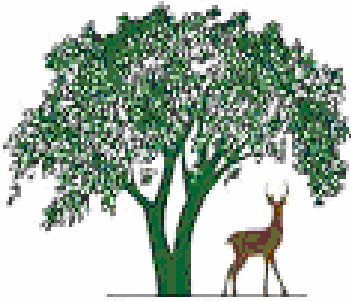


April 2007



LA HACIENDA TREATMENT CENTER

A View From Serenity Hill

La Hacienda's 35th Annual Reunion is only One Month Away!

The 35th Annual Reunion is less than a month away. It is a wonderful weekend for fellowship and spirituality. Hang in the Bodega, pray on Serenity Hill, conquer the ropes course or just be with your friends and family for this uplifting weekend.

The alumni department has scheduled some amazing speakers! Earl H. from California will be here and Bart R. from New York. See page 7 for more information on the schedule and speakers. There will also be a drawing for two people to go on the First Alumni Sober Cruise!



Camping is available this year. The river front property is only a short distance to La Hacienda and is available to those who are interested. There are just a few hotel rooms left in the area, so if you are planning on coming call for a place to stay NOW!

For lodging information you can call the Kerrville Chamber of Commerce at **830-896-1155** or the West Kerr County Chamber of Commerce at **830-367-4322** or contact Kristen Smith at ksmith@lahacienda.com for a complete list of area hotels, cottages, and bed and breakfasts.

More lodging info, see page 4. For the reunion schedule, see page 7.

We can't wait to see you!!

Inside this issue:

Reunion is around the corner	1
Chris R...	2
Alicia N...	3
Joe H....	3
Louis R...	4
Alumni Cruise Information	5
Upcoming Events	6
35th Annual Reunion Schedule	7

Cruising Sober!

La Hacienda Alumni is going to have its 1st Annual Alumni Cruise on Carnival Cruise's beautiful Ecstasy ship. See page 5



Chris R

Well, the La Ha 35th Reunion is about a month away (May 4,5,6). I would know even without a calendar cause it has rained all week! Always rains at Reunion time. We are going to have a hoot even if it POURS! Finally got my buddy Earl H. pinned down to speak and my buddy Bart from New York is already packed, I'm sure. Ashley, alumni from Austin, will be speaking Friday night so come early!

I say this every year. I KNOW it takes effort to do this Reunion deal. Takes planning! Takes time....but it doesn't

take much money. It's free! You will be glad you did it. Get on the phones and call your "community" and start making plans. Still some rooms left in Kerrville.

We folded all the Reunion invitations last week and you should be getting them in the mail, holler if you need one. It was fun reading the names as we got them ready for mailing. Thousands of names. I know where lots of you are but some of you folks have dropped clean out of sight! If you can't make Reunion this year, at least give us a call and let us know

what's going on. That would be nice.

A few weeks off the Evil Tobacco. I haven't killed anyone yet but it's been tough. Tougher than I thought it would be! Thanks for the prayers and understanding. Glad to be getting free of that stuff!

Chris Raymer
Ext. 510

Pray to God, Row to Shore -anonymous

The sign in the antique store showed a fisherman in a rowboat being tossed about in a storm. The message was clear: the fisherman may have great faith, but now was not the time to put away the oars and kneel in prayer - it was time to pray and *row!*

Sometimes we find ourselves in a storm of trouble, a sea of problems, and we want God to get us out. We may even pray, "God, get me out of this mess." But like the man in the rowboat, the way out is not just by praying to God. The way out is to pray, ask for help, and take action—do something to help ourselves.

Praying to God won't keep us sober if we don't also go to Twelve Step meetings. Praying to God to heal our relationships with others won't help unless we're willing to make amends. Health and recovery are a combination of prayer, communication with our Higher Power, and a commitment to do our part.

Today help me to pray and take action

Alicia N...

Hello Alumni,

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. I know that there can be a lot of ups and downs out there so I hope you are all hanging on for the ride. Reunion is here already – I can't believe it – we are so excited about the speakers this year and to see all of you. Please come visit with us and bear witness to this Power that you have all tapped into!! Don't forget to pray for good weather and bring family, friends, children...anyone who wants to come can come - the bigger the better!!

You know, I laughed as I began to type this article because

it seems like every time I write one, there is always some "obstacle" that I have or am overcoming lately. Life continues to go on and, with God's help, I continue to react to it differently than I used to in the past. That sums it all up... the end!!! So I am going to spare you the latest lesson and what I have recently walked through and just let you know that all is well. When I am not stuck in my head – thinking about me, I am pretty amazed at what God has done in my life. I frequently ask myself – how did I get here? I know the answer, of course, but it still blows me away. Only I know who I really was before this program...only I have the memories of all I did in my disease...so therefore, I get awe-

struck when it really sinks in. I moved to this town with a trash bag full of clothes, for goodness sake...now I have so much stuff I don't have room for it all. Wow, if I could only stay in that awe and gratitude all of the time – how great would that be??!! But, I am human and I don't exactly do that...progress not perfection. With all that being said, I hope you can take a minute, be still, and look at how far you have come – it is pretty incredible...a miracle if you ask me!!! I am going to try to stay in the "AWE" as much as I can... can't wait to see you all soon.

