



A NEW LEAF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MA NEWSLETTER
2628 PROSPECT AVENUE
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214

JULY 1992
STEVE E. & KARIE M., Eds.
FAX#: 213-261-5192

BIRTHDAY BEGINNINGS

It all started the day I flipped the March calendar page over and saw the little birthday cake sketch that I had drawn on April 21st (like a good little co-dependent!). As I looked at the sketch and thought over all that that first year of my husband's sobriety meant to me, reality hit me like a ton of bricks... "What are you waiting for?" a voice screamed inside my head. I realized that this was the best chance that I might *ever* have to get ON with MY life. I could do all that self-help stuff that I always thought I would have to leave him to do *and* stay married. I would not have the same old resistance and threat of abuse caused by his antipathy to the "new" stronger me. Not only was he sober and supportive, he was actually pushing me hard to go to meetings with or without him, and to develop my own interest. He kept talking about needing space and needing to separate so we would both have room to grow. The more I heard, the tighter I held on. Talk about a "clinging vine". After years of thinking about leaving him to start my own self-realization, I just couldn't understand it when he revealed that he felt the same way in our relationship - stifled and strangled. Until I saw that birthday cake... That's when I realized that his sobriety HAS happened, that I *could* make changes in myself and still have a relationship, and that even if *he* had setbacks, there was no excuse for ME not to go forward. This process of letting go to give each other more room hasn't been easy and after two years is not even close to being over. But we have both taken the first steps toward "wholeness". We are no

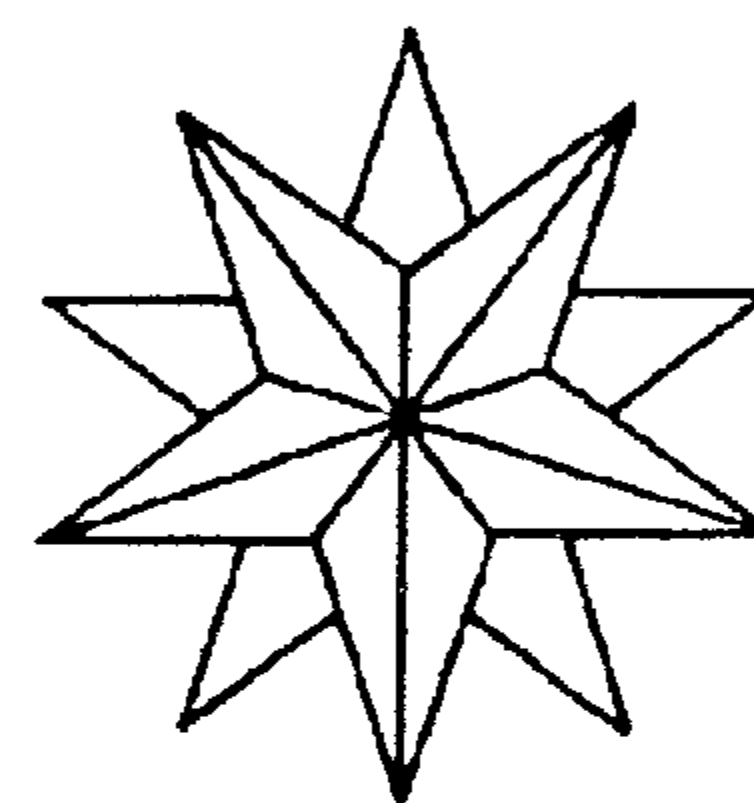
longer so angry at each other for not being able to fill the gaps in ourselves, and without so much anger in the way, we are beginning to become closer. We are working on filling the gaps with acceptance. Kalyka W.

HELPLINE

If you need to  talk, here's a list of people who would like to listen.

Al & Michelle E . . .	818-994-3161
Karie M	818-884-1223
Terri R	818-563-6689
Danny G	805-949-9741
Tina K	818-957-3584
Dave K	818-704-8812
Az A.	714-288-9139
Grady S	818-363-9510
Fred M.	213-558-3864
Matt D	619-943-9442
Pat R.	619-947-4113

Remember, we are not alone - we are all here to help each other.



**Happy
Birthday!!**

**JAMIE B. JULY 1 TWO YEARS
BETSY T. JULY 1 ONE YEAR
JOHN Mc. JULY 2 ONE YEAR
CHRIS F. JULY 16 THREE YEARS
SCOTT B. JULY 27 SIX YEARS
MARIAN M. JULY 30 ONE YEAR**



MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS EVENTS CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 24-26

CONTACT:

DAVE 818-704-8812

TINA 818-957-3584

SECOND ANNUAL CAMPOUT

NEW LOCATION!!!

