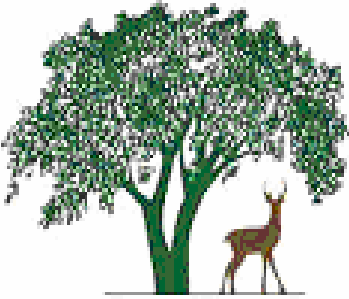


January 2007



LA HACIENDA TREATMENT CENTER

A View From Serenity Hill

La Hacienda's 35th Annual Reunion Soon Approaching

That's right! We're gearing up for another spirit filled, three day reunion for all of our alumni, family and friends. Come and see old friends and make new ones! As always the La Hacienda Outreach offices will also be hosting events.

We will have a host of dynamic and powerful speakers and our own Alumni Support Staff to encourage, motivate and lift up all in attendance.

Camping is back! Camping along our beautiful river-side is available during the reunion. Bring your tents and other camping gear and enjoy the finest mother nature has to offer. The river property is a short walk to and from the



La Hacienda campus and should prove to be a great getaway spot for the week-end.

If you're not up for camping, be certain to make lodging reservations right away as hotels are filling up fast this time of the year in the Hill Country. 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.

For Important Lodging info., see page 4.

Inside this issue:

It's Time to Plan for Reunion	1
Chris R...	2
Alicia N...	3
Louis R...	4
Reunion Lodging	4
Joe H...	5
Upcoming Events	6
35th Annual Reunion Schedule	7

Websites of Interest

- <http://ppgaadallas.org>
- <http://bigbook.got.net>
- <http://www.thejaywalker.com>
- <http://www.aaintegrity.com>
- <http://Houston.lahacienda.com>
- <http://dallas.lahacienda.com>
- <http://midland.lahacienda.com>
- <http://sanantonio.lahacienda.com>
- <http://www.lahacienda.com>
- <http://www.twelvesteps.com>

Chris R

I am one worn out dog! Those Alumni Christmas Parties almost did me in. My resolve to not over eat flew out the window! Gotta hit that old treadmill or I am going to have to buy new pants. It was SO wonderful to see so many of ya'll at those parties. Got to see some of you I didn't expect to see and some folks I just KNEW would show, didn't. That's the way it goes. I'm very grateful for everyone of you that continue to support those Alumni groups. Hopefully we are going to be traveling to ya'll more this year. My buddy Louis is starting to work with us and his presence will help us accomplish this, I hope.

I'm really looking forward to this new year and excited about getting to do more stuff with the Alumni Groups. Real excited about this years 35th Alumni Reunion. May 4,5,6. It's going to be a good one. Get those hotel reservations made NOW or your gonna be camping on the river.....in the rain! Bring anybody that wants to come....except the dog.

At the Alumni parties I read a piece that Bill W wrote about gratitude. "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you." I hope this new year we all

remember that. There are so many folks that need our help. The help that can only come from someone that has been there.

I mentioned this last year but I want to start out with it again.... If you call me and leave a message, leave your last name and a good #. Amazing how many of you change your #s and don't ever let us know. If I don't call you back, it's because your cell faded out about the time you left your #!!!!

Grateful for everyone of you that have allowed me to be a part of your life.

cmr

Misery is optional...

We may have learned to be miserable, but we can choose to unlearn it. Though we can't control what happens to us, we can determine how we will interpret and react to what happens. We can moan about the things we don't like, using them as excuses for self-pity ("poor me"), or we can implement the Serenity Prayer, accepting what we can't change and changing what we can.

In the past, we often made ourselves miserable by over-doing things. Now, how often do we continue to invite misery by thinking we ought to be able to control other people? What part do unrealistic expectations play in the creation and continuation of our misery?

When we're hurting, we need to do something about it. A physical hurt may require a doctor; an emotional pain may call for a therapist or friend, and spiritual distress may indicate the need for more prayer and meditation, closer contact with a Higher Power. We can accept responsibility for our feelings, become willing to go to any lengths to get well, and choose not to be miserable.

Responding with misery is not on my list of options for today

- Inner Harvest by Elizabeth L.

Alicia N...

Hello Alumni,

I cant believe this year is over...I pray that you and your families were blessed this holiday season and are ready for the New Year! This gift of sobriety is one of the best gifts that I have given my family over the last few years and I was so grateful to be there with them again this year in body, mind, and spirit.