Peace and Love,

Alicia

Joe H....

Hello from the Hill,

This year is already flying by and Reunion is just around the corner. The 35th Reunion is kind of special to me because it not only marks my 1st year here at La Hacienda, but I will also be completing my Hep C treatment in May. This is really big for me and, I know, for those around me as well. Thanks again for all your support and prayers – they worked.

I just recently finished a 4th step – that's right – the 4th step guy did his own 4th step!

I was absolutely blown away at how self-centered, fear driven, and delusional I had become. I used to be of the school of thought that all I ever needed to do was one 4th step because if I lived in 10, 11, and 12, I would never slip back to the 4th step. Well, I am not perfect and certainly don't always live in 10, 11, and 12. I also discovered that I am not the same man that I was 3 years ago. There has been a tremendous amount of spiritual growth. Please don't burn your 4th step so that you can go back and see where you started and who you've now become. A couple of quotes

come to mind...this is a journey, not a destination; there is a long period of reconstruction ahead; this spiritual life is not a theory we have to live it; this continues for a lifetime.

I don't know about ya'll, but thank God for spiritual progress not perfection. I can't wait to see you guys and gals at Reunion. It is going to be a hoot!!! God Bless!

Peace, Love and Recovered,

Joe Hartwell

Louis R...

Greetings to our Alumni and their families,

To anyone afflicted with untreated alcoholism, unmanageability, or spiritual malady, which, I occasionally find myself, I encourage you, as I must, to take action on the instructions of this simple twelve step program. We do this in order to be led to an ongoing understanding, faith and reliance on God, and a way out of uncontrolled difficulty, self created misery, and dishonesty. By relying on the Power of Almighty God, as I understand Him, I am able to grow toward the ideals of honesty, unselfishness, and tolerance for ambiguity and paradox that the program of action promises as I rework the steps. Recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction is a long term commitment of trial and error and learning how to be free is not an overnight process for me and I don't expect it is for anyone else - "as we trudge the road of happy destiny" (BB. Pg 164).

The principles in the 12 step recovery program are "simple but not easy" (BB pg 24) and practical application is

sometimes difficult and I can find comfort and encouragement in the four most important words in the Big Book on pg. 60 "Do not be discouraged" as we make "progress not perfection" (BB pg 59)

I try to honestly admit where I am with our program of recovery by being willing to submit to the process of recovery, as outlined in the Steps, so that I can continue to move beyond where I am. The twelve step program is about change and change comes from working the 12 steps and without the entire suggested program there is no other answer that treats my alcoholism. That is the message I have to share for myself and countless others. Once a bitter, negative, critical, agnostic, chronic alcoholic with no living skills, it seems amazing to me today to be able to consider these ideas; "Spiritual conversion is an experience which marks the end of man's search for the right road, but not the end of his spiritual journey. Individuation, in Jung's sense, is the wise setting of the house of one's personality in order, but it is a task at which one is wise to work for the rest of one's life" (Leslie D.

Weatherhead, Psychology, Religion, and Healing, pg.287, 1951)

It has been my pleasure and honor to work in this Alumni department these past three months and talk to our Alumni post discharge. I am grateful for many of you who are "sober and doing the deal". Please continue to follow simple directions and "grow in understanding and effectiveness" (BB pg. 84) and do not hesitate to call if there is anything the Alumni department can help you with. I thank those of you who are supporting the current Alumni at the Outreach meetings who have recently discharged and those who have made the effort to return on Sundays at 11am to share your adventures and hope with the current patients. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 35th Reunion and I am grateful for the continuity and dedication to sobriety that La Hacienda represents to us all.

Come on up to the House,
Louis Romano, LCDC

Reunion Lodging

Only ONE MONTH away!! As always, the festivities will include speakers, food and camaraderie. The event will close Sunday with meditation on Serenity Hill and an open 12 Step meeting.

There are still some rooms available!!

Make sure you mention you will be attending La Hacienda's Alumni Reunion. Below is a list of local hotels.

Please contact Kristen Smith at ksmith@lahacienda.com for a more complete list of area cottages, hotels and bed and breakfasts.

Hunter House Inn and Suites	830-367-2377	
Days Inn	830-896-1000	
Hampton Inn	830-257-0600	www.hamptoninn.com
Holiday Inn Express	830-896-1313	www.hiexpress.com
Comfort Inn	830-792-7700	www.comfortinn.com
Motel 6	830-257-1500	www.motel6.com
Super 8	830-896-1511	

Cruising Sober through the Western Caribbean!

