

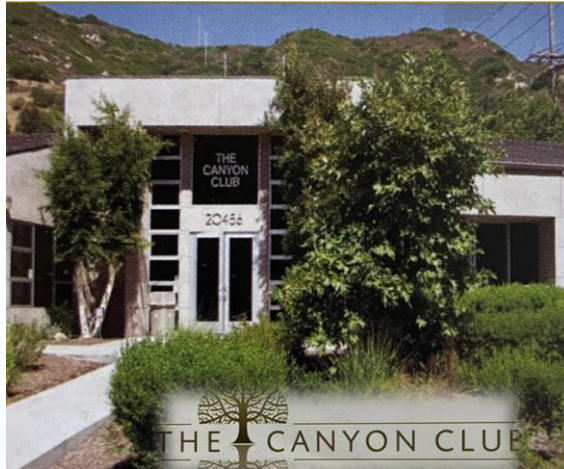
CALL OF THE CANYON

20456 Laguna Canyon Rd, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

IN THIS
EDITION

The Canyon Club Newsletter Returns

The beloved Call of the Canyon Newsletter has been reborn. After 7 years of being out of print, the Laguna Canyon Club Board of Directors decided it was time to resurrect the Newsletter so that members and patrons alike could have a place to get plugged into the many services, activities, programs and events the Canyon Club provides to our Orange County residents and visitors. The Newsletter will be shared on a quarterly basis and provided in email, web and print format.



STAYING SOBER

ABROAD: *Don't Go Out of Your Mind!*

-by Jeff S.

My experiences in AA have taught me that attending meetings when travelling abroad is of paramount importance.

When I was drinking, consequences inevitably arose at home and work. When things got too hard to handle, I would pack my bags and set off for overseas - the perfect excuse this drunk needed to keep the alcohol flowing and the naggings of my life at bay. In many countries, bars are open 24/7, leading to some wild stories and horrific hangovers (not unlike the movie, "The Hangover Part II").

When I got sober, I was concerned about the potential threat my international travel posed to my sobriety, wondering if I could sustain my recovery momentum while overseas. Here are some tips which have proven invaluable over the last fourteen years living, travelling, and working the steps outside the USA. I have been fortunate to experience AA in more than 40 countries.

- ❖ Call of the Canyon Returns
- ❖ Sober Abroad – a guide to international sanity
- ❖ How the Canyon Club gave Beverly H a second lifeline
- ❖ Love in da Club – one member's story of the love he found in the Canyon Club Community
- ❖ Become a Canyon Club Member!
- ❖ Events
- ❖ A letter from the Editor

Find out the meeting schedule in advance and plan to attend regular meetings while away. Meetings can be found on the AA Central Office website under "world" or by typing into google the city/country and then Alcoholics Anonymous.

Reach out to locals of the area to get a general idea of the recovery landscape. Local AA websites usually list member names and contact information.

Keep an open mind and look for the similarities, not the differences.

Engage with the locals. Share what AA is like at the Canyon Club - people love to learn about AA in America. The Canyon Club is an amazing hub for recovery and an invitation to visit can reciprocate the love/friendship.

I wish you the best as you trudge the GLOBAL roads of happy destiny. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or meeting suggestions by email at jmskor@yahoo.com.



A SET ASIDE PRAYER

"Dear God, please help me to set aside everything I think I know about myself, this Book, You, Alcoholism, the 12 Steps, the Fellowship, the people in the fellowship and spirituality so that I may keep an open mind and have a new experience with all of these things. Please help me see the truth about them God, and the truth about myself. Thy will, not mine, be done. Amen"





A LIFELINE....

HOW THE CANYON CLUB SAVED BEVERLY H.

-by Beverly H.

One late evening in August of 2009, my husband discovered that I'd been drinking again after early 23 years of sobriety. The confrontation was ugly and so was the truth. I had become so wrapped up in him and in "us" that I had given little thought to anything extraneous, like AA meetings. There's a reason we say, "meeting makers make it." He insisted that I do something now, immediately. I knew he was right. Thankfully my years of sobriety had prepared me for this. I knew there was a hotline of some kind, there always is, and called for help. The woman who returned my call listened and then asked me to meet her at 7AM the next day at this place called the Canyon Club. I'd driven by there for 13 years thinking it was a yacht club, having no idea in those moments that it would eventually help save me from drowning!

I walked into the Club that morning amazed at the number of people willing to show up so early for an attitude adjustment (I still think 7AM is an ungodly time to get sober). WC greeted me warmly and I thanked her through tears. Someone asked me to read the Traditions, I cried through all twelve. By the end of the meeting, I had asked WC to be my sponsor and she had agreed. She remains my sponsor to this day.

Thus began my loving relationship with the Club. A lifeline for alcoholics, friends and families; the Canyon Club is synonymous with the word "sobriety" in Orange County, SoCal and beyond. I wish I could put my finger on the "thing" that's embodied not just in the Club's people, but in the building and grounds themselves. It's designed to welcome you with the entryway's open embrace, the sides extended like giant arms to entice you inside and hug you when you get there. The way the sunlight passes through the stained glass from the Serenity Garden and into the big room, diffusing and dappling the walls.

The sound of our voices lifted up in prayer together, echoing across the enormous glass walls, the symphony that is AA. The "little room" where so many times the rubber has met the road ~ I did my Fifth Step in that room and listened to many others.

I was welcomed from the moment I set foot into the rooms, loved back to sanity and sobriety by men and women who cared enough to tell me the truth and listen to mine. Others weren't as kind, but still taught me valuable lessons that would serve me well in the coming years. The friendships I've made through the Club are deep and meaningful. They've walked me through some of the worst pain I've ever known, including the deaths of my fellows who were like my own kin. The Club is my safe haven. My sanctuary. Something happens to me when I come across the little bridge, a feeling of peace and serenity that feels a lot like homecoming to the best home ever. I like to get there early before the meeting to enjoy the space in its solitude and watch as it fills with cries for help, joy for the moment, and hope for the future.

