



A View From Serenity Hill

AUGUST 2009

La Hacienda Alumni Newsletter

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**WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Chris R.
ext. 510

Alicia N.
ext. 512

Louis R.
ext. 515

Courtney B.
ext. 511



37th annual La Hacienda Alumni Reunion

Sept. 25-27, 2009



Featuring Speakers...
Becky B & Charlie C & Larry S

**WELCOME ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!**

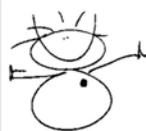
Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4:00 pm Registration 5:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm COLLEGIATE SPEAKER <i>Becky B., Kerrville, TX</i> 8:00 pm Ray Wylie concert (In front of Bodega)	7:00 am Registration 9:00 am Power Pole on the Ropes Course 10:30 am SPEAKER <i>Charlie C., No. Plainfield, NJ</i> 11:45 am Lunch 1:00 pm Announcements/ Raffle 1:30 pm SPEAKER <i>Larry S., Atlanta, GA</i> 2:30 pm Birthday Meeting	9:00 am Meditation on Serenity Hill 11:00 am Alumni Meeting on the Lawn (weather permitting)

**NO CAMERAS
OR PETS!!**

**We've expanded our store!
Come shop!**

Make your Hotel Reservations NOW!
Check our website for a complete list
of local accommodations.
River Camping Open!

Would you like to be on our email list?
If so, sign up on the Home page of our website:
www.lahacienda.com



**Call the Alumni Department
for more info**

1-800-749-6160



**Check our website for a complete list of accommodations
in Kerrville, Ingram and Hunt!**

Chris R.

My buddy Carol sent me this: "The first rule of holes: When you're in one, stop digging." (Quote from one of my favorite former patients)

Tough lesson for some of us to learn. I talk to many of you who seem to be more interested in the battle than the results. Every waking moment we seem to be in some conflict with something or someone. Me too! If we stay there too long, we are going to get loaded. Fact.

Big Book tells us to stop fighting stuff we can't change. Bill Wilson repeats it again and again. Life's not easy but it doesn't have to be as hard as some of us are making it.

I was talking to a nice alumni this week who has relapsed about a dozen times this year....every time he "comes back" we go over what happened. "My sponsor won't take me thru the work quickly." I've heard it a dozen times. This guy's sponsor, who I'm sure is a prince of a guy, wants him to get sober for a few months before they "get started". I don't agree with this and it sure isn't what the Big Book says but the guy can sponsor anyway he wants. But if this "go slow method" isn't working, why do we continue to try it? He stays mad at the sponsor but he won't fire the guy! He is in the hole and he's still digging.

I talked to a girl coming back from a relapse and she's cranky! She hates her home group. She doesn't like the meetings and has done nothing but bad mouth them since she left here.

She lives in a town that has probably 3000 meetings a week but she insists on going back to the same ones because it's "convenient". Wow! She's in the hole and still digging.

Get the idea? Common thread thru all my writings and talks is DO WHAT WORKS! AND STOP DOING WHAT DOESN'T! Life is hard enough without us making it worse.

At this writing, we have had over 50 days of 100 degree plus weather. Man, let's hope we get the big cool down before Reunion, Sept 25-27 2009. I know a bunch of you have already made plans to attend. Fall in the Hill Country is pretty special! Local hotels are filling up quick so don't wait another day. Make the reservations. Lisa (nice lady I work with) did a spectacular job redoing the hotel/campground lists. If it's not posted, holler and I'll send you one. There are lots of great places to stay.

