

A View from Serenity Hill



La Hacienda's Newsletter for Alumni

November 2014

Please Join Alumni in Your Area to Celebrate the Holidays

Family and Friends Welcome

Austin

Saturday, December 6th, 6 PM

2100 Kramer Ln., Suite 300

Ho Ho Homicide: A Murder in the North Pole

Bring a side dish or dessert

Info: (512) 835-1994 Ext. 1

Dallas Area

Tuesday, December 16th, 6 PM

12700 Preston Rd., Suite 260

Dinner and Speaker - Audrey C.

Bring a dessert

Info: (214) 968-9858

Beaumont

Monday, December 15th, 6:00 PM

1350 N. 23rd (St. Andrews Church)

Dinner, Speaker, & Honoring Don Russell

Bring a side dish or dessert

Info: (409) 617-1941

Houston

Tuesday, December 16th, 6:30 PM

3000 Wesleyan, Suite 200

BBQ Dinner and Tree Decorating

Bring toiletries for donation to shelter

Info: (713) 557-4343

College Station

Monday, December 8th, 5:30 PM

702 University Dr., Suite 100D

Dinner, Speaker-Jonathon H. and

Candlelight Gratitude Meeting

Info: (979) 846-9500 Ext. 1

Midland Area

Thursday, December 4th, 5:30 PM

206 N. Midkiff, Suite 1-D

Fajita Dinner - 5:30 PM

Speakers: Spencer and Joanne - 7 PM

For info: (432) 553-7220

San Antonio

Saturday, December 13th, 5 PM

7400 Blanco Rd., Suite 129

BBQ Dinner and

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Bring side dish or dessert and gift

Info: (210) 692-0001

Welcome to Alumni Services

Jonathon

I am pleased to join La Hacienda's Alumni team. It has been about four months since I began in this position. I sobered up on January 20, 2008 in Kerrville. At 18 months sober, I moved back to San Antonio, where my family lives, to go back to school. I graduated nearly a year ago. Things have turned out quite differently from what I had imagined as I was getting ready to graduate, but I suppose that is the nature of things.

Over the years it has been a mission of mine to grow in my understanding of the recovery process, of spiritual matters, so I may, in turn, help others to do the same. Recovery is not only important to the addict and alcoholic, it is essential; without it, little else could be accomplished. I love getting to lecture about this information; it is a privilege to do so. I understand the urgency in the work that I do, and in 12-Step work in general. Without it, I wouldn't have a life at all. For most of us, this is a life-and-death matter. For the rest, it is quality of life which is at stake.

My wish is to help every alcoholic, every addict who comes to this facility see the truth about their condition, that they may find the willingness to allow their lives to be recreated. My hope is that they would take the action necessary to find a better way of life. It is my belief that by attempting to get others to consider this information, if it truly applies to them, that they cannot help but be interested. I have already met many of you on my travels to our various outreach centers and I hope to meet many more of you in the time to come.

Jonathon Hinojosa

Linda

I came to Kerrville in 2010 to visit a friend and never left. The beauty of the hills and the river reminded me of my childhood in Minnesota, so I was happy from the beginning.

I tell my friends and family one of the most beautiful drives is on the way to Hunt. Now that I work here I find La Hacienda a beautiful treatment center both inside and out. The Hill Country is a great place to find God and have a spiritual experience.

My road to recovery was full of detours. After not drinking for a few years, I relapsed and blamed 'a personal crisis!' The second time, a few years later, I relapsed again. This time I thought it was because of resentments and not going to enough meetings. It WAS true that I had resentments and I did not go to enough meetings, but the real reason was I did not really get the powerlessness from the head to the heart. In total desperation I accepted my powerlessness, knew my God was there, and would help me. I then started a personal house-cleaning.

Along the way I obtained a two year degree in Chemical Dependency Studies. But I feel it was the thirty years of drinking, followed by getting sober and then relapsing again, that brings depth and passion to this opportunity to be of service with the Alumni Services Team.

I look forward to meeting you at the Reunion and the outreach centers soon.

Linda Bertel

Step Seven

by Charlotte Safir, LCDC

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

As a result of the action taken so far in Step 1 through Step 6, we have arrived at the internal place where humility is filling us with awe. The Power we could hardly imagine when we started has moved us through our willingness to follow direction, not knowing where it would lead, and has brought us not only into the realization of what has blocked our spiritual progress, but also into a greater awareness of how this Power has been present all along, even in our disease.

