



# A NEW LEAF

November 1997  
Volume 7 - No. 11

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

## Presents of Presence

By Anonymous, District 6

**M**y friend Molly died this week. We've known for months that she was going to, but it still came as a surprise. I think it came as a surprise to her too, fortunately. She thought she was going into the hospital for her almost-regular blood transfusion on Friday. She died on Saturday. She feared it was going to be a long, slow decline, but she had been camping at a Women's Retreat just a couple of weeks ago and told her friends that she would be back next year.

When I first met Molly, she was new and scared and angry and resentful and wanted to get sobriety the easier, softer way. She whined a lot and kept going over the same issues again and again and again, and expected different results each time. A real addict. She was very angry at God. She had a number of sponsors before she finally settled down to approaching recovery the Program way, not her way. She'd get right up there to Step Four and then decide what she really needed was another sponsor.

A friend of mine and I passed her back and forth a couple of times. The very next day after the last time she asked me, she had a real breakthrough with her sponsor. She was afraid to tell me she wanted to stay where she was. She

didn't want to hurt my feelings. But after that breakthrough, it was a blessing in my life to be able to step back and watch her change and grow and blossom.

She fought the cancer for a long time. Just this winter she thought

*She went down two paths at once. She prepared for living and dying at the same time. I cannot imagine that to be easy.*

she was in remission again, only to find out a couple of months later it was all over her. So she went down two paths at once. She really prepared for living and dying at the

## Down and Up

By Kevin, District 6

**M**y love of pot started the first time I got stoned. I was 14.

When I first smoked pot, I didn't see the point, because I didn't feel high. I'd been drinking alcohol for a year already, and I liked it. The first time I felt stoned from weed though, I dropped the bottle and picked up the pipe.

That was the start of two-and-a-half years of hell.

For the first few months, I didn't

same time. I cannot imagine that to be an easy thing to do. She set up a living will, with her minister knowing what her wishes about treatment were; in the meantime, she registered for school. She wrote her will, and started to paint her apartment. She didn't do it all perfect all the time (her sponsor and friends ended up having to break into the apartment to get to the cats

at the end), but she did a pretty damn good job. Sometimes she was in complete denial, and sometimes she was taking care of business.

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think pot controlled my life, because I didn't smoke like everyone else. I just smoked on occasion. Once I got to high school, I saw getting high as a great opportunity to make friends. I eventually got into the stoner circle, but I never felt a part of that crowd. I didn't smoke like them.

Since I thought my parents were idiots, I knew I could "act sober" around them. Hah! My parents knew what was up. My 1.6 grade

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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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## Hollywood Goes North

### Saturday Night Events at the 4th Annual MA Convention...Speakers & Workshops

#### Dinner, Dance, Surprises...Beware!

**H**ere's the deal: You come dressed as your favorite Hollywood celebrity for the 1988 Mari Awards (can you say, "Mary"?). Leave to us to lay the red carpet and announce your entrance, as we spoof the Academy Awards (can you say, "Oskar"?). If you are interested in performing at the Mari Awards, please contact B.W. at (415) 929-8511 as soon as possible, since there will be space for only a few performances. Hosted by George B. (as Bobby Blue) and Brian K. (as who?).

Something to keep your eye out for are the world-famous MA Cheerleaders, who will be making their cameo performances on Friday and Saturday.

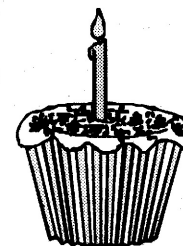
Also note the following speakers and workshops.

- Friday speaker: B.W.
- Saturday speaker: Harry H.
- Sunday speaker: Nina S.
- Saturday workshop #1: Julia Ross on marijuana addiction and the brain; how to heal the body.
- Saturday workshop #2: Heather Turey on who is a marijuana addict and what happens to the family.

For more information about the 1998 Convention to take place in Oakland, California, on January 16-18, see the last page of this issue.

We hope to see you there! ☺

## Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



### District 2

Barbara	Oct 4	1 yr
Kevin	Oct 5	1 yr
Jason	Oct 19	1 yr

### District 3

Steve Mc.	Oct 4	4 yrs
Judy F. Mc.	Oct 10	4 yrs
Richard A.	Oct 10	8 yrs
Diane F.	Oct 22	6 yrs
Ron M.	Oct 22	8 yrs
Mel G.	Oct 31	10 yrs

### District 4

Ted	Sep 29	1 yr
George	Oct 29	8 yrs

### District 6

Joanne M.	Oct 2	9 yrs
Tomasso G.	Oct 7	6 yrs
Kim B.	Oct 15	2 yrs
Rob M.	Oct 15	4 yrs
Brian D.	Oct 16	10 yrs
Ilene M.	Oct 20	3 yrs
Kathy B.	Oct 21	11 yrs

Sanford G.	Oct 25	9 yrs
Randy F.	Oct 25	10 yrs

### District 7

Dauna W.	Oct 10	5 yrs
Nancy G.	Oct 16	4 yrs
Sharon P.	Oct 16	7 yrs
John C.	Oct 30	3 yrs

### District 11

D.J.	Sep 3	1 yr
Joseph	Sep 10	1 yr
Mike C.	Sep 18	13 yrs
Marilyn	Oct 6	1 yr
Susan B.	Oct 9	11 yrs

### Eastern Pennsylvania

John J.	Sep 26	6 yrs
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### New Zealand

Tony W.	Jul 20	5 yrs
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## Down and Up

Continued from Page 1

point average was a big clue that I had something more important to do than homework. When I got caught dealing, my parents decided to raid my room. They found everything but the pot I had on me.