The Burn Ban will probably still be in effect so Friday night at 8 we plan on having music on the Bodega porch instead of the bonfire meeting. Ray Wylie's going to be good! Hope to see everyone of y'all then!
cmr

Judy

Hey guys and gals, we can't wait to see you in September since your last visit had to be postponed due to the H1N1 virus commotion in May. Those germs don't stand a chance here in the Hill Country. It's just too hot for them! You can beat that Texas heat with our brand new ice cream and iced coffee! But that's not all! I have plenty of recovery jewelry and t-shirts including some different designs that are a must have. Don't worry I still have the old standby "Grateful I'm Not Dead" stuff too. If it has been more than 6 months since you have been in the store, you will not even recognize it. I've rearranged everything, added new inventory, and upgraded our small cash register to a computer system to help me keep our little store fully stocked. Come by to see all of the changes and new inventory--Friday night until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Can't wait to see y'all!

"Teachable"

Slowly, but surely, some wisdom and humility began to creep in. I became more teachable. I found God working all around me where previously I was sure I had been alone. When I opened my eyes enough to see the miracle, I found that it was right in front of my face. I was growing in God's love.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p.430

Alicia N.

Hello Alumni,

I hope you have had a great summer and somehow managed to stay cool. I know that having the river here sure helped us, but some days it was still too hot to get out and play. Ethan has had a packed summer and a lot of fun, but the idea of 3rd grade is not making him too happy. Go figure.

Things here on the hill are still running smoothly, but the statement "Change is Good" seems to be the motto over these last few months. As with any change, there has been some adjusting taking place, but I think we are all settling in. It is really cool to work for a place that really does put the customer first and will change whatever is needed to meet their needs.

In making my year in phone calls each month, it has been such a blessing to hear some of the amazing miracles taking place in so many of your lives. I get to hear some great things like "I can't believe it really works" or "I never thought this kind of life could be possible for me". Those comments really warm my heart because I vividly remember not believing that I could actually be sober AND happy. Yet, each step that I took toward the Light seemed to confirm that the promises in the book were actually true and possible for me. It's possible for ANYONE as long as we have the honesty, open mindedness and willingness that the book says is required. My journey has taken me so many different places and I have walked through some difficult stuff and yet my favorite promises on pg. 57 still seem to ring true years later--"He has come to all, who have honestly sought him"; "When we drew near to Him, He disclosed himself to us".

There is also a flip side to the phone calls I mentioned earlier, like when I call and ask to speak to someone and find out they recently died due to this disease. I hate those calls and they are a constant reminder of the horrible nature of this disease. Thank you to all of you who are out there standing strong and helping those in need, because the reality is there are so many out there still hurting.

To end on a happy note...Reunion is finally here! I am really praying that even though we had to move the date, you all are still going to come and join us for all the fun and fellowship. Until then, take care and God bless you!

Peace and Love,
Alicia New
Director of Alumni Services
800/749-6160, ext 512

A Story of I Can't, I Don't Know, and I AM

By a La Hacienda Alumni

I Can't lived in a very dark place and all alone.
I Can't did the work of her day and then I Can't drank.
She couldn't look in the mirror anymore.
She said every day, "I Can't be happy. I Can't not drink.
I Can't live like this.
I Can't feel. I Can't breathe. I Can't. I Can't. I Can't."

She lost her breath and she cried so hard she thought she was dying.
And she was.

One day, she became desperate to live.
She was afraid, but willing to take a chance.
"Help me," she said on the phone to a stranger.
And then I Can't became I Don't Know.

I Don't Know if this will work for me.
I Don't Know if I believe in God.
I Don't Know you people.
I Don't Know what's going to happen.
I Don't Know if I can.

I Don't Know took a deep breath and looked in the mirror.
Then she left her house and went to find out.

I Am _____ and I Am a real alcoholic.

I Am someone who still lives with fear, anger, doubt, sadness.

But I Am also now someone who knows hope, knows peace, knows joy,
knows love.

I Am not perfect. But I Am getting better.

And because I choose everyday to use the gift of the 12 steps in my life
I Am sober. I Am alive. I Am grateful. I Am ok.

I am a part of the word "WE."

We are a Fellowship of men and women who have shared in a common
peril and who have discovered a common solution. We have found the
way out.

Page 132 in the Big Book says, "We have recovered and have been
given the Power to help others."

Thank you for helping ME... .