Apparently, it was not possible to get a reservation for San Clemente and the Beach Campout has been moved. It is now at Emma Woods State Beach, which is off the Main Street Exit off the 101 in Ventura at the west end. We can accommodate 30 people maximum, so get your reservation in NOW! The cost will be less than \$5.00 per person, depending upon how many people show. You MUST call Dave and confirm, even if you have already confirmed the San Clemente location. Bring your own stuff, food, etc. There are cold showers for the stout of heart.

AUGUST 29

CONTACT:

GEORGE 818-771-0704

PIRATE PARTY!!!



This is a costume party with a pirate motif, mateys.

DISTRICT 5

INTERGROUP

*Thursday,
August 6, 1992*

*First Christian Church
of Orange
1130 Walnut St.
Orange, CA 92667*

DISTRICT 6

GSO MEETING

*Thursday,
August 6, 1992 7:30 PM
Andi's 818-713-1006
5438 Lubao Ave.
Woodland Hills*

**Come at 6:00 for
Potluck and
Swimming!**

DISTRICT 7

GSR MEETING

*Call Fred M. for Info
310-558-3864*

SPIRITUALLY CORRECT

I was sitting at home, watching television. It was around ten o'clock at night and I was in my usual stoned out state of mind (some would refer to it as mellow. I'd say just plain zoned). The situation was status quo. As I sat there, it occurred to me that nothing was working right. I mean, you know, the women, the job, the weather, the drugs, my life, nothing. Doesn't sound like much of a

bottom, does it? I wasn't exactly, as they say in Narcotics Anonymous, "sprung" or "to the curb". Looking back, I had hit a spiritual bottom. I was spiritually null and void.

After two and a half years of sobriety, I find my "spiritual correctness" is in proportion to the degree I'm talking the steps and practicing unconditional love and acceptance. In other words, doing my program. This past year I've questioned spirituality.

Spiritually Correct, from Page Two)

I've looked at it from an intellectual point of view and questioned it. I questioned my own belief in a power greater than myself. I found out spirituality doesn't lend itself to that kind of examination or questioning. My experience in the program and with "turning it over" taught me that the spiritual concept works for me. That's all I need to know. Spirituality is something that is built and reinforced over a period of time. Today, I feel like I'm starting over with the spiritual principles of the program. Like Tina said in her article, "Letting Go", there is a lesson to be learned in everything, no matter how serious or how simple.

If you're having trouble with the spiritual aspect of the program, give it time. Bill W. states it eloquently in "Came to Believe". "The process of enlightenment is usually slow. But, in the end, our seeking always brings a finding. These great mysteries are, after all, enshrined in complete simplicity". Albert J.

Two Gifts

As I trudge the road from being a self-centered, selfish, unhappy drug addict individual to a happy, sometimes serene and giving recovering addict, I feel compelled to write about a couple of beautiful and spiritual things that have uplifted my life as the result of this program.

First and foremost is the finding and presence of a higher power that I can contemplate for myself. I have always believed in God, but never could quite find a way to let him in to do the things I could not do for myself and thus help me to remove my defects of character, perhaps because I kept praying for things to happen instead of praying for the knowledge of God's will for me and the power to carry that out. I now have the power of God behind me because I only ask for his guidance for me and try to do his will. As a result, for turning my life over to him, at times he gives me some serenity. So you see I now realize that I must not practice self-will and control. Turning things over to God and letting him run the show, that is what truly works for me. What a burden lifted.

The second thing I wanted to share about is this wonderful fellowship we have in this program. I now have friends that I truly call my own. It means so much to me and I am

so grateful that I know people in this program that will be there if I am in need of someone to talk to or if I just want to get together and have a good time. All of the MA events I have been to have been a blast. I can best describe it as a big family with more than plenty of love to go around. Never have I thought you could have such a good time being sober. We are all just as fun and crazy as ever, but with one great exception, we don't use.

I love this program and I love everyone of you. Thank you all for helping this kid start to grow up, gain some self-esteem, and have great, great fun. One day at a time.
Brian A.

On Surrender

Do you think that to surrender means to cease action? Does the idea of surrendering your will to a higher power conjure up images or feelings of passivity and being a wimp? If so, then it's time to think again because surrender is an essential part of working a 12-step program and is not a passive step at all.

Once you surrender, you must take action immediately. For example, when the bad guys in a movie get caught and surrender to the hero, what happens? They immediately have to start doing things right - raise their hands, come out in the open, get on off to jail, etc. They don't just give up, then get to sit around eating guacamole. Their surrender leads them into action.

The people in MA who have what I want seem to have one major thing in common. They are into "doing". They are in motion and action. They go to meetings; they get a sponsor to work with or sponsor others; they read the Big Book and work the steps; they make friends in the program; they call these friends and accept commitments.

As messed up as we drug addicts and alcoholics are, we are definitely not passive people. The idea of rolling over and playing dead just doesn't appeal to our natures. Perhaps that's where some of us have had problems with surrendering, whether it be our addictions, our wills, or our character defects, because we think of surrender as a passive action. It's not. When you surrender you go into action. Ask your Higher Power, "now that I'm willing to surrender, what do I do? Show me the footwork." Roger K.



