



La Hacienda
Treatment Center

MARCH 2009

A View From Serenity Hill

La Hacienda Alumni Newsletter

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37th Annual Alumni Reunion



The countdown to the 37th Annual Alumni Reunion has begun and we are so excited!! As always it is the first weekend in May. This is a very busy time up here in the Hill Country so make your reservations NOW!! Below is a list of some local hotels and you can go to the La Hacienda website for a more complete list. The speaker line up is incredible and of course there will always be good fun and lots of fellowship!

Kerrville

Inn of the Hills 830-895-5000

YO Ranch 830-257-4440

Holiday Inn Express 830-895-9500

Best Western 830-896-1313

Comfort Inn 830-792-7706

Hampton Inn 830-257-7406

Ingram

Lazy Hills Guest Ranch 830-367-5600

Hunter House Motor Inn 800-655-2377

Hunt

River Oaks Lodge 800-608-2596

River Road B & B 877-895-4548

Roddy Tree Ranch 800-309-9868

Friday, May 1

Registration 4-7:00pm

Hamburgers 5-7:30pm

COLLEGIATE SPEAKER 7-8:00pm

Becky B., Kerrville, TX

La Ha Bonfire Meeting 8-9:00pm

(burn ban permitting)

Saturday, May 2

Registration 7:00am

Power Pole - Ropes Course 9-12:00pm

SPEAKER 10:30am

Doug R., Tujunga, CA

Lunch (BBQ) 11:45am

Announcements/Raffle 1:00pm

SPEAKER 1:30pm

Angie P., Cincinnati, OH

Birthday Meeting 2:30-4:00pm

Sunday, May 3

Meditation on Serenity Hill 9-10:00am

A.A. Meeting on the lawn 11:00am

(weather permitting)

No Cameras / No Pets

All are Welcome (alumni, family and friends)

River Camping Open

Chris R.

Man oh man! Non-stop travel these days--Florida, Houston, Austin, Utah, England, El Paso, Kentucky--geez! I can't tell you how many alumni I have gotten to visit with out there! So many of you not only staying sober but helping a bunch as you go! Proud of every one of you. Be sure and check out lahacienda.com for all our speaking updates. Sure nice to see you!

In all these travels I also get to see alumni that aren't sober. They are not happy folks. Every single one of them, from California to England, had the same thing happen to them. The mental obsession returned and told them they could drink or drug. You know that wasn't what IT told them first... they all first heard..."I can do this myself." Well.....they can't. That's been my experience.

The Big Book page 13...bottom of the page, "Belief in the power of

God, plus enough willingness, honesty and HUMILITY to establish and maintain the new order of things, were the essential REQUIREMENTS." Humility.....yep, there's that word again. I needed it 21 years ago... I need it today! The minute I start thinking I'm different, I'm in trouble. No matter where I am, people want to try and complicate this deal. I know life IS complicated and getting worse every day...but this Recovery stuff ISN'T complicated. Trust God, clean house (get honest and make amends), work with others. Without humility, you won't do any of these things!

I keep going to meetings because I KNOW I need ya'll worse than you need me! I keep close to The Steps because I know God's guidance comes with a clear head. I work with others when I can because I

know that's the only way to stay connected. You have to give it away to keep it. If I am truly grateful for the blessings I get, I need to show it. If any of you ever want to visit about stuff....you call me. It would be an honor to spend time with you. (extension 510)

I hope all of you are making plans for La Ha's 37th Reunion. It's going to be May 1,2,3 this year. Hotels are filling up so chop chop! Nope, you don't have to make reservations for La Hacienda...just show up. Everyone's welcome...alumni and friends. Leave the cameras and doggies at home. We have some great speakers lined up again this year! Call us if you have any questions.

Xo cmr

Usefulness

We hear a lot in meetings that a grateful alcoholic doesn't get drunk.
 What I have found, though, reached far beyond feeling grateful,
 and that is feeling useful.
 I believe that when I am grateful it is usually for what I have been given.
 However, when I am useful, it is for what I am able to give.
 If nothing else, the program of AA has offered me the ability to be useful.
 And for that, I am eternally grateful.

Alicia N.....

