



# A NEW LEAF

A PUBLICATION OF MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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## I Am Alive! by Tim *posted on the internet*

I haven't posted in quite a while, but I've been following the discussion almost daily and guess I'm overdue for giving something back. So first of all, thanks fellow tokers for keeping me clean. Through your help the Great Spirit has given me that gift one day at a time for something over 800 days. That's 800 presents, because I couldn't do it alone and without your help. I'd no doubt fall again under Mary Jane's "un-present" power. She is just a little spirit compared to the Great Spirit that is my higher power, but she is still much more powerful than I am.

A recent share prompted me to write because of the question about following her call despite oneself. I know that feeling all too well. I hear her seductive song and my will is powerless to resist because I have the disease, that cunning, baffling, powerful malady that makes me unable to will her away. So the only way I can stay clean is by trying to get to a meeting every day and working the program as best I can. And that's a real bargain. I smoked all day every day, and I need to spend only an hour or two a day to put myself in a position to receive the Gift of Grace.

After having been given that Present for more than 8 years of days, I relapsed. The great "I AM" was doing SO well that I thought I didn't need meetings. Then one day I felt nauseated from having to take lots of antibiotics and knew exactly what medicine would make me feel OK. Mary Jane's got the cure. I promised myself that I would only smoke until I was able to get off the antibiotics and that I would only smoke when

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## Learning from Relapses

by Sharon D. *posted on the internet*

After one year clean, some of the memories of my using are fading; but as I remember it, I most wanted to quit when I was stoned. I would make all these big resolutions about how bad the pot was for me. Then when I came off the high, I would forget. Then the addiction would override the resolutions, and I would not be able to resist the COMPULSION to use again.

Like many of you, I quit for a week or a month or 6 months, but always talked myself back into using or acted upon an impulse. Then I would smoke and remember all the reasons why I wanted to quit and resolve to quit again. I was in a vicious cycle of insanity. I was powerless over marijuana and needed a power greater than myself and my own weak resolutions.

When I found MA online, I was still using. I kept my pipe by my computer and smoked when I was participating in online meetings or reading posts. But the experience, strength, and hope I found in the fellowship and in the Steps gave me the spiritual strength I needed to find my Higher Power again and to turn my life and will over to that power. Through the grace of the God of my understanding, I have been able to resist the urge to smoke again and have found a better way of living, free of the befuddling influence of THC.

For those of you who are troubled by your relapses, I feel a need to reassure you that they are only relapses and do not mean that you have fallen back into the full-blown clutches of your addiction. We can learn a lot

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## A NEW LEAF

The purpose of A New Leaf is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service. The articles contained in A New Leaf are the sole opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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## I Am Alive! *continued from page one*

I actually felt nauseated.

Well, guess what happened. I scored some dope one afternoon and stayed stoned for a whole year. The fact that I had not smoked for 8 years had no attenuating affect. I picked up right where I left off: I'm just another garden variety pothead, no different.

It was very hard coming back. I would get stoned and then my disease would tell me I couldn't go to a meeting because I was stoned. I would get a few days and then relapse. A few weeks and relapse. Finally, I decided I would go to at least one meeting every day regardless of what I had to smoke or drink. I shared my struggle. And I'm really lucky that you folks and the other people in the program called the Great Spirit to my aid and brought the gift back to me again. Now I get scared if I miss a day.

During these past two years, lots of situations have confronted me that would have been perfect excuses to light up. I've had serious surgery eight times (most recently in February). I've had to take lots of antibiotics and they have made me feel nauseated. My father died suddenly last June. My business began unravelling when the dot-com bubble burst and was completely undone by 9-11. I had to sell my house and move to another state.

But, guess what? The Great Spirit does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. In the first place, I AM ALIVE! Half the people who go through what I've been through don't survive. And although my father's death was a shock to us all, it has brought me closer to my family and helped me learn more from him in new ways. Also, I immediately got some unexpected inheritance which was just enough to tide us over the rough spots financially.

My wife and I moved to be nearer some of my family members, and they have been a great help and support through my last surgery. The move has been very difficult for us: it was hard to sell a house we loved and move across the country. But our house in New York had a big mortgage, thus was really owned by the bank. And the Great Spirit enabled us to sell that house for more than twice what we paid, which gave us enough money to buy our place out here outright, so we actually own it.

And best of all, I haven't even had an urge to smoke because you folks have been looking out for me. Everything used to be a reason to smoke: good news, bad news, no news. But if everything is a reason to smoke, nothing is. And nothing has been. When I moved here there were two MA meetings a week in the Boulder area. Now there are three, just as there were back in New York. And today I haven't yet smoked and probably won't for the rest of the day after spending this time online with you folks.

THANK YOU!



## Learning From Relapses *continued from page one*

about ourselves from our relapses that can actually strengthen us in our recovery.

None of us wants to break our winning streak and feel that we have to start all over again. Even though you may start the count again, you are not starting back at the same place you were when you began your recovery. You are miles further now the road and you do not go back to the beginning of the journey. You just stubbed your toe on a rock in the road. What you do is get up and get back on the path. Next time you see a rock in the road, the chances are you will walk around it instead of stubbing your toe again. We learn lessons from our relapses that we can apply to future obstacles in our path.