Southern California Marijuana Anonymous Schedule of Meetings

Updated 7-2-92



SUNDAY

10:00 AM Torrance - Participation *(67/F5)
4025 W. 226th St.
(Suncrest Hospital)

4:30 PM West Hollywood - Book Study *(33/F4)
1296 N. Fairfax (at Fountain)
(United Methodist Church)

5:30 PM Glendale - Discussion *(25/C4)
225-D N. Maryland Ave., Upstairs
(Positive Directions Activity Center)

7:00 PM Newport Bch - Open Panel *(33/C4,OC) H/A
301 Newport Blvd. (Patient Lounge)
(Hoag Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit)

MONDAY

7:30 PM Orange - Participation *(17/B4,O.C.) H/A
1100 W. Stewart
(Sister Elizabeth Recovery Center)

8:00 PM North Hollywood - Participatn. *(16/A5)
6455 Coldwater Canyon Blvd., Upstairs
(Life Plus Institute)

8:30 PM W. Hillywd "Rastaman Vibrations" *(33/D5)
8939-1/2 Santa Monica Blvd., Upstairs
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Center)

8:30 PM Hesperia H/A
15800 Main Street, Suite 170
(Traffic School Office)

TUESDAY

7:30 PM Orange - Women's Stag *(17/E2, O.C.)
401 S. Tustin Ave.
(Orange County Comm. Hospital)

7:30 PM Orange - "Roach Motel" *(17/E4, O.C.)
401 S. Tustin Ave.
(OC Comm. Hospital Cafeteria)

8:00 PM Mar Vista - Participation *(49/F2)
3590 Grandview Blvd.
(2 blk N. Venice - 1 blk E. Centinela)
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)

8:30 PM Woodland Hills - Participation *(13/D1)H/A
20969 Ventura Blvd. #19
(French Quarter Building)

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM Lancaster - StpStdy/Partcptn *(160/B5) H/A
44743 Yucca Avenue
(Old Skating Rink)

7:00 PM Pasadena *(27/F4)
2900 East Del Mar Blvd.
(Las Encinas Hospital)

7:30 PM Culver City - Beginner's Meeting *(42/C6)
3853 Dunn Dr.
(1 blk E. of Clarington - N. of Washington
(Cornerstone House)

8:00 PM Costa Mesa - Big Bk Stdy *(31/C1,O.C.) H/A
661 Hamilton, Room 640
(REA Community Center)

8:15 PM Van Nuys - Book & Step Study *(15/C4)
15220 Vanowen Blvd.
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)

8:15 PM Los Angeles - Participation *(34/B4)
1213 N. Highland Ave
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Services Center
All Welcome

THURSDAY

7:30 PM Van Nuys *(15/C4)
15220 Vanowen Blvd.
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)

8:00 PM Mar Vista *(49/F2)
3590 Grandview Blvd.
(2 blk N. Venice - 1 blk E. Centinela)
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)

8:00 PM Mission Viejo - Stp Stdy "Last Connection"
23228 Madero, Conference Room
Mission Viejo Charter Hospital

FRIDAY

6:30 PM Pasadena *(27/B3) H/A
131 N. El Molino, #320
(Pasadena Cncl on Alcoholism/Drug Dep.)

7:30 PM Orange "TGIF" Step Study*(17/B4,O.C.) H/A
812 Town and Country
(Ground Floor, Room 13)

8:00 PM Northridge - Participation *(14/C1) H/A
18420 Roscoe (at Reseda Blvd)
(Pavilion Plaza)

8:30 PM West Hollywood *(33/D5)
"Resin Resisters" - Step Study
8939-1/2 Santa Monica Blvd. Upstairs
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Center)

SATURDAY

10:30 AM Los Angeles - Speaker Meeting. *(34/B4)
1213 N. Highland Ave
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Services Center
All Welcome

19:30 AM Woodland Hills - Spkr Meeting *(12/E5)
Saturday Morning Live!
21949 Ybarra Rd.
Woodland Hills

12:00 Noon Whittier - Participation *(55/D6)
Room #N
12200 Washington Blvd.

6:00 PM San Diego, "Weed Whackers"
9184 Gramercy Dr. (Von's Shopping Center)
(Serenity Shop - Back Room)

6:00 PM Fountain Valley Participation
16533 Brookhurst
(Elaine's Gifts Back Door)

LEGEND

* - Thomas Guide Coordinates
H/A - Handicapped Accessible

For Information on Meetings
in Other Areas, Call
1-800-766-6779

MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS
P.O. BOX 2912
VAN NUYS, CA 91404

(818)-566-3678
(213)-964-2370
(714)-491-6053