

## Bulletin Board

**"Pot Luck" Sober Feast!**-District 7. Tuesday, Dec. 12th. Bring your favorite entree, beverages are provided. Dinner from 6:30 to 8, followed by the regular Tuesday night meeting from 8 to 9:30 pm. Location: 3590 Grandview Blvd. in Mar Vista (St. Bede's Episcopal Church).

### Year-End Bash!

**"Dress Your Best" Party.** On Saturday night, 7pm, December 30th in Burbank. Contact Kurt or Lynn at (818)567-4427 for more info.

**Office Manager Search** - World Services is accepting applications for the paid position of World Services Office Manager. Interested parties should send resumes to the World Services Post Office Box (shown below).

## Convention Update

### Registration Deadline Extended!

The deadline for mail-in registration has been extended to December 29th!

### Saturday Banquet

Included in the Convention package is a Saturday evening banquet. If you want to be included in the banquet, **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER!** The hotel needs the number of banquet attendees well in advance, so to secure you spot for this gala event, please ensure that your registration is postmarked **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 29TH.**

### Saturday Evening Event

A homespun variety show will follow the banquet. We still have room for more talent! If you've got something you would like to share, call Todd E. at (310)281-9504, or you can even approach him at the Convention.

### Volunteers!

We are also looking for volunteers to fill a number of spots throughout the weekend, to do everything from selling merchandise to leading one of our many marathon meetings. If you are interested, please contact Sharon P. at (310)652-6885 or Gary S. at (213)656-8520.

### Raffle

Still needed are donations of new, unopened and valuable items for the raffle to be held at the Convention. All donations are tax deductible. Please call Todd E. at (310)281-9504 regarding potential donations.

## New Beginning

by The Treeman., District 6

As I learn to cope with the reality  
of what's been given to me,

I also must begin to enjoy  
what I once tried to destroy.

The determination that drove me  
to self-destructive tendencies  
will be converted to the love of life itself.

Thus, I begin to smile at my new beginning.

## MA WORLDWIDE...

### DISTRICT 1 - SAN FRANCISCO

P.O.Box 194252  
San Francisco, CA 94119  
(415) 522-7373

### DISTRICT 2 - EAST BAY

P.O.Box 8354  
Berkeley, CA 94707  
(510) 287-8873

### DISTRICT 3 - SOUTH BAY

P.O. Box 111341  
Campbell, CA 95011  
(408) 450-0796

### DISTRICT 4 - SEATTLE

(206) 548-9034

### DISTRICT 5 - ORANGE COUNTY

358 S. Main #215  
Orange, CA 92668  
(714) 999-9409

### DISTRICT 6 - L.A. COUNTY (NORTH)

P.O.Box 2433  
Van Nuys, CA 91404  
(818) 759-9194

### DISTRICT 7 - L.A. COUNTY (SOUTH)

P.O.Box 3012  
Culver City, CA 90231  
(213) 964-2370

### DISTRICT 8 - NEW YORK

(212) 459-4423

### DISTRICT 9 - SANTA CRUZ

P.O.Box 1481  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(408) 427-4088

### DISTRICT 10 - L.A. COUNTY (EAST)

P.O.Box 94400  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
(818) 583-9582

NEW ZEALAND / AUSTRALIA  
(no District address at this time)

### WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 (800)766-6779



December 1995  
Volume 5 - No. 11

# A NEW LEAF

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

## Found His Proof...

by Michael P., District 7

I started this program as an atheist. I was raised in a very Catholic family and as I was growing up, I perceived organized religion to be hypocritical. I could only see the awful things which were done in the name of God. I grew up in the sixties and seventies---a time in which we all questioned authority. We knew that our parents had lied to us about many things, so we assumed they had probably lied to us about God too.

I believed that technology and science were the answers to all of man's problems. If I could not prove something with the scientific method, then it did not exist. I dismissed people who were spiritual as naive.

When I came into the program, I had already tried science and medicine to help me overcome my addiction. I had been in a medically-supervised program for marijuana addiction for a month. I lasted

two weeks after it ended and returned to smoking pot on a daily basis. I was ready to try anything.

I heard people in the program tell me not to worry about the concept of God. I was told to simply accept that there were powers greater than myself. I knew that nature was a power greater than myself so I tried to fix on nature. My sponsor told me to try praying and not

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## Happy Holidays!

## Attitude... Revisited

by Carol Mc., District 6

You know, sometimes my Higher Power gives me things I need even when I don't ask for them. Last month Rob & Ilene asked me to write a quick article before I left on my vacation because they were so short they thought they were going to have to rerun an old article. (Hint... hint... have YOU written one lately?) Anyway, I had just gotten a copy of a fabulous essay on attitude, so I used that as my inspiration. My husband and I left two days later, for a sixteen day vacation that we'd been wanting to take for twenty-five years.

There we were, our very first day in

Rome (yes, the Italian one), and we left the hotel to go find breakfast. Well, to make a long story short - I fell on my face. I fell on my face so well that I put two teeth through my bottom lip, lightly chipped one tooth, knocked it and the other tooth a little loose, and bled like a stuck pig. I laid there, face down, on the cobblestones (no pain yet, thank you) after hearing the "crack," not knowing yet what I'd broken and that damn article flashed before my (closed) eyes.

I said to myself, "Karo, oo haf a choiss here abut yur attitoot." So I adjusted, and adjusted, and adjusted my attitude... I had to do so with Great Vigor, on a



daily basis, the whole sixteen days- but I did it! As Charles Swindal says, "I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it."

