

Jon's View

December 2006

Now, I will not go all the way back to December 16, 1976, but for those of you who have not read the history of the Club, I invite you to go back to Jon's View starting in June and catch up.

Well, I never thought this day would come, but sure enough, on the 16th of this month the Club will have completed it's 30th year of continuous operation. I remember the day my Dad and I were standing on Pine Street looking at this empty building together - I knew his thoughts were the same as mine, **"ARE WE CRAZY OR IS THIS THE BEST MOVE WE WILL HAVE EVER MADE?"** I only wish he were still alive to have seen this day arrive. If you have not been to the Club or seen the flyers circulating around, we are having a two-day celebration on Dec. 16th & 17th to mark this special anniversary – check our web site for details. I know most of you had not even been born, or certainly nowhere near old enough to know all that had taken place here to have this bar be where it is today. But, if you could stop for a moment and think back to 1975 and ponder what the world thought about Gays & Lesbians, in comparison to today, this was one risky ride my brother and I were asking my parents to take. There were no road maps available for this trip. However, with all my convictions and having already met many of the other gays & lesbians here in the East Bay, I knew this was the right move.



"Bunny" & Harry Crovo

What I would now like to look forward to is taking the Club's history, sprinkle it with a bit of hope, awe and renewed spirit for the future and see if we can't just take it to a new level.

Granted, this is NOT 1976 nor for that matter, even 1986. The Club is now more than just a gay bar or some small club in the East Bay that was a local alternative to San Francisco's gay nightlife. The club today has a full mixture of people who come to 1220 to enjoy many of the choices and weekly venues we present. One night may be Country; the next may be sounds of swishing petty coats on bearded guys or a lively Friday night crowd with a mixture of folks from the entire community. We have become a diverse club with not just gay and lesbian staff members, and the same



goes for the clientele. I have never had a sign on the front of the club because I did not want to cause any problems for either my costumers being harassed by entering the club, or have unwanted people wander in and not have the slightest clue as to what type of club it was.

After the AIDS crisis hit was when family members and coworkers of those living with AIDS began to come to the club and not only see something different from what they expected, but they also had a great time.



Jon's View

December 2006

Page 2

I hope all of you have a very safe and happy holiday season, and if you have not made any New Year's Eve plans see the web page for information on what the Club is doing that evening.

One of the most asked questions I get is why do I think this club and not some others have survived to make it 30 years. For me the answer is so easy - a willingness to change. When the club opened it was going to be a piano bar and dancing was never planned, actually at that time it was illegal for two people of the same sex to dance with each other. From being a piano bar we went to country, then to disco, then to pool hall and then back to dance. We then added stand up and then drag shows came along. I have done five major remodels over the years and it seems I am always moving walls or adding a section here or there. The point I wish to make is, it's once again time for a change at Club 1220. The club needs to spread its wings and widen its horizon for being of service to the community. I am sure many of you that go to the club can see some nights where it could be busier, whether it be a Saturday night or a Sunday, the club needs to attract more people.

More and more night clubs are hosting "Alternative Nights" as a promotion to boost a slow night in their club. It's time that 1220 follow the same idea. One of the most asked questions I get on the web is from people who may or may not be gay is; are they welcome to come in the club. I think one of the worst things Club 1220 could do would be to keep anyone out of the club who would like to come and enjoy our home with us. I know, not everyone will agree with me on this topic as I have heard from them in the past when I hired a straight person to work at the bar. I am sorry for not being able to please everyone, but I firmly believe if we are asking the world to accept us as equals then we should be willing to do the same in

In closing, we along with our entire family would like to thank you and this community for giving us the opportunity to serve you for 30 years. I look forward to a long relationship with you in the future and I feel very lucky to have lived in Contra Costa County.

Jon, Steve & Champ



MS. Jon Crovo