Hey Alumni and Families,

I hope, as always, that this article finds you doing well and enjoying this New Year. Things are very busy here on the hill as the New Year's Resolutions take place for so many across the nation...I pray that everyone keeps them! Here at home, life is going well...Ethan is going through the regular 2nd grade troubles – too much homework, trouble concentrating, and too many girls liking him at one time! He actually said to me a month or so ago that he had some girl problems that he needed to talk to me about. And so it begins. I almost fell over! So grateful that I am sober to be able to listen and be present for the little problems in his life!

The 37th Annual Alumni Reunion is on its way – May 1-3. As usual, we have some great speakers coming to share with us their amazing and entertaining stories. Please make sure that you are making plans to come and bring all the family and friends that you can. We would love for it to be the biggest one yet. I know I probably say this every year, but this is the one chance that we, at La Hacienda, get to really see all the miracles that have taken place and the promises that have come true in so many of your lives. Please come share your wonderful story with us...it promises to BEE the best one yet (you will get that little pun when you get here!)

With so much pain and fear infiltrating our society today, I know that it is hard for a lot of us, including ME, to look for the silver lining and find some kind of peace amidst this terrible storm. I had an email sent to me the other day that had some great insight into some of this and I wanted to share it with you. Some of you may have already gotten the email. It is a short interview with Rick Warren, the author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and he is answering the question, in a nutshell, what is the purpose of life? Some of the following things that he said really hit a personal note with me so I thought of passing it on...

“Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that is not the goal. The goal is to grow in character...”

“No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purpose, or you can focus on your problems.”

“If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is 'my problem, my issues, my pain.' But one of the easiest ways to rid yourself from pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.”

I don't know, but for some reason, with all that our nation is going through right now, that just spoke to me and fits exactly into this new life that we have been given through this “program of action”. I still am so grateful for the day that I surrendered to this process and even more grateful that, years later, I am still teachable and show willingness, to the best of my ability, in the good times and the bad. Thank God for the wonderful idea in the book, “progress, not perfection”. I swear that is my motto!!!

I am so excited about the Reunion and really do hope and pray that you all will make the effort, with your family and friends, to come join us. You know, about a month before the actual weekend we start having dreams that no one is going to show up...I know it sounds crazy, but it's true...so surprise us this year! Please feel free to call me at ext. 512 if you need anything or have any questions about the Reunion. Can't wait to see you!

Peace and Love –

Alicia New

anew@lahacienda.com

800/749-6160, ext.512

Louis R.....

To Our Alumni and their Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I also hope that in your ongoing experience in sobriety, you are recognizing the continued need to expand in the areas of honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness. It seems that these three simple concepts are involved daily to some degree for gaining a greater insight of understanding of sobriety and recovery. At times, it is easy to ignore or evade their implications. I certainly encourage each of you to consider the relevance and meaning these have for you in every area of your life today and to have the faith and courage to apply these principles with God's help in the areas that are especially troubling as you continue to "grow in understanding and effectiveness". (BB p.84) The search for truth and meaning in our lives is only limited by our dishonesty, close-mindedness and unwillingness "to grow along spiritual lines". (BB p.60)

I have spoken to many of you who are planning to attend the 37th Annual Reunion which is always the first weekend in May (this year May 1-3) and I look forward to seeing you then and would like to encourage all of our Alumni to bring your friends and family and celebrate from Friday at 4pm until Sunday at noon. We have great events planned and it will be worth your time and efforts. Take care and God bless.

Come on up to the House,
Louis Romano, LCDC
800/749-6160, ext 515

Courtney B.....

Hey there everyone! It's newsletter time already and Reunion is creeping up on us fast! It's amazing how fast time seems to pass. It's gotten pretty busy out here on the Hill, as it usually does this time of year, and I suppose I could contribute how crazy it's been to how fast time flies. However, I can no longer deny the fact that, for me, the Man upstairs has a plan. It looks as though His current plan is one of busyness, one that requires me to stay alert and aware, open to the intuitive guidance and direction that we are given. You see, if I don't, I miss it. Trust me, I've missed it before and it's nothin' nice. Who would want to miss this crazy, fun life full of laughter and tears anyway! This life where every day we have the opportunity to make decisions to walk towards the light and experience this gift of peace no matter what comes down the pipe. Knowing this peace is awaiting me daily...I still mess up. And thank God for my mess-ups. It's my mess-ups that challenge me to continue to grow and to seek this Power's Presence even more. They even allow for my relationships to grow stronger as my loved ones and I walk through this life stuff together. I am so grateful for sobriety in that it's the foundation of this experience of a lifetime.