**Serenity isn't
freedom from the storm,
it's peace
within the storm.**

Louis R.

To our alumni and their families,

I trust this letter finds you well and in good spirits. I was pleased to see you at the Hill Country Round Up August 21-23 at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville. There were good speakers and fellowship. Many of you came to the La Hacienda Hospitality suite and said hello.

Beyond that I would like to encourage you to bring your friends and family to the 37th annual La Hacienda Reunion here in Hunt September 25-27. A great event is planned just for you. Please attend and be supported and renewed, and do likewise with others. You are invited!

Additionally, recovery does seem to be about love and service; the antidote to hate and selfishness. Therefore the age old axiom applies and it is best that we Trust God, Clean House and Help Others. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Come on up to the House,
Louis Romano, LCDC

Courtney B.

Hey there everyone! Man time flies! Seems like we were writing these just yesterday! Well, summer is coming to an end and it's been a blast...talk about sobriety opening the doors for a life I could have never have imagined. I am so grateful. I remember the time when I couldn't imagine a pool party or a weekend at the beach without alcohol or *something* in my system. Today I can't imagine a gathering involving anything but true friendship, good conversation, fun, laughter, and sometimes even a tear or two. I had no idea what I was signing up for then, but it's been quite a ride and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I was taught in the very beginning that if we don't consciously progress then we are inevitably moving backward. This remains true for me today in that there is nothing I want more today than to progress inwardly. When I am maintaining a fit spiritual condition the rest seems to take care of itself. Even when life happens, I've found beauty in the lesson to be learned. Look for the gifts!

Soooooo, I can't wait to see ya'll at Reunion this year! I know there's been a bit of confusion this year, but now it's around the corner and we're sure looking forward to visiting with everyone. There is nothing like seeing the miracle of God take place in your lives. Come celebrate the gift of life with us! We'll have some great speakers, great food, great fellowship, and this year we're having Ray Wylie singing for us Fri night! What more could you ask for?! If anyone has a question or two give me or any one of us a shout, that's what we're here for....YOU!

So until then...Peace,
Courtney Bernhard
Alumni Support
800/749-6161 ext. 511

Resentments

Perhaps "justifiable resentments" are the trickiest of all to handle. It's the end product of "righteous" anger, after long cherishing, and if it is allowed to continue, it will slowly undermine our defenses against taking a drink. Even if we have been treated shabbily or unjustly, resentment is a luxury that, as alcoholics, we cannot afford.

Living Sober, p.39



Upcoming Events

Sept. 4-5	CA talk/workshop Chris	Seattle, WA
Sept. 7	CA Chris	Philadelphia, PA
Sept. 12	SCTA Convention, Traditions Workshop Chris	Kerrville, TX
Sept. 13	SCTA Convention Ernie	Kerrville, TX
Sept. 14	CA Talk Chris	Georgetown, TX
Sept. 25-27	37th Annual Alumni Reunion (rescheduled)	Hunt, TX
Oct. 3	AA Talk Chris	Sacramento, CA
Oct. 24	AA Talk Chris	Eastland, TX
Oct. 30	AA Talk Chris	High Point, NC
Oct. 31	Young Peoples AA Chris	Myrtle Beach, SC
Nov. 5	Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol/Drug Addiction, Keynote Spkr Chris	Dallas, TX
Dec. 4-6	Cenla Sober Mania Ernie G.	Woodworth, LA
ALUMNI CHRISTMAS PARTIES		
Dec. 3	Permian Basin Alumni Christmas Party	Midland, TX
Dec. 5	Austin Alumni Christmas Party	Austin, TX
Dec. 10	College Station Alumni Christmas Party	College Station, TX
Dec. 11	Kerrville Alumni Christmas Party	Kerrville, TX
Dec. 14	DFW Alumni Christmas Party	Irving, TX
Dec. 15	Houston Alumni Christmas Party	Houston, TX
Dec. 19	San Antonio Christmas Party	San Antonio, TX