

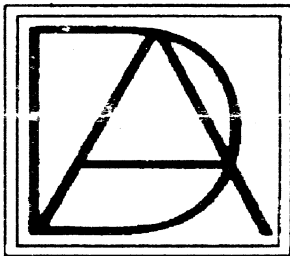
Ways & Means®

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Winter 2000

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**DEBTORS
ANONYMOUS®**

Ways & Means is published by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. It is generally published quarterly, but the publication may vary. Individuals may subscribe by sending \$8.00 (Foreign: US \$13.00; Canada: US \$8.50) to the General Service Office (GSO) in Boston for a 4-issue subscription. Ways & Means is a forum for sharing experience, strength, and hope of D.A. members, groups, and service committees. It does not interpret D.A. traditions or principles. Articles, poems, cartoons, and other appropriate submissions are welcome, but cannot be returned. Send ALL correspondence and subscription requests to:

Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

AT THE END OF A D.A. DAY

By MJ – Basking Ridge

At the end of a D.A. day, I have suffered less because there are those to whom I can reach out for help as a recovering debtor, and those to whom I can reach out to help if they suffer in debt.

At the end of a D.A. day, I have kept and looked at my numbers and understand how that information might help me better plan my spending and avoid debting.

At the end of a D.A. day, I have used courage to make good decisions, end my procrastination and change behaviors that get in the way of being the kind of individual my higher power intends me to be. I have asked my higher power to help me use courage in these ways.

At the end of a D.A. day, I have the serenity to accept things I cannot change and the wisdom to recognize the things I can.

At the end of a D.A. day, I have a new kind of integrity, honesty and truth in my life and use these to lead a more peaceful and confident life.

At the end of a D.A. day, the tools and steps and higher power are still with me to guide my recovery.

(Continued on page 2)

2001 World Conference Theme, 25th Anniversary Gala, and Web Site Announced

The next D.A. World Conference, with the theme 2001—A Spiritual Odyssey, will celebrate D.A.'s 25 years of service to the compulsive debtor from August 15-19, 2001 in Baltimore, MD.

All D.A. members around the world are invited to attend the Fellowship Day and the 25th Anniversary Gala dinner dance on Saturday, August 18. In the evening, the 25th Anniversary Gala will feature a panel of highly respected long-

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At the end of a D.A. day, I am closer to my visions and believe they will become reality because so many have come true already. A higher power provides me with gratitude for the gifts I have received in D.A.

At the end of a D.A. day, the D.A. promises come true for me in my recovery and through the recovery of those I can help. I know a freedom from debt in my solvency and peace and gratification in my existence.

Solvent and Serene in the Country *Dave B., Cobleskill, NY*

My name is Dave, and I'm a debtor with a vision: Living in the country with a partner and being a teacher or trainer. Thanks to D.A. in Chicago and the 12 tools, I now live in the country. I moved to New York State a year ago. I also helped start a D.A. meeting in the area (the Capital District Beginners meeting in Rotterdam, NY).

Catching up with a friend about my big move, I described the stumbles and successes. I also told her that I see my grandmother and parents often, now that they're within an hour's drive. Allison remarked, "You're a wealthy man."

Her remark surprised me. I came to D.A. in 1991 with a poverty consciousness. Besides, I can't be wealthy because my new business isn't paying the bills yet (savings and part-time work are). Allison explained that she meant I was wealthy because my family relationships are rich. And so they are. My relations with my closest relations have been healed, even without my planning or visioning. This is a big deal for me because I'm a gay man; I left my tiny hometown 20 years ago because I thought I didn't belong.

I'm debt-free, self-employed, and happy in the country. I've been restored to sanity in more ways than I planned. I give credit to D.A.

(World Conference-Continued from page 1)

time members reflecting on the growth of D.A., a talent show, and a "Retro Disco" dinner dance.

During the day, an expanded Fellowship Day will offer more than 20 workshops that help members recover through their own spiritual odyssey. Key topics include beyond the spending plan, recovery and multiple addictions, business owners, working the steps, and D.A. basics.

Complete conference registration packets will be mailed in early Spring, according to Host Committee Chair Jane L. She urges all D.A. members to make sure that their groups are registered with the General Service Office (GSO) so they can send General Service Representatives to participate in the four-day business conference.

To help members plan their trip, a new Web site packed with information about the Conference can be accessed at www.midatlanticda.org. Click on the World Conference logo "2001-A Spiritual Odyssey" to find out more. You can send a message to the Host Committee through the Web site or call the GSO at 781-453-2743 or send a message to the GSO email address: da-gso@mindspring.com for more information.

No Matter Where I live, DA is always accessible to me.

