direction flowed into them." This promise came true in my life...when I "met a few simple requirements". I had "new power" to walk through many fears that could have been paralyzing. I experienced utter "peace" amidst the storms. I was given the gift of "happiness" and was able to express this through laughter with friends and silly play times with Ethan. I felt a "sense of direction" as I made some very difficult decisions. This promise has been a reoccurring theme in my sobriety.

In November of last year, I had the honor of speaking at an AA/Al-anon Convention in Copenhagen, Denmark. This was such a turning point for me...as I was getting ready to speak, tears were streaming down my cheeks as I sat in amazement of how God had changed and recreated my life from the inside out. It was as if God was saying "This is just the beginning of what I have for you if you will trust Me!". That talk in Denmark was a life changing event for me and I have been given the courage to move forward no matter how frightened I may be. I am surrounded by "power, peace, happiness, and a sense of direction." This promise can come true for any of us, so

long as we meet a “few simple requirements.”

If you know someone who is struggling with these “requirements”, see what you can do for them by allowing the light in your spirit to guide them to the Truth. People in this fellowship did it for me, so now I am responsible to pass it on... it has saved my life many times. Thank you, in advance; to all of you that we will see at Reunion...we need each one of you. Thank you for allowing the seed that was planted to blossom into miracles. If you need anything or just want to chat, please call me...that is what we are here for.

**Until then – Alicia**  
[anew@lahacienda.com](mailto:anew@lahacienda.com)

## DJ SAYS...

**Hey Alumni,**

Here we are coming up on reunion again (already). This year seems to have just flown by. I am really looking forward to seeing y'all and hearing about what has been going on in your lives. Like usual, I have put this off until the last minute. One would think that I would have gotten better at that by now but I haven't! Here it is Super Bowl Sunday and I am sitting here writing this article. That is all right though, the truth is I am not really that much for football but I sure have enjoyed the fellowship at this little gathering. Just watching as everyone enjoys themselves and really care about one another has been a real blessing today.

I have gone thru some changes in my life recently and the support that I have gotten from my brothers and sisters in the fellow-ship has been nothing

short of amazing. I tend to stay pretty focused on the fact that it is “The Program” that has put me on the spiritual path of recovery. However, recently God has been showing me just how vital the love and support of my fellows really is. Sometimes one of the hardest things for me to do is let someone else help me. I know that is all about my ego but knowing that doesn't always make it any easier. My mind wants to tell me that since I have been sober for awhile I should not have “problems”. Thank God that that is not true. What I am learning is that it is not really the situation that is all that important. It is how I deal with it that counts. I am so grateful for the people who bring me back to earth and then help me to stand for the things that I truly believe in.

I had a woman who is a dear friend of mine out in Brady, Texas ask me if I would do a Big Book study at her home group and my response was asking her if I could put it off until I could get my act together. Only I didn't say “act”. She promptly chewed my butt. She asked me what made me think that I needed to have my “act” together to participate in my own recovery because if that was the way this thing worked I would have never needed it in the first place! She then pointed out that I was trying to get all my ducks in a row and that the reality is “DJ you only have one duck and it isn't yours it belongs to God.”

I have to tell you that it had been awhile since someone had really taken me to task like that and the truth is, it felt great! Those are the people who have helped me stay on the path. They are the ones who tell me the truth and are more concerned with helping me than worrying that they might hurt my feelings. Who am I to turn down an opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous? Everything I have I

owe to A.A. Even my relationship with God because without A.A. my experience shows me I don't have a relationship with God.

The point is, it has been God working thru the people in the fellowship, who are doing this deal, which has really helped me to keep my feet on the ground during some challenging times. Life is very good today and the possibilities for the future are exciting.

If any of y'all out there are struggling please reach out to someone. If I can help in any way give me a call at ext. 511. Hope to see you at reunion. Till then God bless and much love.