I had a wonderful vacation, well, *adventure* anyway. It wasn't restful, but it sure was exciting! So I looked like I'd run into a brick wall (actually it was granite cobblestones). I was never going to see those people again anyway, who cared how I looked? I'm so grateful for the experience. I had a choice about my attitude and I didn't let what could have been a disaster ruin my vacation. Thanks Great Spirit; You've seen me through another ordeal! R



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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# A New Leaf Needs YOU!!

from the Editors

We here at *A NEW LEAF* desperately need your help! This newsletter is supposed to be a means of sharing experience, strength, and hope; a way to spread the message that MA works. It is meant to be BY the fellowship and FOR the fellowship of all marijuana addicts.

Over the last few months, however, the small stream of articles that we usually receive has dried to a trickle.

Our mail box had cobwebs in it the last time we checked! Also, the birthday list this month is smaller than it should be. Even the Southern California districts (which usually produce the bulk of the articles,

mainly because we can pester them in person!) have been unusually quiet lately. If *A NEW LEAF* is to continue bringing the message to marijuana addicts, we need your help. YOU must continue to contribute articles. We can't do it alone. Just as in other aspects of

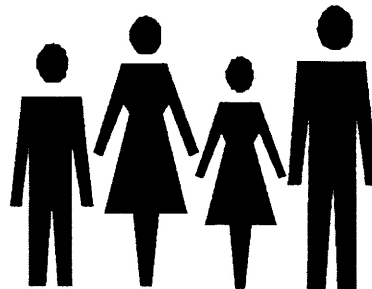
this program, we can only succeed if we do this together!

When is the last time you heard your local Bureau Chief ask for articles during "MA announcements"? Can't remember? Perhaps you should speak to them about better representation for your district in the newsletter! And then submit an article!

So, are you listening, Seattle? Do you copy, New York? Are we coming through loud and clear, Northern California? We need to hear from you! Please, be of service and share with all of us your thoughts on addiction, recovery, the twelve steps, et cetera. Help us learn from your past experiences, and let us glory in your hopes for

the future. If you don't like what you are reading in *A NEW LEAF*, by all means write something different!

We thank you in advance for your support. As it says in the Unity Prayer: "together we can do what we could never do alone." R



## Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!

Dave S.	October 17	1 Year!
Bill J.	October 23	3 Years
Mike H.	December 7	3 Years
Avi	December 8	5 Years
Ken S.	December 12	1 Year!
Brett P.	December 17	1 Year!
John G.	December 25	4 Years
Mariko	December 29	6 Years



## Proof

*Continued from page 1*

to worry about what I was praying to. I must admit that at times it seemed like I was praying to air.

I felt the love around me in the program so I conceptualized that God must be love. This worked for me. I prayed to the power that was love in the universe. Soon, my praying made me feel better. Instead of analyzing why it made me feel better I just accepted it. I found myself praying all of the time and feeling better and better. I realized that all of my scientific methods and intellectual powers could not keep me sober. I needed my God.

Next week I will have been sober one year. This is a miracle. I could never have done this without a power greater than myself. This is proof that God exists and is in my life. ♪

## Don't Miss Out !

**from the Registration Committee**

Are you bored? Hanging out with the same old addicts, hearing the same old shares - week after week, month after month? The 1996 MA Convention is just what you need to spice up your recovery!

Last year's inaugural Convention was a huge success and loads of fun. The workshops were informative; the meetings were an inspiration. Many great friendships were born. This year's promises to be even better. The more "out-of-towners" that attend, the more rewarding and unifying it will be for all. Those of you from Southern California, don't miss out on the camaraderie and fellowship experienced by the people who stay at the hotel, if you can possibly manage it.

So send in your registration (postmarked no later than December 29th), book your room, throw some clothes in a bag, and join us in Santa Monica for sun, surf (weather permitting...), and serenity. ♪

## I Belong in MA

**by Beverly E., District 10**

My name is Beverly. I am in my late thirties and I wanted to share this... I have been getting high for most of my life. I knew no other way of living. About two years ago, I reached my breaking point. I was unhappy and very angry. Pot wasn't doing it for me anymore. My inner self was trying to tell me that this life was a dead-end street. But fear locked me in a prison of self-destructiveness.

One morning I woke up and knew this way of life could no longer work. I realized that pot was the cause of my pain. So I proceeded to look in the phone book for help. I saw the number for NA, I called, got directions to a meeting, and went. For two months I went, but felt I didn't belong because I was "only" a chronic pot smoker. And, just being there was a heavy-duty experience that made me want to go out and get high. But right when I was ready to stop going to meetings, someone handed me an MA directory

and said maybe MA would be better for me.

So, in April 1994 I went to my first MA meeting in Covina. It was the beginning of my new life! I did this for me because I feel I am worthy of being healthy in body, mind, and spirit. Ever since then, I can see my life changing for the better.

I owe a lot to MA for being there! Now I am in college with a 3.8 grade average. And I am going to teach little children... something I have always wanted to do.

Because of MA's program, I am seeing that I am a good and valuable person. It's been a hard road in recovery, but I know my hard work will pay off because I want to be a part of life instead of hiding from it.

Being involved with MA, and other fellow addicts, helps me to know that I am not alone and that sobriety is possible. MA works! So... keep coming back - I will! ♪

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## Thought For The Month

*"Though I still find it difficult to accept today's pain and anxiety with any great degree of serenity --- as those more advanced in the spiritual life seem able to do --- I can give thanks for present pain nevertheless.*

*I find the willingness to do this by contemplating the lessons learned from past suffering --- lessons which have led to the blessings I now enjoy. I can remember how the agonies of [addiction], the pain of rebellion and thwarted pride, have often led me to God's grace, and so to a new freedom."*

by Bill W.

adapted from a March 1962 article

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