I didn't care. I just smoked outside the day after they caught me. So I was busted. Big deal. I promised to go to MA, but I really didn't intend to stay sober. I didn't want to be in a room full of addicts, because I thought I could stop any time I wanted. I just didn't want to.

Soon after, I was caught shoplifting. My mom and dad came and picked me up. Another slap on the wrist. I stopped getting high for about two months—but when I started again, it was like I never stopped. My home life was awful. I was in a constant battle with my parents, and my little brother was being hurt as a result of my selfishness. I thought I was the only person in the whole world.

I was using every day when everything finally hit the fan. My dad broke my guitars, so I ran away. I was caught one week later in Santa Barbara. I told my parents I had a problem, and I needed help.

I came into MA a week later. Since then, I haven't smoked pot once. I have noticed a vast improvement in my life, and it can only get better. So if you are new in the program, the best advice I know is read the literature, get a sponsor, and take a commitment. But more important, keep coming back, because life is worth living. ☉  
**Would you like to contribute to *Teens in Recovery*? If you are a sober teen or became sober as a teen, we want your story. Mail it to: MA District 6, Literature Chairperson, P.O. Box 2433, Van Nuys, CA 91404**

## Presents of Presence

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She didn't feel sorry for herself, she just did what she could every day. Some days she was too tired to do anything but sleep. Some days she was planting bulbs for next spring. Some days she call and we'd go through a guided meditation to help her get to sleep. Some days we'd go out to lunch and "rate" the men walking by. Still, she never used marijuana or alcohol again. The pain pills were prescribed and were very necessary. But she was even careful about that.

Her mother died a few years ago; she had no siblings, so MA and her church were her family. One of our members played taxi and drove her to her chemotherapy appointments. Another made sure the acting-taxi could get off from work. Members fed her cats when she was in the hospital. MA members and church friends brought her food when she went through weak periods. One friend helped her patch the walls she was painting. Members and church friends would take her and pick her up from the hospital. Her sponsor and friends cleaned her apartment a number of times. She was so broke, her program friends raised the money to pay for her cremation. And a brand new member gave a home to her newly orphaned cats.

But this isn't about "poor Molly." This is about Triumphant Molly. It's about Molly who learned how to Be Here Now, to be present, to experience presence. It's about Molly who learned how to hope for the best, but plan for the worst. It's about Molly who discovered her Higher Power would take care of her somehow, and learned to trust in God again. It's about Molly who went through some of the toughest

stuff we can do in life, and never drank or used again.

Thank you for being my friend, Molly. Never again will I see the Seven Sisters—as you called the Pleiades—in the autumn and winter skies without thinking of you. ☉

### New Literature, Stories

The Literature Trustee is seeking drafts or working copies of brochures that deal with:

- Anonymity
- Study guide for book study meeting using *Life with Hope*
- MA Meetings and the Home Group
- Denial
- Meditation

Please forward a copy of any of these to District 11 (especially the one on MA Meetings and the Home Group, as we don't have a copy and this year's conference mandated it be worked on and presented to the next conference for approval).

Also, we'd appreciate seeing copies of *any* brochures your district or meeting is working on. District 11 can serve as a clearinghouse to distribute draft brochures to all other districts.

Finally, we want your story for the Second Edition of *Life With Hope*. Stories should be 5-8 typed, double-spaced pages. All stories will be reviewed, and 12 will be approved at the 1998 MAWS Conference.

Send brochures, drafts, and stories to Marijuana Anonymous, District 11, P.O. Box 14125, Portland, OR 97293-0125. For more info, contact Susan B. at (503) 771-8662.

# The Fourth Annual MA Convention

*Stepping Out of the Fog: Recovery for Mind, Body & Spirit*

January 16, 17, 18, 1998

Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland, CA



## Tentative Agenda

*(specific starting times for registration, workshops, and meetings to be announced)*

### Friday, January 16

4 pm registration opens  
dinner on your own  
opening meeting  
entertainment

### Saturday, January 17

breakfast  
workshops and meetings  
banquet dinner  
entertainment

### Sunday, January 18

breakfast  
workshops  
closing meeting

## Hotel Registration

*(Hotel is not included in registration costs; you must book your room separately)*

**Oakland Marriott, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA – (800) 228-9290 or (510) 451-4000**

Room rates: \$89 per night plus tax (1–4 persons per room)

Reservations **MUST** be made by December 16, 1997 to receive Convention rate

After December 16 you will pay the regular room rate of \$99 per night *and* rooms may not be available!

You must say you are with the MA Convention to receive this rate

You *may* stay Sunday night at the special Convention room rate if you wish

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## Convention Registration Order Form

### Individual Events

	Cost	#tickets	Total
Friday meeting, snack bar and entertainment only	20.00	_____	\$_____
Saturday breakfast buffet and workshops only	30.00	_____	_____
Saturday banquet dinner/entertainment only	40.00	_____	_____
Saturday day pass (no food)	20.00	_____	_____
Sunday breakfast buffet/workshops/meeting	30.00	_____	_____
Sunday day pass (no food)	15.00	_____	_____

*(all events include coffee, juices, and ice water — soda available in hospitality suite)*

### Full Packages

	Cost	#tickets	Total
Before December 1 – All events and food (save \$25.00)	95.00	_____	\$_____
After December 1 – All events and food (save \$10.00)	110.00	_____	_____
Before December 1 – Day pass, all days (save \$15.00)	40.00	_____	_____
After December 1 – Day pass, all days (save \$10.00)	45.00	_____	_____

Send order form and check for total amount payable to:

**MA Convention**

**P.O. Box 8354, Berkeley, CA 94707**

**Total Registration Cost \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet dinner choice: Chicken (qty) \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian (qty) \_\_\_\_\_

I have special requirements as follows: \_\_\_\_\_