

# Prosperity Times

Northern California Debtors Anonymous Newsletter and Meeting List

October - December 2007

## Twelve out of Forty-Four!

There are forty-four meetings in the Northern California area represented by the NCDA Intergroup. The mission of the Intergroup is to carry the message of D.A. and to serve all the meetings in Northern California.

The NCDA Intergroup produces two main events a year, Winter Lights and DoDA Day. Whereas Winter Lights centers around the spiritual aspect of D.A., DoDA Day focuses on the practical. Both offer a memorable day for those attending whether they are old timers or newcomers.

Intergroup publishes the Prosperity Times, a free quarterly newsletter that is carried to the home meetings by their Intergroup Representative. The shares offered by members on different themes are a special and touching feature of each issue. During 2007 the themes were New Beginnings, D.A. Miracles, Making Amends, and Visions.

Intergroup also maintains a web site, a valuable resource of information. It includes a current list of D.A. meetings that can be accessed by city / town or by the day of the week, links to World Service D.A., information on how to open a D.A. checking account and how to manage a Group Inventory, forms to order literature and much more.

The Prosperity Times can be downloaded from the web site. There is an archive of past Prosperity Times, which can also be downloaded. A new feature of the site lists Special Events and Fundraisers held by member groups. You can also subscribe to a monthly email letter from the home page of the web site, which can be found at: [www.ncdaweb.org](http://www.ncdaweb.org)

The Intergroup is doing an incredible job serving the member groups, but *only twelve meetings in Northern California out of forty-four send representatives to the Intergroup meetings!* You are encouraged to send a representative from your meeting to Intergroup. It is a very special way to serve not only your own meeting but the entire community in Northern California.

**All members are welcome to attend Intergroup meetings.**

**Where:** San Francisco Public Library, main branch,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor Conference room  
(The Library is across the street from the Civic Center BART station)

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month  
November: Sunday, November 18  
December: Saturday, December 15, room to be determined

**Time:** 10:15am-12:45pm

## The "Blast"

A monthly email newsletter is now available to NCDA members. It covers Intergroup news and notices for Special Events. If you would like to receive the monthly news, you may subscribe on the home page of the NCDA web site at

[www.ncdaweb.org](http://www.ncdaweb.org)

In the lower left hand column is a sign up section for news and announcements. You may unsubscribe at any time.

## Special Events

There are a number of ways to publicize your meeting's Special Event or Fundraiser through the NCDA Intergroup.

▶ **The NCDA web site:** With over 1000 unique visitors a month, the web site is an ideal medium to publicize your group's activities. Send the information to [registrar@ncdaweb.org](mailto:registrar@ncdaweb.org).

▶ **The "Blast":** Once you subscribe to the monthly email, you can list D.A. related events. To subscribe go to the home page of the web site [www.ncdaweb.org](http://www.ncdaweb.org)

▶ **The Prosperity Times:** Deadlines would be: December 5<sup>th</sup> (for the January issue), March 5, June 5, and September 5. Send to [registrar@ncdaweb.org](mailto:registrar@ncdaweb.org).

▶ **Flyers for your event** can be brought and distributed to the Intergroup Representatives at the monthly meeting. The flyers will be carried back to the home groups and announcements made.

To include your event in the listings, send a complete description of the event, date, time, location, donation requested, sponsoring group and contact person's phone number and/or email address. Please allow ample lead-time

# V i s i o n s

---

## Created for Me

One of the most powerful tools in D.A. for me is visioning. In the beginning, many of my visions arrived by listening to other DAers share about how their lives had changed and where they were now in their recovery. I soon discovered that whatever was a source of annoyance, discomfort or outright suffering could be turned into a vision.

My work with visioning really began to take off in the winter of 2006 when I was at a PRG for my business as a private reading specialist. I was about to turn 50, and hitting a wall with my business and basically wanted out, but didn't know where I was headed. Suddenly out of my mouth flew the words, "The only thing I really want to do is to spend the summer back east." Right away my PRG people took seriously what I had thought was a pipe dream, and we began crafting an action plan to make it happen. Soon thereafter I attended a day-long Visions Retreat in Mountain View where we broke up into triads: one person was the visioner, one the questioner, and one the recorder. I used my time to vision all about my summer. I typed it up, read it regularly and put it in my God Box.