When I got married 14 years ago (wedding funded by credit cards and loans), my husband asked me if I'd be willing to live abroad for a few years so he could further his corporate career. At age 23, and not knowing the extent of my illnesses and addictions, I innocently cheered, "Of course dear, I love you. I go where you go." We stayed put within the northeast for 10 years and we were asked to move to Montreal Quebec. I had been living in Boston and was privileged to have many D.A. meetings and tons of D.A. phone buddies. Sponsors and pressure relief groups were readily available for my use and benefit. Through DA recovery my husband and I retired \$26,000 in credit card debt. D.A. had made us a solvency miracle. I went to meetings and used the D.A. tools and my husband agreed to my suggestions (i.e. No credit cards, no unsecured debt and a good spending plan that included wants and not just needs).

In Montreal I found numerous meetings, but it was Depressed Anonymous not Debtors Anonymous. I kept writing to my D.A. pen pals, calling a few D.A. friends and returning to Boston 4 to 5 times a year for D.A. meetings. In Montreal, I asked other 12 Steppers if they were interested in starting a D.A. meeting. The interest was not there. But my commitment to abstinence from compulsive debting was always with me. My new Montreal friends enjoyed lots of recreational shopping but I just happily declined saying, "I don't enjoy shopping. Thanks anyway." If only they had known that, with credit cards in hand, I could easily spend \$1500 in a couple of hours of social shopping. My Higher Power continued to restore me to sanity because I wanted the benefits of D.A. I acknowledged being a compulsive debtor and asked for help every day.

Two years later my husband's work sent us to England. There were and are lots of D.A. meetings in London but I lived 1 ½ hours away and had two small children to mind while my husband continuously traveled through Europe. God was good to me. Early in my British stay someone overheard me saying, after a 12 Step meeting, "I love Debtors Anonymous. It's helped me tremendously." Right there

and then the woman interrupted us and asked if we could start a D.A. meeting. I yelled joyously "You are an angel sent from heaven!" We started the meeting right away. A wonderful nanny minded my children and every Tuesday for 1 ½ years I exuberantly drove the ½ hour through the lovely British countryside to our beautiful D.A. meeting. We were usually 4 to 5 people who knew each other from other 12 Step rooms. It was wonderful.

I returned to the US and the meeting continued for 6 more months. They said it was too hard for 2 new D.A.'s to keep it going. But for the two years I was in England, I was abstinent and continued living the generous life of D.A. solvency.

While in England, my husband and I had decided that we wanted to live in sunnier, warmer weather so we relocated to Florida instead of returning to Boston. While still in England I wrote to World Service and ordered the World meeting list. What a relief! There were meetings in Florida. Alas, when we moved to Tampa, the Tampa meeting had folded and the St. Petersburg meeting was inaccessible to me. (I still don't have babysitters.) I continued to write to my D.A. friends in Arizona, Boston, and England and continued to live abstinely. Well, three months ago, I saw this beautiful ad in the local paper, "D.A. Meeting." What a glorious relief. I called for information. The secretary called straight away and I've been attending the daytime meeting in Tampa ever since. I continue to look for babysitters. I hear that St. Pete's meeting is fantastic. I want to go. In the meantime, my D.A. friend and I continue. Two happy members helping each other. She's on vacation for three weeks so I'm at the meeting with just my HP. But, oh how happy I am that no matter where I live D.A. is accessible to me.

Thank you D.A. friends for your commitment to abstinence and your discipline in using the tools. I have my D.A. meeting, my D.A. friends and my financial future looks golden.

Gratefully, Maria P., Tampa, Florida

More Of What I Want and Less of What I Don't

Why do I get so much of what I don't want in my life and so little of what I do want? I want more love, more joy, and more prosperity. And too often, I get more hassles, less joy, and less cash.

Recently, I read a profound way to turn my situation around: One day at a time, I pray for my Higher Power to increase in my life the good things that my Higher Power wants for me and pray for my Higher Power to decrease the things that aren't good for me.

It works! In the short time since I've tested this out I have felt a renewed joy in my work, taken some steps from deprivation toward abundance, and improved my relationship with significant people in my life.

Robert P.
Annapolis, MD

Are there any D.A. related announcements?