**Your friend – DJ**

## FROM THE OUTREACH OFFICES...

### AUSTIN

**Brothers and sisters,**

This is Jaime from Solutions in Austin hoping that your New Year is going as good as mine is. Please don't misconstrue this as me telling you that my life is problem free, because it most certainly isn't, but rather hear me telling you plainly that I am loving life. My Creator has blessed me many times over already this year. At the close of 2004, I found myself in a beautiful office in Lakeway to strategize with a financial consultant on a new business venture that my business partner and I had been envisioning. At least that is what I thought I was there for. By the time the dust had settled, I had refinanced my house, bought my wife a new vehicle (leather interior, 6 CD changer, bells & whistles,...), paid off 6 credit cards, finished some major

financial amends, socked some away, and still had some expendable cash! How the hell did that happen? This is coming from the guy who could never hold on to that “folding” money. Let’s get real here though, am I still in debt? Oh yeah!! You can’t do cocaine and drink like I did and not have incurred some significant fiscal damage, but the point is that by living this program on a daily basis I am seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. I share this with you all not to make myself look like a big shot, because I know I am not. I share this with you to give those of you who have screwed up your financial life like I did some hope. You can work your way out of any situation with endurance, perseverance, and God’s loving grace. I could not see an end to the black hole I had created for my family’s accounts when I first got sober. I was in deep and didn’t have anyone with deep pockets to bail me out. What I did have was the 12 steps and a huge desire to remain sober for the rest of my life. So I got busy. We are all so fortunate to have a way to “rise above” our seemingly insurmountable difficulties and get taken to a more wonderful place than we could ever have imagined. This has been my experience.

Love, Jaime  
[jloera@lahasolutions.com](mailto:jloera@lahasolutions.com)

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began a conversation. They talked about many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said:

“I don’t believe that God exists.”

“Why do you say that?” asked the customer.

“Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn’t exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can’t imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.”

The customer thought for a moment, but didn’t respond because he didn’t want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber:

“You know what? Barbers do not exist.”

“How can you say that?” asked the surprised barber. “I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!”

“No!” the customer ex-claimed. “Barbers don’t exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.”

“Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me.”

“Exactly!” said the customer.

**Chris C.**

### **The Salvation of a Man is Through Love and In Love**

**--Viktor Frankl**

The panhandler on the busy street corner feels forsaken. The elderly woman whose phone doesn’t ring stares through a gap in her drawn drapes and wonders if she’s been forgotten. And awaiting the prayed-for visit from a potential foster parent, the child is fearfully certain he won’t be acceptable.

The tragedy is that so few of us have experienced whole and unconditional love from the significant people in our lives. So few of us are certain of our value in the lives of others. For parents and teachers we performed to earn their favor. From friends we expected acceptance, yet sometimes we bought it. And because we haven’t known the pleasure of unconditional love but have been perpetually in search of it, we’ve not felt adequate to offer it to others. It’s difficult to give away what we fear we don’t have; yet, paradoxically, that’s the key to our salvation.

As we give others our love, we’ll likewise experience a greater measure of it. And it need not come from outside. It will, instead, well up from within. We each have the power of personal salvation. All we must do is love.



Here are some pictures of the newly remodeled La Hacienda Store!!!



Chris has a bigger closet for an office.

## Kerrville Area Hotels....

Here is a list of area motels, hotels, bed & breakfasts, and other facilities to contact if you plan to be in the area:

Best Western Sunday House Inn  
2124 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-1313 or 1-800-677-9477  
Fax: 830-896-1336  
[www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

Budget Inn  
1804 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-8200 or 1-800-219-8158  
Fax: 830-792-3592  
[www.budgetinnkerrville.com](http://www.budgetinnkerrville.com)

Casa del Rio Cottage  
1929 Hwy. 39  
Hunt, TX 78024-3407

830-238-4424  
[www.wkcc.com/casadelriocottage.htm](http://www.wkcc.com/casadelriocottage.htm)