This is where I begin to understand that everything from Step 3 to Step 7 is a prayer in action. It began with the Third Step Prayer and ended with the Amen in the Seventh Step Prayer. Everything between these steps, all the writing, the confession, the accountability, the realizations, the admissions and owning of thoughts, feelings and actions has helped clear a path to connect with the Power that keeps me sober. All these actions are the cleaning out that creates internal space for Power to flow in and through me. It is here that we have the opportunity to have conscious contact with our character defects. When we realize how they are still influencing us, it is important not to beat ourselves up but only recognize that they are still present and we must ask that they be removed in the 7th Step prayer. One of the direct consequences of the inherent power in this prayer is the awareness of options to utilize instead of old behaviors. For example, it gives us an opportunity to practice being honest with ourselves and others, to be true to ourselves, and no longer demand life go as we want, but begin to accept life as it comes.

This step is where we might begin to be aware of how the automatic reaction is being transformed into a conscious response. We have completed the prayer of action between Steps 3 and 7. Patterns of self-destructive behavior are being removed in a way that could only be happening as result of this awesome Power. We are now relying on God in a completely different way by allowing him to take what no longer serves us. With a deepening gratitude and a desire to continue growing on the spiritual path that leads to freedom, we make our 8th Step list.

For the most up-to-date Alumni info



#laharecovery



*Save
the
Date*

43rd Annual Alumni Reunion

**May 1-3
2015**

**Jonathon H. - Kerrville, TX
Stacy S. - San Antonio, TX
and Danny B. - Houston, TX**

The first weekend in May is always busy in the Kerrville area so make your lodging reservations now. You can access a list of local accommodations on our home page under FAQs.



SOBER CRUISE!!!

ABOARD THE CARNIVAL CRUISE SHIP
"FREEDOM"

7-DAY EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
DEPARTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

FOR SOBER GROUP INFORMATION
CONTACT: Joe M. at (210) 861-4161
Email: jmayer3@satx.rr.com

**(Please note this Sober Cruise is not affiliated
with La Hacienda Treatment Center or
Carnival Cruise Line)**

ATTENTION

**Alumni in
Fort Worth & Baton Rouge!**

**We will start alumni meetings
in your city in January 2015.**

To get more information or to volunteer,
call Sherri at **830-238-4222 ext. 103**
or email: slayton@lahacienda.com

TAKE NOTE OF DALLAS AND HOUSTON CHANGES!

ALUMNI MEETINGS

| AREA | DAY / TIME | LOCATION | MORE INFO |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|--------------|
| AUSTIN | Wednesday 7:30 pm | La Hacienda's Solutions 2100 Kramer Ln., Suite 300 | 512-835-1994 |
| BEAUMONT | Monday 6:30 pm | St. Andrews Presbyterian 1350 N. 23rd St. | 409-617-1941 |
| COLLEGE STATION | Thursday 6:00 pm | La Hacienda-College Station 702 University Dr. East, Suite 100-D | 979-846-9500 |
| DALLAS | Tuesday 7:00 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 12700 Preston Rd., Suite 260 Dallas, TX | 214-968-9858 |
| HOUSTON | Tuesday 6:30 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 3000 Wesleyan, Suite 200 | 830-928-9344 |
| HUNT | Sunday 11:00 am | La Hacienda Treatment Center 145 La Hacienda Way | 830-238-4222 |
| MIDLAND | Thursday 7:00 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 206 N. Midkiff, Suite 1-D | 432-697-0272 |
| SAN ANTONIO | Monday 7:00 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 7400 Blanco Rd., Suite 129 | 210-692-0001 |

FAMILY MEETINGS

| AREA | DAY / TIME | LOCATION | MORE INFO |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| AUSTIN | Monday 8:00 pm | La Hacienda's Solutions 2100 Kramer Ln, Suite 300 | 512-835-1994 |
| BEAUMONT | Tuesday 6:30 pm | St. Andrews Presbyterian 1350 N. 23rd St. | 409-860-0001 ext. 3 |
| COLLEGE STATION | Thursday 6:00 pm | La Hacienda-College Station 702 University Dr. East, Suite 100-D | 979-846-9500 |
| DALLAS | Tuesday 7:00 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 12700 Preston Rd., Suite 260 Dallas, TX | 214-763-0104 |
| HOUSTON | Tuesday 6:30 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 3000 Wesleyan, Suite 200 | 713-545-9788 |
| SAN ANTONIO | Monday 7:00 pm | La Hacienda Community Outreach 7400 Blanco Rd., Suite 129 | 210-692-0001 |

Special Thanks to our "retiring" alumni group leaders

Don R. Eddie H. Perry B. Frank and Debbie C.

La Hacienda Treatment Center deeply appreciates your dedication to our alumni. We pray your future endeavors bring you as much peace and joy as you have brought to us over the years.