



A NEW LEAF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MA NEWSLETTER
P.O. BOX 2433
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April 1993
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SOMETHING DIFFERENT MADE A DIFFERENCE

Hi, as I am writing this, I am experiencing my 56th day of recovery. I first entered a 12 step program in February of '92. Up until 56 days ago, I had not discovered recovery or honesty.

After my third relapse on pot, I decided I better do something different, so I found myself going to an M.A. meeting. There I found a fellowship and friends like I never knew. Everyone welcomed me with open arms. There I found my sponsor. She alone has helped me open doors I never knew existed.

On my 12th day (3rd time around), I got my first commitment. I felt so part of this free circle of people. I never knew what commitment meant until then. I now know it means people actually believe in me. They trust me to be there week after week. This is something I thought would never happen again.

Another thing commitments do for me is on that bad day when everything is going wrong, and I really don't want to go to a meeting, and my disease tells me to stay home, I can't. This is good because every time I don't want to go is the time I really need to be there.

So I want to thank my sponsor and my friends in M.A. because without them, I don't know where I'd be.

So Thank You,
Joellen



Happy Birthday!!

JONATHAN	FEBRUARY 26	1 YEAR
GEOFF F.	APRIL 1	4 YEARS
GRADY S.	APRIL 1	2 YEARS
MIKE P.	APRIL 4	6 YEARS
LINDA C.	APRIL 7	3 YEARS
ROCKY	APRIL 8	3 YEARS
MITCH V.	APRIL 13	2 YEARS
CHRIS H.	APRIL 16	2 YEARS
TERI A.	APRIL 19	1 YEAR
BRIAN K.	APRIL 23	3 YEARS
CHRIS S.	APRIL 25	4 YEARS
LINDA	APRIL 26	1 YEAR

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 PRAYER

*GOD, grant us knowledge
that we may write according to Your will.
Instill in us a sense of Your purpose
Your power, Your love, Your way of life.
Grant us a bond of selflessness,
that this may truly be Your work not ours,
so that no addict, anywhere,
need die from the horrors of addiction.*

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**

2nd Thursday of Month, 7:30 pm
REA Community Center, Room 640
661 Hamilton, Costa Mesa

**DISTRICT 6
GSO MEETING**

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

**DISTRICT 7
GSR MEETING**

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



HAPPINESS IS AN INSIDE JOB



THE ROVING REPORTER

A COLLECTION OF VIEWS FROM AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP.

This Month's question: What steps are you now taking to begin or continue cleaning house?

Andrea S. 1 yr.
I am on my 8th step. I have made my list by doing my 5th step with my sponsor who made my 8th step list. I need to write down what I'm going to say to the people. I need to make the amends too. One day at a time I continue to take the steps, work with my sponsor and pray to God to clean house.

John H. 2 yrs. 10 mos.
Making financial amends.

Linda C. 90 days
Going to meetings. Calling people even though I don't know them very well. Mega-prayer and chanting each morning, particularly prayer for those I am at odds with. Keeping commitments to myself and others. Mega-surrender and acceptance. Speaking and writing positive affirmations.

Brian K. 2 yrs. 11 mos.
Step 10 and 11 are my daily steps. I check in with myself and my higher power with those steps. I see how I have been in my affairs, and usually find I have new amends to make. The good news is that what those two steps are for - to continue to clean house. Because of these steps (and all the steps), each day I'm becoming a better person.

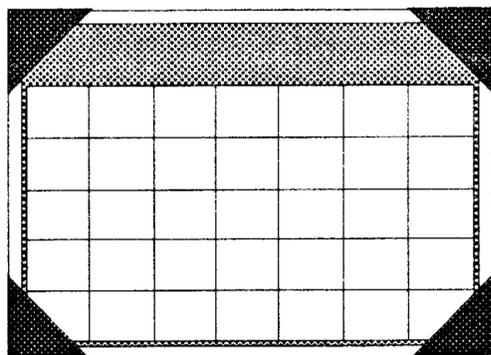
Barbara S. 1 yr.
I've made amends to myself.

Lynne R. 5 yrs.
I turn it over every day (unfortunately sometimes I take it back). I try to admit when I am wrong. I would say that I work step 10 to the best of my ability today. If there are ill feelings I try to either make amends for the way the situation turned out, or flat out admit I was wrong if I feel I was, as quickly as possible.

Grady S. 2 yrs.
Step 9: This step gets my relationship with people straightened out. I get to go back and make amends to people like family, friends, employers, ex-lovers, etc., whom I hurt as a direct result of the defects of character I have. As a sufferer of this disease of addiction, I treated a lot of people I cared about really badly on my way to getting that next joint, drink, line, ad infinitum. I didn't know it at the time, but this behavior caused me a world of guilt, shame, remorse, self-loathing etc. By making amends I get to let go of this stuff and live much more comfortably in my own skin. If comfortable in my own skin, I've got a much better chance of staying sober today.

Robert W. 5 mos.
It's been a slow process, but I've done a few things that have helped me start cleaning house in my recovery. I'm currently in therapy working on some personal issues. I also find daily exercise important to clear my mind. Finally, writing in my journal about my recovery has been vital for cleaning house.