Many of the holidays I spent with them in the past, I might have been there with them, but I wasn't REALLY there. Does that make any sense...I am sure that it does to some of you...thank God for this program. Ethan had a great Christmas...it was so priceless to watch his little eyes light up as he looked at the presents. What a blessing...I hope yours was too.

The past few months have been pretty crazy for me. In October, I had the honor of traveling to Iceland to speak... once again I am blown away with what this program is doing all over the world. The people were so kind and you could see their servant spirit through their eyes. I saw some breath taking scenery...I tell you what, God got pretty

creative when He made that country... there were rainbows everywhere – it was like something out of a fairy tale. Another gift of this program...years ago, I was a soulless girl who moved to Kerrville with a trash bag full of clothes and now God has me doing this sort of thing... I don't get it, but I am so grateful.

When I returned from Iceland, I finally had my much needed ankle surgery and I must tell you that I had no idea what all that would mean. I know now that I was not prepared for it – mentally, physically, or spiritually. I was off work for three weeks and had to have people live with me and take care of Ethan and I. I am so used to my routine of Ethan, program, work, etc and that was all thrown out the window. Once I was tired of feeling sorry for myself, I attempted, absolutely with God's help, to pull out of it. This self-pity thing is quite a monster and is a very familiar feeling from my past. Not being totally consumed with the "poor me's" has been one of the greatest miracles of my recovery, so when it jumped back on me it did not feel right at all. I am so grateful that we have tools to deal with all of this stuff. ..."Quite as important was the

discovery that spiritual principles would solve all my problems." BB pg.42...that is so true, the only catch is that I have to take the action required to solve the problem. Again, it always goes back to me and what I am willing to do or not do when something comes up. As of right now, I am doing well...finally off crutches, but still in a walking boot for a few more weeks and not feeling as sorry for myself as I was before. Guys, we don't get sober and get perfect...we get sober and allow God to change us as we learn and grow through different experiences. I am happy that I am still learning, because if I stop learning...I am in trouble!

Thank you all for doing what you do out there to keep carrying this torch to those who need it. Please keep in touch in 2007...we need to hear from you and look forward to seeing you soon. Don't forget, Reunion is right around the corner!! It's gonna be great!

Take care,

Alicia New

800/749-6160, ext.512

anew@lahacienda.com

“Gratitude” - that word seems to be a topic of many “discussion” meetings. But how many, who claim to be “Grateful” in these meetings, comprehend the meaning of this often used word? One of my friends seemed to properly define it when he made this statement, “I don’t give a damn what you think or how you feel when you say you are “grateful”. Just tell me what it is that you are doing to show God how much you appreciate what He has done and is doing for you”.

www.ppgaadallas.org

Louis R...

Greetings to our Alumni and their families,

My name is Louis Romano, LCDC. I will be working with Chris, Alicia, and Joe in the Alumni Department starting January 3, 2007. It has been my pleasure and honor to be acquainted with all of the various Alumni staff since 1994. I have always admired and appreciated the efforts they have made on behalf of the patients at La Hacienda and the recovery community at large. Throughout the years, they have consistently had a good message and a singular dedication. Some of them have been and continue to be very influential in my own recovery.

I sobered up for the last time on December 16, 1993. I received inpatient treatment necessary for my body and brain to be clear in order to accept and begin understanding the message of recovery. My counselor internship at La Hacienda began August, 1997 during

which I received excellent training. I earned my LCDC license June, 2000. In addition to working with the adult patients at La Hacienda, I have worked with the Young Adult Program and the Collegiate Program as well. I actively participate with a home group in a 12 step program, continue to work the steps with a sponsor, and try to help others. These tools and actions help me to stay in touch with God, without Him I would not be sober. I have significant experience with recovery to share with you. My focus and commitment this coming year is to lend a helping hand to the Alumni department and to be available to the patients at La Hacienda – past, present and future.

I particularly want to encourage the continued support of the veteran Alumni at the outreach meetings. These Alumni help the recently discharged patients make the transition from the hospital to home. I ask you to consider giving back what was given to you in early sobriety: you are needed. Additionally,

please try to take time to celebrate your monthly or yearly birthdays at the Alumni meeting held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in Hunt, TX. The experience, strength and hope you share with the current patients who still struggle with the idea of sobriety cannot be measured. It is a powerful tool that will certainly make a difference in people's lives.