La Hacienda Alumni is going to have its 1st Annual Alumni Cruise on Carnival Cruise's beautiful Ecstasy ship. The fun and excitement will begin when the ship leaves from Galveston on October 15, 2007 and will visit Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico and Cozumel, Mexico over the next 5 unforgettable days. The ship will return to Galveston October 20th. Enjoy world class dining, entertainment, spectacular shows, and exotic destinations. While at sea there will be recovery workshops available for those who are interested, fellowship, and lots of adventure. Chris Raymer will hold a workshop on the 12 steps and Michael Cox, Family Program Director, will talk about Relationships in Recovery plus much more. For information on schedules, activities and what the trip is about email or call Kristen, ksmith@lahacienda.com or 713-977-5202. There will also be a drawing at the Reunion for 2 people to go on the cruise.

There are inside cabins and ocean view cabins available for \$286.81 and \$346.81 respectively, plus \$50 prepaid gratuity (suites also available at special rates). A deposit of \$225 is due by June 11th and the rest of the amount is due by August 6th. Cancelling after August 6th there is a \$200 penalty, cancellations after October 7th will not be refunded. Please contact Susie with Adventure Travel for more information about the ship, payments, and rooms either by email, Susie@adventuretravels.us or by phone 830-895-4449. You can also check the ship website at http://www.carnival.com/Ship_Detail.aspx?shipCode=EC.

You do not need a passport to enter Mexico from a cruise ship however, Adventure Travel recommends that you have one. http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html

“Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that. It is the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you.” *Page 152 Alcoholics Anonymous*

Surrender as much of yourself as you understand
to as much of God as you understand

Upcoming Events

April 6	AA Chris	Phoenix, AZ
April 14	Firing Line Group CA Joe	Dallas, TX
April 20	AA Chris	Boca Raton, FL
April 28	1/2 WayFundraiser Chris	Wichita, KS
May 12	Firing Line Group CA Chris	Dallas, TX
May 19	The Mark Houston Recovery Center Louis	Manor, TX
May 18, 19, 20	Man to Man Conference	Lake Brownwood, TX
June 8, 9, 10	Heart of the Ozarks AA Conference Chris	Springfield, MO
June 15, 16, 17	Texas State AA Conference	Fort Worth, TX
June 23	AA Deal Chris	Omaha, NE
July 6, 7	Chilliwack Round Up AA Chris	Chilliwack, BC (near Vancouver)
August 3, 4, 5	CA Chris	Brighton, England
August 17, 18, 19	White Rock Conference AA Alicia	(near Vancouver)
August 24, 25, 26	Hill Country Round Up Hospitality Room	Kerrville, TX
Aug 31—Sept 2	Colorado State AA Conference Chris	Grand Junction, CO
September 22	AA Speak Chris	Monroe, MI
September 28, 29	3rd Annual Recovery in the Park	Kerrville, TX
October 6	Workshop Chris	Charlottesville, VA
October 15—20	First Annual Alumni Sober Cruise	
October 27	AA Conference Chris	Aurora, IL



LA HACIENDA

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website: www.lahacienda.com

Simply the Best

Websites of Interest

- <http://ppgaadallas.org>
- <http://www.aaintegrity.com>
- <http://houston.lahacienda.com>
- <http://dallas.lahacienda.com>
- <http://sanantonio.lahacienda.com>
- <http://www.lahacienda.com>
- <http://www.twelvesteps.com>

Reunion Schedule

Friday, May 4th

Registration	4-7:00pm
Hamburgers	5-7:30pm
Collegiate Speaker (Bodega) <i>Ashley S., Austin, TX</i>	7-8:00pm
La Ha Bonfire Meeting	8-9:00pm

Saturday, May 5th

Registration	7:00am
Power Pole (Ropes Course)	9-11:30am
SPEAKER <i>Bart R., New York, NY</i>	10:30am
Lunch (BBQ)	11:45am
Announcements/Raffle	1:00pm
SPEAKER <i>Earl H., Studio City, CA</i>	1:30pm
Birthday Meeting	2:30-4:00pm

Sunday, May 6th

Meditation on Serenity Hill	9-10:00am
A.A. Meeting on the lawn (weather permitting)	11:00am

NO CAMERAS / NO PETS

**ALL ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS WELCOME
CALL NOW FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS (NOW)
RIVER CAMPING OPEN**

CALL THE ALUMNI DEPARTMENT FOR DETAILS

1-800-749-6160
CHRIS, EXT.510
ALICIA, EXT.512
JOE, EXT. 511
JUDY, EXT.513
LOUIS, EXT. 515