Comfort Inn  
2001 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-792-7700  
Fax: 830-792-7706  
[www.comfortinn.com](http://www.comfortinn.com)

Days Inn of Kerrville  
2000 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-1000  
Fax: 830-896-1000

Econo Lodge & Conference Center  
2145 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-1711  
Fax: 830-257-4375  
[www.econolodge.com](http://www.econolodge.com)

Flagstaff Inn  
906 Junction Highway  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-792-4449  
Fax: 830-792-4453

Hampton Inn  
2038 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-257-0600 or 1-800-HAMPTON  
Fax: 830-257-7406  
[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

Hillcrest Inn  
1508 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-7400

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites  
2114 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-895-9500  
[www.hiexpress.com](http://www.hiexpress.com)

Hunter House Inn & Suites  
310 Hwy. 39  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-2377 or 800-655-2377  
Fax: 830-367-4368

Inn of the Hills Resort & Conference Center  
1001 Junction Hwy.  
P.O. Box 294059  
Kerrville, TX 78029  
830-895-5000 or 1-800-292-5690  
Fax: 830-895-6091  
[www.innofthehills.com](http://www.innofthehills.com)

Motel 6 of Kerrville  
1810 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-257-1500 or 1-800-466-8356  
Fax: 830-257-2700  
[www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com)

River Inn Resort & Conference Center  
Box 269, Hwy. 39  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-238-4226 or 1-800-841-0501  
Fax: 830-238-3015  
[www.riverinnresort.com](http://www.riverinnresort.com)

Y.O. Ranch Resort Hotel & Conference Center  
2033 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-257-4440 or 1-877-967-3767  
Fax: 830-896-8189  
[www.yoresort.com](http://www.yoresort.com)

## **Bed & Breakfasts**

Cottage by the River  
149 Francisco Lemos  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-8348 or 830-895-5515

Elm Cottage B & B  
1985 Bear Creek Rd.  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-367-4783  
[www.wkcc.com/elmcottage.htm](http://www.wkcc.com/elmcottage.htm)

Forever Ranch  
166 Dowling Rd.  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-4624  
[www.foreverranch.biz](http://www.foreverranch.biz)

La Reata Ranch B&B  
2555 Sheppard-Rees  
Kerrville, TX 78028

830-896-5503  
830-896-5510  
Fax: 830-792-4353  
[www.schulgenrealestate.com](http://www.schulgenrealestate.com)

The Painted Horse Bed & Breakfast  
1904 Bear Creek Rd.  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-367-4738  
Fax: 830-367-4738  
[www.thepaintedhorsebb.com](http://www.thepaintedhorsebb.com)

Queen B's  
3375 Junction Hwy.  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-4184

River Oaks Lodge B & B  
1120 Hwy. 39  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-4214 or 1-800-608-2596  
Fax: 830-367-7507  
[www.riveroakslodge.com](http://www.riveroakslodge.com)

River Road Bed and Breakfast  
P.O. Box 498  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-238-4244  
Fax: 830-896-9553

River Run Bed & Breakfast Inn  
120 Francisco Lemos St.  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-8353  
1-800-460-7170  
Fax: 830-896-5402  
[www.riverrunbb.com](http://www.riverrunbb.com)

Steele "Up The Creek" House  
2204 Rock Creek  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-896-7312  
[www.steeleupthecreekhouse.com](http://www.steeleupthecreekhouse.com)

Sundown Carriage House  
Rt. 2, Box 263-A  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-238-4169 or 888-207-9491  
[www.thesundown.com](http://www.thesundown.com)

Sunset Inn / Sunset Studio  
124 Oehler Rd.  
Ingram, TX 78025-9323  
830-866-3336 or 1-877-739-1214  
Fax: 830-866-3445