My hope and help extends to family members as well as to former patients. Please let us know how you are doing and how we may be of service. If you or someone you care about needs help with a drinking or drug problem, please call our toll free number 1(800)749-6160, and my extension is 515. I look forward to hearing from you. Please return our phone calls to you so we can stay connected.

I hope this New Year will be a time of peace and a search for truth. Come on up to the house,

Louis Romano, LCDC

Reunion Lodging

It's just around the corner. 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.

You know the routine but now hear this!!

You need to make your hotel reservations now!!! Hotel rooms book up fast! 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	
Inn of the Hills	800-292-5690	www.innofthehills.com
The YO Ranch Resort	877-967-3767	www.yoresort.com

Joe H....

Seasons Greetings Alumni, Family,
and Friends...

I just finished reading an e-mail a dear friend sent to me. It is a Christmas greeting from Dr. Bob, Bill Wilson, and Lois that I would like to share with you all.

TO ALL MEMBERS

Greetings On Our 10th
Christmas 1944

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.

But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they

find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World.

How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth.

Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos.

Great indeed, our blessings!

And so,-- Merry Christmas to you all-- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

Unless you have made other plans, have a great day!

You know giving once a year may be the dubious luxury of normal men and women, but for us it is our daily bread.

As I sit here writing you this article here at work on Christmas Day (4th step hee hee!), I've been going over all the gifts and blessings that this program and God have given me. Gifts that cant be bought or wrapped. You see, I spent a

large chunk of my life trying to get right inside with human things (power); although there was always some temporary relief, it always got darker and darker.

Today, the problem has been removed...the depression, anxiety, fear, delusion, and, oh yeah, the obsession to drink and use have all been lifted. The sense of purpose and feeling of usefulness are two of the greatest gifts, but my most treasured gift is my content spirit...to have everything I need today and be totally okay with what I have. It blows me away that what I spent so much time seeking was there the whole time - GOD!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the Thanksgiving and Christmas cards and emails. I am looking forward to what is in store in 2007 for us all.

Peace, Love, and Recovery,

Joe Hartwell

800/749-6160, ext 511

jhartwell@lahacienda.com

***You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years of trying to get other people interested in you.
--Dale Carnegie***

Upcoming Events

Jan. 6	PPG Anniversary	Dallas, TX
	Chris Speaks	
Jan. 12, 13, 14	Sunday AA Conference	Chicago, IL
	Chris Speaks	
Jan. 27	Mark Houston Recovery Center	Manor, TX
	Joe Speaks	
Jan. 26 & 27	Shasta Winter Fest AA	Reading, CA
	Chris Speaks	
Feb. 3	Sponsorship	Plasserville, CA
	Chris and others speak	
Feb. 17	AA Deal	Coosbay, OR
	Chris Speaks	
Feb. 23 & 24	Workshop	Vancouver, BC
	Chris Speaks	
March 2	Speaker Event	Laguna Beach, CA
	Chris Speaks	
March 9, 10, 11	Workshop AA Round Up	Detroit, MI
	Chris Speaks	
April 6	AA	Phoenix, AZ
	Chris Speaks	
April 20	AA	Boca Raton, FL
	Chris Speaks	
April 28	Fundraiser	Wichita, KS
	Chris Speaks	

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

Reunion Schedule



Friday, May 5th

Registration	4-7:00pm
Hamburgers	5-7:30pm
COLLEGIATE SPEAKER (Bodega)	7-8:00pm
La Ha Bonfire Meeting	8-9:00pm

Saturday, May 6th

Registration	7:00am
Power Pole (Ropes Course)	9-12:00pm
SPEAKER	10:30am
Lunch (BBQ)	11:45am
Announcements/Raffle	1:00pm
SPEAKER	1:30pm
Birthday Meeting	2:30-4:00pm

Sunday, May 7th

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

CALL THE ALUMNI DEPARTMENT FOR DETAILS

1-800-749-6160

CHRIS, EXT.510

JOE, EXT.511

ALICIA, EXT.512

JUDY, EXT.513

LOUIS, EXT.515

LA HACIENDA

145 La Hacienda Way
Hunt, TX 78024

Phone: 830-238-4222
Toll Free: 800-749-6160
website: www.lahacienda.com

Simply the Best

NO CAMERAS / NO PETS

ALL ARE WELCOME (ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS)

CALL NOW FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS (NOW)

RIVER CAMPING OPEN