

Prosperity Times

Northern California Debtors Anonymous Newsletter and Meeting List

April - June 2007

Winter Lights

A Spiritual Experience

Although there had been predictions of intermittent showers, the day turned bright and sunny. Since I use public transportation and walk, I knew this was a sign that a special day was to come.

When I walked into the beautiful meeting room at the Jack London Aquatic Center, the music by Paradiso of 5th Element Music welcomed me, and I was struck by the feeling of light and abundance. A large window at the front of the room overlooked the marina.

The day was indeed special. There were two main speakers, Kari Ann and Sam who shared their stories of hope and recovery and the impact of DA in their lives. Some points of these talks follow.

A shocking story of childhood abuse turned into a life of gratitude with kindness and honesty as the values to be embraced. Despite the harsh early years when it was difficult to be able to sit in a classroom, a Ph.D. was earned at the age of 29. Although taught that physical beauty and material possessions meant status and power and defined one's worth, other people reflected higher values. The balance between internal and external values helped overcome a life filled with tremendous challenges. Kindness, love and support were received and acknowledged and gratefully accepted, and were passed to others, spreading this important life lesson. "I am only a small person standing on the mighty shoulders of others." Miracles cannot be bought, but they can be achieved.

I joined DA with the goal of solvency in mind, and it did work. However, the idea of Visions did not appeal. But, the idea of Visions was not clear. One day a speaker on Visions spoke and I could finally hear and understand. Visions are not self generated. One needs to ask Higher Power for guidance. Life is now lived out of Vision. A Vision Board was created with a picture of a house as well as the phrase, "Two houses are better than one." Within a short time a house was bought which is almost the twin of the one on the board, and it is a second house. Many business ventures presented themselves during visions and were successfully manifested. A big shift was around the perception of life's obstacles. An obstacle is there only because one perceives it to be so. Now an obstacle is recognized as a stepping stone and a signpost on the path that must be taken. Love what you do. Live your vision.

continued on back page

OVER-ABUNDANCE!

The Aquatic Center was filled to capacity for Winter Lights. Although it is a beautiful setting, the Intergroup needs to look for a larger venue for next year. Please send any suggestions to registrar@ncdawe.org.

Mark Your Calendar

DoDA Day

Saturday, September 29th

April is DA World Service Month

*Honor the 31st Birthday of DA
and raise money for
the DA World Service Organization*

Special Speakers Meeting

2 Major Speakers

Host: San Francisco

Saturday, DA Meeting

When: Saturday, April 28, 2007

10-11:30am

Where: Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

420 29th Avenue, at Clement

Bring a Friend!

Contact: Bill 415 586-2236

The workshop DREAM BUILDING 2007

listed in the January-March 2007 Prosperity Times and originally planned for March 3 has been postponed until May or June. For further information and updates, visit the website:

www.DreamBuilding2007.net.

D.A. Miracles

With Clarity, Miracles Happen

I have learned through DA that when I move out of vagueness and gain clarity about what I want or need, miracles happen. This is one such miracle.

Due to a traumatic accident and a disability that affected my concentration, I was enormously afraid of driving. I haven't driven in years, but I feel deprived. I talked to my doctor. My disability had healed enough for me to consider taking professional driving lessons to learn about defensive driving and safety issues.

To be clear about the cost of such lessons, I called several places. The fee was close to \$1000! This amount was definitely NOT in my spending plan so I joked to my Higher Power "If I'm going to get driver's lessons, the \$1000 will just have to drop out of the sky because I can't afford it!"

The next day, I got a card with a picture of a bird's eye view looking down on a beautiful landscape. Inside was a note that said in the voice of a little bird, "I flew over from Inverness to Oakland and flew to your building to drop off this letter because that's where Bea said it belonged." Included in the note was a check for \$1000!

