



# A NEW LEAF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MA NEWSLETTER  
P.O. BOX 2433  
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JANUARY 1993  
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## CUNNING, BAFFLING, POWERFUL

Marijuana: Cunning, Baffling, Powerful. The three words that best describe why I was addicted to Marijuana. "It" was cunning enough to be so subtle, yet deadly. When I first bonged the stuff, I truly loved it. I loved the act, the smell, the high, everything about it. I had "heard" that it was a "cure" for something or other, I don't know what. It was natural, mother nature at her finest. Yes cunning!

It was baffling, I could not figure it out. "Buds", that got you high without a hangover. Wow! I had to try to grow it, with no success. I would pull them, dry them and smoke them before they were three months old. No buds. Yes Baffling!

It was powerful. So powerful that I would lie, steal, beg, and borrow to get more. I don't think that I need to say anything more about what I had to do to get it. Once I got it, I smoked it! After seventeen years of smoking it, it started to smoke me. Oh foolish heart. First it smoked my four year marriage. Second it smoked my six year job, and third it almost smoked me. Yes Powerful!

But By God's grace I found something more powerful than marijuana. It was the fellowship in M.A. The truth tellers who share their experience strength and hope. A true Miracle in my life. That miracle's name is Marijuana Anonymous!

Anonymous

## 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
- Carol M. . . . . 818-708-0717
- Terri R . . . . . 818-563-6689
- Danny G . . . . . 805-949-9741
- Tina K . . . . . 818-957-3584
- George B . . . . . 818-771-0704
- Az A. . . . . 714-288-9139
- Grady S . . . . . 818-363-9510
- Fred M. . . . . 310-558-3864
- Matt D . . . . . 619-943-9442

*Remember, we are not alone!  
We're here to help each other!*



## Happy Birthday!!

GARY R.	DECEMBER 10	2 YEARS
DONNA S.	DECEMBER 25	4 YEARS
JONATHAN M.	JANUARY 1	1 YEAR
CORY A.	JANUARY 2	1 YEAR
SUSAN C.	JANUARY 2	9 YEARS
TINA K.	JANUARY 7	3 YEARS
MIKE LB.	JANUARY 10	6 YEARS
ZACK O.	JANUARY 10	6 YEARS
DANTE G.	JANUARY 13	1 YEAR
LOREN N.	JANUARY 14	3 YEARS
DAVE K	JANUARY 15	4 YEARS
MELODY W.	JANUARY 16	4 YEARS
DAVE G.	JANUARY 20	1 YEAR
BARBARA G.	JANUARY 20	1 YEAR
MICHAEL Mc	JANUARY 29	5 YEARS

### NOTE:

*If you're having an M.A. birthday and would like to be listed here, please contact one of the New Leaf Co-Editors.*

### A NEW LEAF PURPOSE



The purpose of "A NEW LEAF" is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering marijuana addicts and their stories that we can find experience, strength and hope. Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

**DISTRICT 5  
INTERGROUP**

**DISTRICT 6  
GSO MEETING**

**DISTRICT 7  
GSR MEETING**

2nd Thursday of Month, 7:30 pm  
First Christian Church of Orange  
1130 Walnut St., Orange

1st Thursday of Month, 7:30 pm  
9919 La Tuna Canyon Road  
Sun Valley

2nd Wednesday of Month, 7:30 pm  
Call Jim for Information  
310-202-6602

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"When you feel grateful for something others have done for you, why not tell them"

Anonymous

Show your gratitude towards M.A. this month, put an extra buck in the gratitude can

The eds.

**GOLFERS DISPLAY "POWERLESS"  
ABILITIES IN FIRST M.A. TOURNEY**

Steve G. couldn't buy a birdie; his approach shots were short, long or off to one side; his putting was stiff. But Steve's chipping accuracy resurrected his chance at nearly every hole, kept him in the lead and proved to be enough to force a tie-breaker and win the first MA-inspired golf tournament at Arroyo Seco (also known as the Brian K. Memorial Golf Tournament, named in honor of Brian's golf ability, which isn't quite dead but is terminally ill).

Steve claimed first place after chipping a good few feet further than George B. during the sudden-death chip-off tie-breaker. Both finished the 54-par course at 66. Ray from Whittier was third with 68.

"Winning the inaugural MA tournament felt like writing one line in the fourth step of life," Steve said. "In other words, if you can't be straight, be long."

The battle for first in MA's inaugural tournament came down to the final hole. Hitting with the last group of golfers still out, George's tee shot at No. 18 landed only three feet from the pin, but then took a bad roll and plummeted off the green. Then, in front of the gallery (the golfers who finished first), George had to make his next two shots to tie Steve. His 10-foot chip cleared the ridge of the green and landed three feet from the hole. Confidently, he sunk the putt to make par and force the tie-breaker.