## **Cottages and Lodges**

Al Lado del Rio  
P.O. Box 658

Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-5853  
Fax: 830-367-5853  
[www.washam.net/kerrville/](http://www.washam.net/kerrville/)  
Casa del Rio-Cottage  
1929 Hwy. 39  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-238-4424  
[www.wkcc.com/casadelriocottage.htm](http://www.wkcc.com/casadelriocottage.htm)

Forever Ranch  
166 Dowling Rd.  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-4624  
[www.foreverranch.biz](http://www.foreverranch.biz)

Grove Guesthouse, The  
3495 Hwy. 16 N  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-895-3003  
Fax: 830-895-3063  
[www.thegrovequesthouse.com](http://www.thegrovequesthouse.com)

Riverhill Cottage  
107 Riverhill Club Ln.  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
713-802-0608  
Fax: 713-206-8936  
[www.riverhillcottage.com](http://www.riverhillcottage.com)

Roddy Tree Ranch  
P.O. Box 820  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-367-2871  
1-800-309-9868  
Fax: 830-367-2872  
[www.rododytree.com](http://www.rododytree.com)

Stone Ridge Cottage  
109 Blue Sage Trail W.  
Hunt, TX 78024  
1-877-211-6693  
281-877-0880  
[www.stoneridgecottage.com](http://www.stoneridgecottage.com)

Toad Hall 1  
2736 Hwy. 39  
Hunt, TX 78024  
830-896-5666  
Fax: 830-895-2381  
[www.toadhall1.com](http://www.toadhall1.com)

Waltonia Lodges on the River  
Hwy. 39  
HCR 78, Box 227  
Ingram, TX 78025  
830-367-5613  
Fax: 830-367-7003  
[www.waltonialodges.com](http://www.waltonialodges.com)



Be sure to complete the form on the next page if  
you want to receive the Alumni news by mail!

Has your address changed? Do you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail? Print this page and fill out the form below to update your address so we don't lose you. If you would like to continue receiving a copy of "A View from Serenity Hill" by mail, please mark the box on the next page and mail this form to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate date you left La Ha \_\_\_\_\_ Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, please check the box:

Mail to: La Hacienda  
 P.O. Box 1  
 Hunt, TX 78024

Please print legibly so we can enter this info into our database.

## Upcoming Events

February 24	AA Group Chris speaks @ 7 pm -- Contact George W. for info: (512) 695-3528	Lexington, TX
March 4-6	Women, God & the Frio Women's AA & AI Anon Conference	Concan, TX
March 11	CA Area Conference Chris speaks at a workshop @ 5 pm -- YO Resort & Conference Center	Kerrville, TX
March 12	Sacramento AA Group Chris speaks	Sacramento, CA
March 18	Atlanta Men's Group (AA Men's Conference) Chris speaks -- Contact Larry S. for info: (678) 300-2108	Atlanta, GA
April 16	CA Conference Chris speaks Saturday night -- Contact Patrick for info: (602) 265-8811	Phoenix, AZ
May 6-8	La Hacienda's 33 <sup>rd</sup> Reunion Book your hotels now!	Hunt, TX
May 13-15	Man to Man Conference AA & AI Anon Men's Conference	Brownwood, TX
May 26	Open Arms AA Group Alicia speaks -- Contact George W. for more info: (512) 695-3528	Lexington, TX
May 28	AA Group Anniversary Chris speaks -- Contact Mike for info: (407) 908-1686	Near Orlando, FL
June 3-4	Knights Step Retreat (Men's Conference) Chris speaks Saturday night -- Contact Dave for info: (602) 992-1679	Prescott, AZ
June 11	AA Group Anniversary Chris and DJ speaking	Lufkin, TX
June 15	Young People in AA Conference Chris speaks -- Contact Shelly W. for info: (832) 858-6259	Houston, TX
June 24-25	All Addictions Anonymous Chris does 2 day workshop	Toronto, CA

**Call for Information: 1-800-749-6160**  
**Ext. 510, 511, 512, 513**