Because of my fear around driving, I thought that maybe I would take the money and get a sofa instead of driving lessons. The next day the same friend called, told me that she was giving away her sofa and did I want it? Now I have that sofa, and it is the exact style I had been thinking about!

When I am specific about what I need, it appears. With clarity, miracles happen.
- C.

The Lesson Chair

There was a quote in the last Prosperity Times about how the doors of opportunity open for us all the time, but we must recognize the door is open and...we must choose to walk through. I could visualize all the times I saw the open door, saw it clearly and did not choose to walk through. What a rejection of the support of my Higher Power!

One small example of this happened when I moved into a new, small place and the living and dining areas were one space. I visualized a chair. It had a rounded back and arms, like a hug, I thought, and it would rotate so I could turn toward either the dining or living areas.

Shortly thereafter, I walked into a second-hand store, a place that I had passed often but had never gone into. There it was, right inside the door. I didn't even have to look around for it. I recognized the shape and when I tested it, it did indeed rotate. I knew it as the very chair that I had visualized, but my very next thought was "Gee, I'm not crazy about the color." Fortunately, I recognized what I was doing. I was rejecting the very thing that I had been guided to find. In my visualization, I had not even thought of a color, and I knew that a slipcover could easily make it perfect.

When I told the clerk that I wanted to buy the chair, she asked me if I was a "senior" and since in that store the age for a senior was 50, I got an extra discount off the price of a very inexpensive chair.

I think of it as my Lesson Chair, that when Higher Power opens the door, I need to be open to recognize it.... and I must choose to walk through.

I find it interesting that when people come to visit, they seem to be drawn toward and make themselves comfortable in the Lesson Chair.

-Jan

That's Magic!

I went to my first DA meeting on Halloween night 2004 and that's when the magic started for me. Within a year and a half, I had \$2,100 in prudent reserve - which was the exact amount that I needed when I had to unexpectedly move out of my apartment. The move was really scary and without the help of my PRG and meetings, I wouldn't have had the money.

Here's my most recent magical moment: I had agreed to spend money on a friend's party without checking my spending plan and began avoiding

D.A. Miracles

looking at it. I just wanted the money to show up out of nowhere. Mostly, I wanted my friend to know how much I loved her and sadly, a part of me still thinks money is the way to show it. I had to get real. I found that I did have the money to “go all out” for my friend, but it meant not supporting my larger vision for myself. This happens to me a lot. I put aside my vision and myself to “treat” others.

So, I got frantic. I started looking through paperwork and going crazy, feeling anguished that I wouldn't be able to show my friend how much I care for her. In the middle of the craziness I found a check for \$60 that I had never cashed. It felt like magic money!

A part of me wanted to take the money and shower it on my friend, but I didn't. Instead I used something I heard at a meeting: a third of the \$60 to my debt, another third to my present moment, and a final third to savings.

Having the serenity to do that with the money - now, that's magic!

- Daisy

Patent Pending

I'm deeply grateful to my Higher Power for DA. The support, love and guidance I have received is richer than I could ever have imagined. I'd like to share some recent miracles of the last two weeks.

I had an idea 8 years ago that, prior to DA, I had been unable to act on. In DA I began to talk about the invention and to admit that it was important to me. Last March, I filed a provisional patent application, a PPA. This filing secured the invention but had a downside as well. If I didn't follow-up with a patent application within one year of the PPA filing, I would lose all rights to the invention. I'd given myself a deadline for something that felt quite beyond me. In the past I had self-sabotaged things that were connected to my dreams.

Filing an actual patent is a much more complex process than filing a PPA. The date was fast approaching. In the last year, two inventors had crossed my path, but I was discouraged. I had

decided it wasn't worth it. The process felt too overwhelming. I decided to let it go. Recently I've been driving a new DA friend to a meeting. I confided in her about the patent. She gently urged me to go forward with it. She pointed out the coincidence of my crossing paths with two inventors.