"It was so exciting standing on that hill (on tee No. 18) with everybody watching," George said. "I didn't know that I was still in contention. When everybody started yelling and clapping, I knew I had made a great shot."

Among the highlights, Chuck led all golfers with two birdies and Rob, Loren and Brian A. each recorded one birdie; Kathy C., the only female golfer participating in the tournament, finished respectably in 12th place.

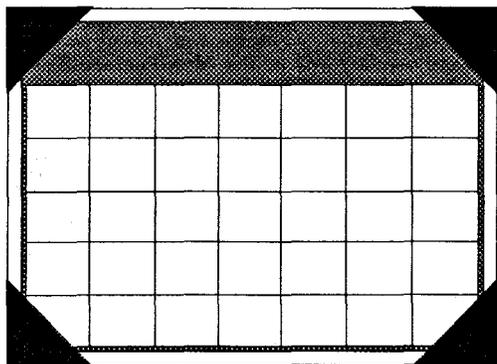
The top ten finishers out of a field of fifteen:

- 1. Steve . . . . . 66
- 2. George . . . . . 66
- 3. Ray . . . . . 68
- 4. Chuck . . . . . 70
- 4. Jerry . . . . . 70
- 6. Rob . . . . . 71
- 7. Loren . . . . . 72
- 8. Patrick . . . . . 78
- 9. Brad . . . . . 83
- 10. Brian A. . . . . 84

Look for info on MA's Spring Classic Golf Tourney in an upcoming issue of "The New Leaf."

By Brian K.

**UPCOMING MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS EVENTS**



**ROLLER SKATING DAY**

January 24th, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Skateland

18140 Parthenia (just east of Reseda Blvd.)

Meet in parking lot by 12:15 p.m.

\$5.50 includes skates

Fellowship at Cocos afterwards

Reseda Blvd. between Lassen and Plummer

For more info call: Brian A. (818)786-8573

Lynn W. (818)567-4427

## COMMITMENT

Commitment, what a concept! "I can't commit to anything, after all, I only live one day at a time." This was a good excuse for me early in recovery to maintain my selfish and self-centered attitude. Of course, being newly clean and sober, I was only a taker. As far as what I had to offer the fellowship, well let's just say that M.A. was a lot better off without the attitudes and character defects I came here with.

As I slowly integrated recovery into my clean and sober life, my gratitude level began to rise. The fog of nearly 3 decades began to lift and the wonderful society of M.A. became the primary focal point of my conscious contact with my H.P. (higher power). Being aware of this brought me to a full understanding and acceptance of Tradition One. Our common welfare HAD to come first, in my case. I knew that I had not come to where I was in sobriety on my own nor by my own power. I also realized that I could not continue on my own either. So with the attitude of gratitude singin' inside me, I volunteered for service at the next available opportunity.

I will never forget the day I became "coffee maker." Wow! my first commitment! It didn't matter to me that I didn't know how to make coffee in a 30 cup pot. Someone was there to show me how. I don't take direction very well, so I forgot the instructions I had received and after about 5 or 6 weeks I noticed that people were not grimacing anymore when they drank my coffee. Even though they suffered through some awful tasting stuff, they nevertheless thanked me on a weekly basis for making the crap.

This simple service commitment brought a new dimension to my life. It felt good to be appreciated and to be told so also! People got to know me by name, and I got to know them. I began to experience the benefits of belonging to a home group, building relationships with people that I am still in touch with today, some of them dearest friends.

Well, now that I had arrived, I started to expand my service. I had hot tea, hot chocolate, cookies, etc. Sometimes I even had a helper. I kept this commitment for 9 months, until one day the group conscience decided it was time for a new coffee maker.

At first I was hurt and resentful. You see somewhere along the line this commitment became my "primary purpose". My feeling of self worth came from this job. I was doing what is commonly known as working the TWELFTH STEP, as opposed to working the TWELVE STEPS. My addict mentality was taking a wonderful thing like service and twisting it around to suit my own self-centered ego! Looking back I see my view of commitment started out with apathy and mutated into control.

I eventually accepted the experience-based suggestions of the older members who told me that

I needed the building up of my self worth early on, but now I was in danger of my own ego. I needed to pass on my commitment to someone else now who needed it at this point in time just as much as I did 9 months before. How wise those early twelve step founders were to utilize the spirit of rotation in service!

One day at a time I stayed in M.A. I have experienced service work on many different levels. I have entered each commitment exactly the way I did my first, NOT KNOWING HOW TO DO THIS THING!!! My H.P. always put the right teacher in my life when things got shaky. I learned that I did not have to do service alone, and that it was okay to ask questions. I hope I have honored my commitments, as service has helped put honor back in my life.

I have stayed on long enough in each position to learn how to do them. I have stepped down from each commitment with some sadness, some feelings of inadequacy, and sometimes relief. I have tried to the best of my ability to "fight the good fight." It's been a long rewarding journey for me.