As for Reunion, I can't wait! It's my favorite part of this job. It's what reminds me, in those moments of doubt, when it seems like I'm surrounded with the heartache of this disease, that this really does work. It's a weekend full of miracles and an opportunity to bear witness to this Power. Please join us. Bring your family & friends, eat some good food, listen to some great speakers, and make your hotel reservations now before it's too late! See ya then!
Peace - Courtney

Upcoming Events

March 14	Singleness of Purpose Workshop Louis	San Antonio, TX
March 27-28	ANA Talk/Workshop Chris	East Dorset, VT
April 7	ANA Talk Chris	Temple, TX
April 8	Alumni Talk at La Hacienda Solutions Chris	Austin, TX
April 11	CA Workshop Chris	Salt Lake City, UT
April 15-19	AA Workshop Chris and Ernie G.	Glasgow, Scotland
May 1-3	37th Annual Alumni Reunion	Hunt, TX
May 29	AA Conference Chris	Dallas, TX
May 30	AA Workshop Chris	Montreal, Canada
June 12-14	Heart of the Ozarks AA Conference Chris	Springfield, MO
June 20	Oxford House Talk Chris	Omaha, NE
June 27	Steps to Freedom Workshop Chris and Meyers	Tampa, FL
July 8	Alumni Talk La Hacienda Solutions Chris	Austin, TX
July 25	District 6 AA Roundup Chris	Nova Scotia
July 30-Aug 1	San Antonio TAAP Conference Chris	San Antonio, TX
Aug. 7-8	West Texas Roundup Chris	Odessa, TX
Aug. 21-23	Common Solution Roundup, Step workshop and talk Chris and Meyers	Fresno, CA
Aug. 28	AA Roundup Chris	Macomb, MS

La Hacienda is on

If you are member of facebook we would love for you to become a fan of the La Hacienda Page.

Here is how you find us:

- Do a search for La Hacienda
- On the top tabs, click “pages”
- Go almost to the end of the first page of results and you should see our logo
- Click on it and you are there!

Don't forget!!! Be sure and “Become a fan”
Stay Connected!

A Message from Dee at Father Martin's Ashley:

Hello friends,

It is with a terribly heavy heart that I write this note to tell you that Father Martin passed away this morning at the age of 84.

We have all been so blessed to know this man who was instrumental in helping save so many lives and I know you all mourn this loss with all of us in the Ashley family.

You can read details about his services, view a brief video about his life and also share a personal message by visiting our website www.fathermartinsashley.org.

We ask that you hold Mae and Tommy Abraham in your thoughts and prayers, too, as they deal with this difficult time.

Please know that Father loved each and every one of us and that we will continue to carry on his important work here at Ashley each and every day.

Yours in recovery,

Dee





P.O. Box 1
145 La Hacienda Way
800-749-6160
830-238-4222

Call the Alumni Department

Alicia, ext. 512

Louis, ext. 515

Courtney, ext. 511

Recovery Services

Chris, ext. 510

“..one of the primary differences between alcoholics and nonalcoholics is that nonalcoholics change their behavior to meet their goals and alcoholics change their goals to meet their behavior.”
(BB pg. 423)

www.lahacienda.com

Say When It's Time to Begin

I have a friend who is always planning to start a writing project "as soon as she gets organized." She has read nearly every book, attended every seminar, and bought all the tapes on the subject. She has closets full of organizers, drawers stuffed with folders, and several related computer programs. There's only one problem. Instead of starting, she hides behind a mask of "firsts." "I'll start writing, but first I've got to learn this program." "I'll listen to that tape, but first I've got to read this book."

Are you hiding behind a mask of firsts? Is there always something that keeps you from beginning? Take off the mask. Start the project. Ask that special person for a date. Do that Fourth and Fifth Step. Stop making excuses. Eliminate them.

Learn to say when it's time to begin.

God, please help me eliminate excuses from my life. Show me how full my life can be when I pursue my dreams.

More Language of Letting Go by Melody Beattie