Then a friend I hadn't heard from in a while called me and in passing asked about the patent. I said I wasn't going to follow up on it. I didn't think it would work out. It was too much money. He asked if a check would help. If I make a profit I could pay him back. If not, it was a gift. I've grown to trust my experience in the program and felt his sudden presence and gesture to be a miracle. It was exactly a week before the date the PPA would expire.

There were difficulties getting the patent software. I went to a meeting and spoke about the impending deadline, the auspicious help from my friend, about the importance of the idea. I chided myself.

After the meeting a man came to me and said he wrote patents. The deadline was tight, but he'd take a look at what I had. He usually didn't go to the office on Saturdays, but this Saturday he would be there, and we could meet. He typed out the patent on the spot. I left with a fleshed out patent. I had only to insert, at various points, my provisional patent. He told me what forms to use and the total amount of the fees, which adding up to the exact amount on the check my friend had given me! I love it. The details. The numbers.

Through DA I've been able to stay open to my visions. Whether or not anything comes from the patent I feel so blessed to have received the help, love and friendship of this program.

-Ann

Heard at
a Meeting

“Do not hang on to what is comfortable. Allow change because it can be better. The good can be the enemy of the best.”

“Don't quit before the miracle happens.”

continued from front page

After each talk, many individuals gave short shares on their experiences, hopes and recovery. The large window at the front of the room framed the speakers with light, a fitting symbol for what was presented.

At lunchtime, many participants relaxed at the tables on the deck. Later in the afternoon, circles of nine (an auspicious number) were formed. Representatives of all four California DA Group areas led a Visions Meditation, Brandi of Northern California, Chuck of Los Angeles, Thomas of San Diego and Sam of Sacramento. The strength of the unity symbolized by this representation of the four groups cannot be overemphasized. The shares following the mediation were touching and inspiring.

It was a transformational day filled with, hope, strength and recovery. I want to express my thanks and gratitude to the speakers, to all those who shared, to the leaders of the meditation, to the Intergroup Representatives who produced Winter Lights, and to the many, many volunteers whose service helped make this wonderful day a success.

-Janet

To purchase a 3-CD set of
Winter Lights
Speakers, Shares and Visions Meditation
contact: Sound Solutions
soundsolutionsrecording.com
phone: 1-877-893-2777

GROUP DONATIONS

It is suggested that each group, after meeting its own needs and establishing a prudent reserve, send a 7th Tradition donation:

- ▶ **45% to the local Intergroup:**
NCDCA Intergroup
P.O. Box 31224
San Francisco, CA 94131

- ▶ **45% to the General Service Offices**
General Service Office - DA
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

- ▶ **10% to the General Service Rep.:**
NorCal DA GSR
P.O. Box 423136
San Francisco, CA 94142

Please check the meeting listings

If your group's listing is incorrect, please send the correct information to:

registrar@ncdaweab.org

It is also important to have a contact number for your group so that new members will be able to get the latest, most accurate information and be encouraged to take the first step toward their recovery.

Northern California DA Intergroup

The role of NCDCA Intergroup is to serve the local meetings held in Northern California. Representatives from the local groups meet once a month. The Intergroup publishes this quarterly newsletter and produces two major events a year, DoDA Day and Winter Lights.

All DA members are welcome to attend Intergroup meetings

NCDCA Intergroup meets on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:15am to 12:45pm at the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library, 3rd floor Conference Room. (The library is across from the Civic Center BART stop.) In November and December, meetings are held on the third Saturday.

Submission Guidelines

Prosperity Times welcomes your personal story of experience, strength and hope. The next issue's theme is about Making Amends. How did Making Amends affect your life and the lives of others? Please send submissions as a word document or in the body of an email. Length may be up to 300 words. Articles may be edited to fit the space. Send to:

registrar@ncdaweab.org

or mail to:

NCDCA P.O. Box 31224 San Francisco, CA 94131
Attn: Prosperity Times, Editor
Submissions must be received by June 1.