I have experienced great joy and great sorrow in recovery and more times than not it has been the PEOPLE I HAVE MET IN SERVICE that have pulled me along when my spirit was faltering and my heart was crushed. These people were also there when my spirit was soaring. Such people! I would not change one thing in my past, with all its regrets, if it meant I would never had met YOU. You servants have enriched my life to a degree I never thought possible. You were there for me even when YOU didn't know it! Through you I have learned and experienced LOVE, TOLERANCE, PATIENCE, TRUE FRIENDSHIP. So you see, to not take a commitment would have been tantamount to limiting my emotional and spiritual development. How fortunate I am to have stayed around long enough to get to the principles that are beyond all our personalities.

If I don't quit now I might start crying, so let me leave you with a quote:

"Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and the actions which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is daily triumph of integrity over skepticism."

In Love and Service,  
Aziz

The articles contained in the New Leaf are the opinions of the writers of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of MA as a whole.



# Southern California Marijuana Anonymous Schedule of Meetings

Updated 1-1-93



## SUNDAY

**10:00 AM Torrance**  
Participation (NEW LOCATION!)  
For Location, Call Ben:  
(310)-833-0954

**4:30 PM Montebello** \*(46/B6)  
Participation  
2518 Beverly Boulevard

**5:30 PM Glendale** \*(25/C4)  
Discussion  
225-D N. Maryland Ave., Upstairs  
(PositiveDirections Activity Ctr)

## MONDAY

**7:30 PM Orange** \*(17/B3, O.C.) H/A  
Participation (NEW LOCATION)  
1200 W. Palmyra  
(Sister Elizabeth Building)

**7:30 PM Sun Valley** \*(9/F5)  
Tradition Study  
(ONLY Meets 2nd Monday of Month)  
9919 La Tuna Canyon Boulevard

**8:00 PM North Hollywood** \*(16/A5)  
Participation - Newcomers  
6455 Coldwater Cyn Bl., Upstairs  
(Life Plus Institute)

**8:30 PM West Hollywood** \*(33/D5)  
"Rastaman Vibrations"  
8939½ Santa Monica Bl., Upstairs  
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Ctr)

## TUESDAY

**7:30 PM Orange** \*(17/E4, O.C.) H/A  
"Roach Motel"  
401 S. Tustin Ave., Conf. Rm.  
(Orange County Comm. Hospital)

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

**8:30 PM Woodland Hills** \*(13/F1) H/A  
Participation (NEW LOCATION!)  
5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 328  
(So. of Ventura, Undergrnd. Parking)

## WEDNESDAY

**7:00 PM Lancaster** \*(160/B5) H/A  
Step Study/Participation  
44743 Yucca Avenue  
(Old Skating Rink)

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

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

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

**8:15 PM Van Nuys** \*(15/C4) H/A  
Big Book & Step Study  
15220 Vanowen Boulevard  
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)

**8:15 PM Hollywood** \*(34/C3)  
Participation (ALL WELCOME!)  
1625 N. Hudson - Parking in Rear  
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Serv. Center

## THURSDAY

**7:30 PM Van Nuys** \*(15/C4) H/A  
Men's Stag  
15220 Vanowen Boulevard  
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)

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

**8:00 PM Mission Viejo** \*(29B/A4, O.C.) H/A  
"Last Connection" - Step Study  
23228 Madero, Conference Room  
Mission Viejo Charter Hospital

**8:00 PM San Fernando Valley**  
Women's Stag  
For Directions Call: (818)  
Stacy 990-5087/Cindy 501-7860

## FRIDAY

**6:30 PM Pasadena** \*(27/B3) H/A  
131 N. El Molino, Suite 320  
(Council on Alcohol/Drug Dep.)

**7:30 PM Orange** \*(17/C4, O.C.) H/A  
"TGIF" Step Study  
812 Town and Country  
(Ground Floor, Room 13)

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

**8:30 PM West Hollywood** \*(33/D5)  
"Resin Resisters"-Step Study  
8939½ Santa Monica Bl., Upstairs  
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Ctr)

**8:30 PM Alhambra/Rosemead** \*(46/D1)  
Participation  
Ingleside Hosp (Adolescent Unit)  
7500 Hellman Avenue

## SATURDAY

**10:30 AM Hollywood** \*(34/C3)  
Speaker Meeting (ALL WELCOME!)  
1625 N. Hudson - Parking in Rear  
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Serv. Center

**10:30 AM Woodland Hills** \*(12/E5)  
"Saturday Morning Live" Spkr Mtg  
21338 Dumetz Avenue, Room 202  
(Woodland Hills Community Church)

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

**6:00 PM San Diego** \*(53/F3, S.D.) H/A  
"Weed Whackers"  
9184 Gramercy Drive  
(Von's Shopping Center:  
Serenity Shop - Back Door)

**6:00 PM Fountain Valley** \*(21/F5 S.D.)  
N.A. Book Study  
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)-999-9408