And I like to stay for the meeting after the meeting as we hug and embrace and wish each other good times until we meet again at the Club. Driving away, I am filled again with what I needed.

I eventually got sober in the Big Room of the Canyon Club on January 1, 2013. It was in those rooms that I was finally able to shake the negative dust from my soul and burn off the consequences of my previous actions through the steps and the love of the fellowship. Living doesn't hurt anymore.

I try not to love anything that can't love me back, but I love the Canyon Club. After all, it's my sanctuary.

*“I became a
man at the
Canyon Club”*



Love in da Club

By Wyatt F.

My name is Wyatt and I'm an alcoholic.

March 18th of 2022. This is not the date I was born. It is not the day I met my first love. It is not the day my mother died or even the date I graduated high school. March 18th is the day I walked into the Canyon Club and through those iconic double doors. I was a broken man, alone and afraid. I felt as if I was knee-deep in quicksand and rapidly sinking. I had no idea my life had just changed.

I walked in and I sat in the back as any good Newcomer does and I listened to everyone talk. I was so sick and the words they spoke were like a foreign language I could not understand. I had no idea what all this talk of God in the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous had to do with my problems. My sickness seemed utterly impossible to overcome and I was sure that there wasn't anything that any God could or would want to do to help me. In time though, a day came when my desperation met willingness. Willingness to do the work we do here in Alcoholics Anonymous. I got a Sponsor; a gentle and loving man named Clay. By working the steps with this man and believing in the unbelievable, by suspending all prejudices I had about the program, I was slowly able to embrace and rely upon a power greater than myself. A power that loved me unconditionally and could solve every single problem I have today.

I want to fast forward now for the sake of this article to March 18th, 2023. This held no resemblance to the 365 days prior. I told you how I felt walking into the Canyon Club on my first day. On this particular Saturday, exactly one year later, my entrance included a very different view. I walked in through

those same double doors to a table full of gifts and my Canyon Club community full of eagerness to give me hugs, love and congratulations. I had never before felt that kind of unconditional love in my life; except for the last 365 days I had spent in the Canyon Club. In that year, I detoxed at the Canyon Club, I laughed at the Canyon Club and I cried at the Canyon Club. I met my best friends and my spiritual advisors at the Canyon Club. Overall, I became a man at the Canyon Club. And the Canyon Club kept on giving, as a party hosted by my Canyon Club sisters and brothers had been planned for me at a nearby restaurant that afternoon. I walked into the restaurant and saw about 80 of my best friends. I felt a new kind of love. It was the kind of love I would think only a mother shows to her child or that a child shows their aging parent. This was the kind of love that cannot be broken or taken away and I truly felt the power of God. I was filled with the love of God when my Sponsor said the kindest words a man has ever spoken about me. It brought tears to my eyes and as those 80 people sang Happy Birthday to this previously empty soul, I truly had a spiritual awakening. I have learned today, that is the only thing that can save an alcoholic like me.

I want to dedicate this article to the new man or woman, taking their first steps through the doors of their new life. Just know, it is possible to turn your attention to helping the person with one day less than you. That God will grant you grace. Stay close to God and the Newcomer and you'll stay far away from a drink. I am truly blessed and highly favored. I love Alcoholics Anonymous and my Canyon Club family.



A letter from the Editor

By Cecelia Lane

First, I want to thank those that took the time to contribute to this first addition. Second, I likely owe everyone an apology for a very delayed issue directly owing to my fears. This is one of my character defects that goes into full effect when I am feeling insecure. I just hit 6 months sober on April 10th and have been away from work the entire time to focus all my energy on my recovery. I have to admit I have been afraid of stepping back into “the real world” after being literally cradled in the arms of the program, the people and my God these past 6 months. Just as they say in the Big Book, “Sometimes we think fear ought to be classed with stealing. It seems to cause more trouble.” And so it is with me. Thankfully, this program has given me the ability to begin to work through so much of that fear with the help of my Higher Power, my Sponsor and the powerful 12 steps. Thankfully, the Canyon Club has given me the chance to face that fear, has entrusted me with this responsibility and in turn afforded me the opportunity to take my first huge step back into that real world. I hope you all enjoy this returning issue. I am looking for contributors of every kind for the issues going forward, to include media gurus, writers, photographers, artists, coders and the like. Please email me at lanececelia.pro@gmail.com so like everything we do in AA, we can do this better, together. Your Editor in Chief

INTRODUCING THE CANYON CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

- Exec. Board Chair – Topher H
- Secretary – Brittany H
- Treasurer – Tom S
- Clay J
- Chad P
- Mike P
- Ajia S (alternate)
- Dave P (alternate)



BECOME A CANYON CLUB MEMBER!

Becoming a member is one of the best and most affordable investments you can make in your recovery. Plus, you are gifting others who also need the canyon club to support their journey in sobriety. We are definitely not a glum lot! Experience an awesome sober social life become a member today!!!

The canyon club offers benefits that money can't buy... so if you want to be a part of one the best clubs head over to the CanyonClub.org website and get started.



An entire weekend dedicated 100% to our Canyon Club community!



Friday 5/26/2023	Saturday 5/27/2023
Kanyon Club Karaoke 9PM to 11PM	BBQ & Potluck All day long!
	Bingo 2PM to 3:30PM
	Concert in the Garden 3:30PM to 5PM
Sunday 5/28/2023	Monday 5/29/2023
Steps Come Alive AAOCYPA 2PM to 5PM	Speaker Jam & 50/50 Raffle 2PM to 5PM