



Well, I hope you all had a safe and happy Halloween and now ready for the family time of year as we quickly approach Thanksgiving and the

We are in the final phase of completing our 30th year at the club and I will be wrapping up the history of our journey that started as a dream way back in 1975. If you are just reading the View for the first time, you might want to go back to the June issue and read where the club started and how we got to where we are



today. In last months View I was just giving some insight as to what the beginning of the AIDS epidemic was like, not only for our community, but also for all those it affected.

Gay vs. Str8

I remember years ago the first straight person I hired to work behind the bar. She was a very out going young lady with a great flare for being behind a bar, never mind a gay and lesbian bar. I think, to be honest, her being a woman was less of a threat to the gays and lesbians than was the reality of her being "straight" - they wanted "OUR" club to be for "us only." The women took to her right away, and after the men got used to it, they too seemed OK with the idea of a NON-gay person working at 1220. But, I can't say the same held true when I hired my first straight male bartender. I wouldn't even consider printing some of the emails I received over the years because of it - and, I refuse to give those individuals any more attention than what they had already been given when I replied to their emails. And too, it wouldn't necessarily make us look very good as a community, who has gone out of it's way over the years to be accepting of others, to close our doors to anyone other than the GLBT community. I have never understood that mentality of hunker down and only go to places that are either gay or gay friendly only. I would not want 100% of any one type of individual to come to the club - we pride ourselves on Diversity - and why not within the club as well. One of the reasons that people feel so comfortable there is because of their acceptance. I think we have come a long way, however our community still has some territory yet to cover.

I said in the last issue that I do truly believe this is when our community started to get it's sea legs, not only on this terrible disease we were facing but as a group of people as a whole who had to live with this on a daily basis. I think the best way to give you an example would be to think back to what it was like right after the attacks on New York on 9/11. After the country came out of the shock process they began to focus and work in many areas to make us all safer and more aware of the NEW WORLD we were living in. Well, I think this is just what the Gay & Lesbian community had to do. We first got past the devastation we were facing everyday with death but it was still necessary to let the world know we were not going to go away. The first Gay Day Parade we organized we let the theme show the world just that. Instead of crawling under a bush or rock we took the fight to the state and local governments as well as to Washington. We had a real crisis on our hands and everyone better wake up, and not just the gay men that were being hit by this disease.

I can say for certain that our lives were never the same, but in some ways that was not a bad thing. We needed to clean up our act and start to show the younger generation that was quickly coming up behind us that if they did not protect themselves they could end up with a life ending disease. I know from seeing our community go through this process it was not easy on anyone, but yet so rewarding as we started to mature and face the music that was ahead of us.

By now we had several places in Contra Costa to go to if you were in need of help, not only those with HIV but now we had groups starting up for family members to learn from and to give their support as well.

This also I think will mark the time in our history that the straight community began to take notice of us in a different light. First, we had family members wanting to come to the club and see where it was that there loved one went and received so much support. From there, we started to show up on the TV more, and our lifestyle was no longer so far back in the closet that one had to hide it. At each and every funeral I went to, I could think of at least one person who wanted to get to know more about our lifestyle and all it entailed.

Today I would say that about 25% of the people who come to Club 1220 are not gay or Bi, they just happen to either know a gay person or just feel very comfortable coming to such a fun and safe club. Now, I am not saying it is due to the AIDS crisis and that was the only reason we received all this new attention, but it was a major factor I think, and it did get the ball rolling in the right direction.

That is all for this month. Please check the web site for our holiday events and don't forget to mark the weekend of the 16th & 17th of December for our big 30th Anniversary!

Play safe and have fun.

Jon and Champ



You're Invited
to

CLUB 1220's

Contra Costa County's Oldest Gay & Lesbian Establishment

30th Anniversary Celebration!

1976 ~ 2006

Jon, Steven, Champ and the entire Club 1220 Staff cordially invite you to attend

CLUB 1220's

30th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday - Dec. 16, 2006

4pm ~ 2am

1976 ~ 2006

Party ~ Party ~ Party ~ Party

Door Prizes

Surprises? What Surprises?
(Come and find out)

Sunday - Dec. 17, 2006

4pm ~ 7pm

Buffet ~ Champagne

Your Host and MC ~ Jon Crovo

30 Years of History
Mingo Junction Letter

with Guests

Kitty Litter
Danny Williams

925.938.4550

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