UPCOMING MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS EVENTS



**2ND ANNUAL MURDER
MYSTERY PARTY**

**APRIL 17TH, 7:30 P.M.
\$15.00 DONATION
(HURRY TIME IS RUNNING OUT)**

**WORLD CONFERENCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE
55 FAIR DRIVE
COSTA MESA**

**MAY 29TH - 31ST
REGULAR MEETINGS DAILY
NO TALENT, TALENT SHOW**

M.A. OR A.A.: ARE WE HAVING AN IDENTITY CRISIS?

Those of us who were around in the early days of M.A. (or M.S.A.) can still remember newcomer after newcomer coming through the door saying, "Thank God there's an M.A. I tried A.A., and they told me I couldn't share because I am addicted to marijuana."

I feel the same way. If it hadn't been for M.A. I would have never walked into my first A.A. meeting. Marijuana is my drug of choice, and M.A.'s primary purpose is to carry the message to the marijuana addict who still suffers.

That sounds simple enough but recently I am having a hard time finding a meeting where recovery from marijuana is discussed. The tone of the meeting is set by the leader that evening. More and more I find myself in meetings being led by people attending their first M.A. meeting. They're members of other 12 step programs, some don't even qualify as addicts. Most of the time they will mention, "Yes, I did smoke pot, but it was alcohol or some other drug that brought me to my knees."

Is this a problem in Marijuana Anonymous? I believe it is. The first person a newcomer relates with is often the speaker or leader. It's important that they relate, and that they know there is hope in recovery from marijuana. If they or we want to hear an A.A. speaker, then we know many good meetings to go to in A.A.

I believe the other message we're sending by having outside speakers is that there isn't anyone in this program who's story is worth hearing, or having as a sponsor. If newcomers don't here M.A.ers with experience, strength and hope, how can they find sponsors who have been where they are now. I myself have always enjoyed hearing speakers with time and good stories, and there are a lot of M.A.ers with these in the 3 southern California districts.

We are Marijuana Anonymous, a fellowship of men and women who share our experience, strength and hope with each other so that we can recover from our addiction to marijuana. Our secretaries are trusted servants they are not appointed to make our meetings bigger and better anyway they can. They are elected through a group conscience to conduct business as the members see fit.

By pulling together from within our own fellowship, M.A. will grow, will develop its own identity, and will always be there for the newcomer, and those of us that need to be reminded why we're here. I'm addicted to marijuana. Yes, I am addicted to alcohol, cocaine, and all other drugs, but marijuana brought me to my bottom. I don't want to forget that.

Yours in fellowship
George B. (2/6/88)

AN ADDICT WITH A LIFE: OH-MY-GOD

In the last year of my using I found myself spending a lot of time on my couch. It got to the point where 3 or 4 people couldn't sit on the couch comfortably because there was a big indentation in the middle. With more than one person on the couch everybody would fall to the middle.

I guess you probably get the idea - I had no life, no humor, and not a lot of interaction with people. At least not people capable of conversation.

When I got sober and started working the steps, my life began to change. I began by taking little baby steps until I learned the walk. It's not something that happens over night, it's taken me 3 years to get what I have today, and that's a life. I started by reaching my hand out to other addicts I didn't know, then one step further, by going to fellowship after meetings. It became easier and easier as time went by.

Next thing I knew I was going to events and actually started to laugh and enjoy life. Eventually I got to know a few people on a more intimate level and eventually started doing things outside of meetings. I started to let people in, and to let them know what I was all about.

Today my life is so full there aren't enough hours in the day. I have so many people in my life that I care about, and that care about me. Just last Sunday I was listening to someone share when I realized that I really love that person so my list is getting longer and longer.

I just want to thank those people who have been there for me. I love you guys more than I could ever express. And to my girlfriend kiss noise, I love you so much, and that will never change no matter what!!

XOXO
Tina K.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD CONFERENCE

World Conference ad hoc committee meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the same location as the Wednesday night Costa Mesa Meeting.

Anybody who wants transportation or housing for the World Conference; or has any special housing requirements (ie., pet free, smoke free, or gender), please call Lisa T. at (310)493-4868.

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 4-1-93



SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM Redondo Beach *(62/E5)
Participation
2000 Artesia Blvd., at Green St.
(David Hayward Comm. Center)
- 11:00 Chatsworth *(6/A4)
Men's Stag
(meets 2nd & 4th Sunday only)
9861 Andora (The Eagle's Nest)
Fireside Chat & Brunch
- 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
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"
8939 1/2 Santa Monica Bl., Upstairs
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Ctr)

TUESDAY

- 7:30 PM Orange *(17/E4, O.C.) H/A
"Roach Motel" (Topic/Discussion)
As Bill See's It
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)
- 8:00 PM Tarzana *(13/F1)
Participation (NEW LOCATION)
19616 Ventura Blvd.
(Above Corbin Bowl)

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)
- 8:00 PM Canoga Park *(12/C3) C
Participation (1 yr. to share)
22021 Sherman Way
(Serenity West - Back Door)
- 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 (Rotating Format)
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" Participation
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
8939 1/2 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 O.C.)
N.A. Book Study H/A
16533 Brookhurst
(Elaine's Gifts - Back Door)

LEGEND: * - Thomas Guide Coordinates
H/A - Handicapped Accessible
C - Closed, Addicts Only

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