You newbies may not understand how much you do for us who are a little farther along in our recovery. When you so honestly and poignantly share your struggles and your feelings, you remind us of how far we have come and how precarious our recovery will always be. You give us an opportunity to revisit our own history and remind us of the tools we have used to successfully resist the compulsion to smoke. I am personally very thankful for what I learn from you and for the opportunity you give me to carry the message of hope to those of you who still suffer. When I share the message with you, I am also giving it back to myself.

Your determination to recover is evident in the longing for healing that is articulated in your shares. As long as you keep coming back, even in your imperfection, you demonstrate that you still have hope within yourself and you give us hope for ourselves. PLEASE keep coming back for us as well as for you.

## A Note of Thanks

A New Leaf Publications would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Carol McD, who has served ANLP in one capacity or another for nearly a decade, most recently as Treasurer. Carol's love for the fellowship of MA and her commitment to service have been an inspiration to many. ANLP would also like to congratulate and welcome Michael V. as the new treasurer of ANLP.

## "The Chip" by Rockin' Rob

I had such a great time this year at our 2002 Convention "Smokeless in Seattle". I actually took a week off from work to spend more time there, and do the tourist thing with a local friend. This was my second MA Convention, and I will never forget either of them.

One thing did really stand out that both Conventions had in common, which would be 'The Chip'. In Seattle some Representatives of our Philly Chapter showed up with a giant purple MA chip. At first it was mistakenly presented as the chip from Southern California, but the one Philly member cleared that up. She said the Chip was created by them as a result of hearing Terrorist John's story at the prior convention in Orange County. They had brought the chip to Seattle to get some good old MO-JO on it from everyone at the Convention.

Well, having attended the Orange County Convention the prior year, I remember Terrorist John's story very well. Now the addict that I am, thought to myself how John would be so proud of me if I could get my hand on that chip. And I was not shocked when everyone was looking for the chip the next morning, only to find a note (no not a ransom note) stating that it was placed under the stage. And there it was, under the stage.

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# "The Chip"

*concluded*

I found it funny, and told the Philly Reps they should never had taken their eyes off of it. And I was then told that they'd be keeping their eyes on me. All seemed well on the final day, and everyone was eating cake after the countdown was complete. I sat alone at a table eating mine, when suddenly I looked over to the chair to my left and could not believe my eyes. There was the big purple chip! All alone on the chair! Again I thought about making John proud of me, and then had to play the tape through to its end.

I remembered how John had to appologize after the last time he stole the Southern California chip, and that the newer members did not appreciate that it was all done in fun. I knew then that I could not take the chip; even though I really wanted to. I got up and found a Philly member, and pointed out the chip being unattended. I expressed to them what had gone through my mind, and we laughed about it. They actually took a picture of me with it under my coat, making a mad dash.

John told the story of the chip to encourage closeness between different groups, and the one from Philly did exactly that; made us closer.



# MA WORLDWIDE

For Land and Online Meeting Schedules Go To: <http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>

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**New York (District 8)**  
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**Santa Cruz (District 9)**  
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**LA County East (District 10)**  
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**District 2**

Nina	6/21/85	17 Years
Kevin	6/??/85	17 Years
Kathy L.	6/14/95	7 Years
Bob K.	6/3/97	5 Years
Chris M.	6/10/00	2 Years

**District 3**

Jerry P.	6/27/93	9 Years
Ron A.	6/15/95	7 Years

**District 4**

Theresa H.	4/28/00	2 Years
Stephanie W.	6/15/99	3 Years
Melanie M.	6/21/01	1 Year!

**District 5**

Amber B.	6/15/92	10 Years
Brad M.	6/3/97	5 Years

**District 6 (Belated)**

George L.	5/13/91	11 Years
Sandy L.	5/29/94	8 Years
Joey	5/12/88	4 Years
Doug D.	5/9/01	1 Year!
Casey K.	5/11/01	1 Year!

**District 6 (Current)**

Carol Mc.	6/23/88	14 Years
Deb	6/20/94	8 Years
Alice K.	6/1/95	7 Years
Allison M.	6/1/95	7 Years
Grant D.	6/24/99	3 Years
Mark I.	6/21/94	3Years

**District 7**

Patrick	4/20/99	3 Years
Elanit	4/23/00	2 Years
Alex C.	4/27/00	2 Years
Michael F.	5/1/91	11 Years
Alan B.	5/1/97	5 Years
Tommy J.	5/1/88	4 Years

**District 8**

Libby G.	6/6/92	12 Years
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**District 9**

Chris P.	5/9/01	1 Year!
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**District 10**

Charlotte M.	5/6/88	14 Years
Gene	4/24/01	1 Year!
Mike	4/21/01	1 Year!

**Georgia**

Clara U.	6/1/96	6 Years
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**Celebrating 214Years of Sobriety in This Issue!**