Let the Fellowship know what's happening around the world in D.A.. Send your D.A. related announcements to:

Ways & Means
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WISH Week to Celebrate D.A.'s 25th Anniversary

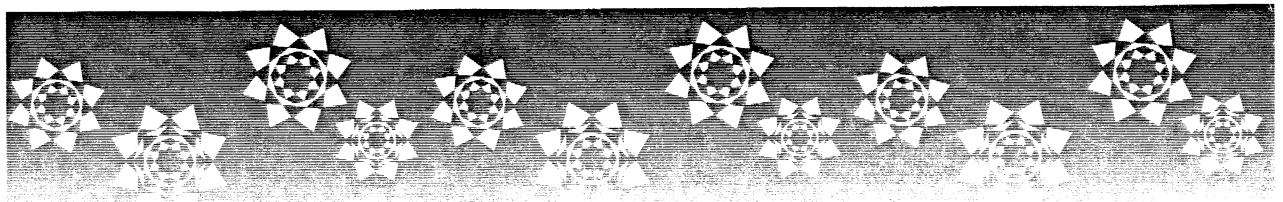
The 25th Anniversary of the founding of Debtors Anonymous is a momentous occasion. Since April 16, 1976, compulsive debtors and spenders have found a solution that works through D.A.'s Twelve Steps, Twelve Tools, and Twelve Traditions.

During the week of April 15-21, all D.A. groups and members around the world are urged to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and honor their own recovery during our annual Week of International Support and Hope (WISH).

To commemorate this unique occasion, D.A. groups are planning Fellowship Days, Newcomer Fairs, Longtimer Workshops, D.A. birthday parties, and other creative ways to enjoy and share their abundance.

D.A. groups and members are also asked to remember that their special contributions to the G.S.O. collected during WISH Week will help the office expand its staff to meet the needs of the still-suffering debtor more quickly and more efficiently. By February 1, 2001, D.A. had grown to almost 450 groups with thousands of members in at least 12 countries around the world. More than 10 groups are registering with the General Service Office (G.S.O.) each month and the volume of calls for help is steadily increasing.

Please mark your donations with your Group Number and the note "WISH Week" and mail to the D.A. GSB, PO Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492-0009. For more information, call 781-453-2743 or email da-gso@mindspring.com.



WISH Week Events Announced

***Avon by the Sea, NJ
Debtors Anonymous "Sandollars" Group***

***Thursday April 5, 2001
7:25 PM to 9:05 PM***

United Methodist Church, Garfield & Fifth Ave. Garden State Parkway to Exit 100B, Rte 33 East, follow the signs for Avon, to Rte 35 South, bear left for the Avon exit, at the light make a right onto Main St., then a left onto Garfield. The church will be on the right.

New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania D.A. Intergroup would like to invite D.A. members, as well as still suffering debtors, from all over the world to attend our 2nd Annual WISH celebration on April 21, 2001. The event will be held in Langhorne Pennsylvania at St. Mary's hospital. The starting time will be tentatively from 10 AM to 4 PM.

For further information email mjb@ptd.net or call the NJ & E.Pennsylvania D.A. hotline at 908-580-8200.

Ways & Means Newsletter Subscription Form

Yes! I would like to become a subscriber to *Ways & Means*, the newsletter for the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

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Address _____

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Are you a group contact? _____ A General Service Rep? _____

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(Debtors Anonymous General
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Subscription rates are as follows:

United States:	Canada:	Foreign:
1-4 subscriptions \$8/yr. each	1-4 subs. \$8.50/yr.	1-4 subs. \$13/yr.
5-9 subscriptions \$7/yr. each	5-9 subs. \$7.50/yr.	5-9 subs. \$12/yr.
10+ subscriptions \$6/yr. each	10+ subs \$6.50/yr.	10+ subs \$11/yr.

All amounts must be drawn on U.S. banks only. Please remember that it could be up to three months before you receive your first issue. *Ways & Means* is published quarterly, but the publication schedule may vary.

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New Office Manager Hired at General Service Office

Howard S. of Massachusetts has accepted the position of Office Manager at the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham, Massachusetts. He previously owned and operated his own business and is familiar with the joys and trials of being a business owner. He has also been a buyer and manager for a local sporting goods store, and more recently has served as a Software Test Technician and as a Technical Support Coordinator.

Howard is familiar with the steps and traditions of Debtors Anonymous. He is also an avid distance runner and has run over 30 marathons. He currently faces the joys and challenges of having a daughter in college and a son in eighth grade.

If you have the opportunity to call the GSO between 9-5, EST, please introduce yourself to Howard.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Like a good meeting, this newsletter exists by the contributions of its members. If you have the desire to share your story of experience, strength and hope or any other DA related subject with fellow DA members around the world please send in your submissions to:

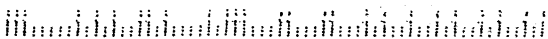
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Ways & Means is our meeting-in-print. Your contribution is encouraged.

Sharings will be edited as required for space, and will not be returned. Thank you.

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"So many of us define ourselves by what we have, what we wear, what kind of house we live in and what kind of car we drive...if you think of yourself as the woman in the Cartier watch and the Hermes scarf, a house fire will destroy not only your possessions but yourself."

- Linda Henley, American writer