Long story short, I took a 2.5 month sabbatical from my life and business. I visited with family, extended family and old friends. I wrote, did meditation and yoga, and swam almost every day in a long pond. I recovered myself and in my writing began to uncover and remember a vision to take the work I had been doing privately for upper-middle-class families to children who would never in a million years be able to afford me. I had no idea the 'hows' of doing this, but I reconnected with the strength of that vision. Coming back to the Bay Area in mid-September I suddenly found myself very strapped for income. With a dwindling client base, I was taking other steps to bring in money, trying to recruit new clients and sending my resume out for jobs.

In November I was invited to a party but didn't want to show up because I wasn't feeling that great about my life...but D.A. has taught me that just showing up can be powerful. So I went and reconnected with a man who was working at a school district's Reading Clinic. He told me to sign up to be a substitute teacher, and I could

substitute for him for several days in December. I took all my materials down to the district office the following Monday. The woman in charge asked if I was interested in a full-time teaching position. I said I didn't think so, but agreed to go meet with the Human Resources person to hear the job listings. When she read them to me, only one jumped out at me...a 2nd grade teaching position. The school called me immediately to set up an interview, and between that time and the interview I grew increasingly certain that I did not want to teach a full classroom ever again, but decided once again to show up.

I felt an immediate rapport with the principal who used the word 'vision' within the first 3 sentences of our meeting. The assistant principal joined us, and I sensed that there would be teamwork here as well as working for a community where all the families were living below the poverty line. But I still knew that I did not want to be a classroom teacher. Half way through the interview, as the principal was scanning my resume, she put the papers down, looked at me and said, "I don't think you should be the 2nd grade teacher." I kind of cleared my throat and said resignedly, "Yes, you're right." Then, much to my surprise, she added, "I think you should be a reading teacher, and I think we should create a position and hire you."

They did, and I am now living my vision of working in community and collaboration with others while serving students who would never have been able to afford me. As I go to and from work, even on days that are hard or when I am exhausted, I feel incredibly grateful that life spun out as it did and that I am able to do this work. The job is still unfolding as are my visions for it. Built into my job now is time back east every summer. This summer I was back east for 5 weeks and during that time uncovered dreams and visions that have been on the back burner since I was a child.

Sometimes visioning is excavation; finding the dreams that you put on a shelf long ago, that now you can take down, dust off and inhabit one step at a time. Thanks D.A. for breathing new life into my shelved and dusty visions!

- SS, Berkeley

---

## My Vision, My Home

The place where I live is a vision come true. I dreamed of living in a furnished apartment, and D.A. has taught me to believe that my visions are possible. I not only kept a vision of the furnished apartment in my mind, but thanked God for it as though it were already a reality.

I also nurtured the vision that the furnished apartment would be reasonably priced. When I signed the lease for my present apartment, the stated rent was below market rate. I did point this out but was given the lesser rent anyway. The apartment was a furnished model in the complex. Because the furniture was last year's model, they offered me the opportunity to buy it all for only \$150! It included a couch, lamps, and kitchen table with chairs.

Over time I was given many gifts to add to the furnishings, a bookcase, a television, a like-new bed and bed stands, a dish ware set. Most recently I was given a patio couch. My apartment is being furnished effortlessly. I pictured a ficus tree to enhance my home and that too has been gifted to me.

All the furniture that fills my beautiful apartment only cost me around \$250. I live in abundance, in a safe, secure, gated location. I think I have the best view in the entire complex with flowers and trees. The more I feel abundant, the more riches and abundance comes to me.

When I thank God for what I envision as though it were already there, it comes. I not only think it, but I also believe it, affirm it, and know it as a done deal. I continue to thank God for what I have received. Thank you D.A. for encouraging me to believe in my visions and the guidance of a Higher Power.

-Brandi M.

## From the Worst Job

I grew up in a poor family in a small New England town. My family's outlook on life was to "get by," to live day by day with no great thought toward the future.

Like many teenagers, in high school I fell in with a "crowd." But this group opened my eyes to a different world. They all planned to go to college. This was a foreign idea in my family, and I was astounded by the concept of having long term goals. A five year goal!!! What a foreign idea!!

I was always interested in drawing, and I began to envision going to art school to become an illustrator. I had absolutely no art training, so after high school, I took a one-year "post graduate" course in art offered at a high school in a larger town in the area. I had no guidance around applying to a college, and because I didn't know any better, I applied to only one college. Higher Power must have been guiding me because I not only was accepted, but based on my portfolio was accepted as a sophomore.

I loved college and being surrounded by creativity. However, after college I experienced some negative personal life experiences and left the city to go back home to the small New England town to recuperate.

Job opportunities in the area were limited so I went to work at the local glass factory packing bottles from a conveyor belt, lines and lines of bottles that would incessantly move forward and needed to be checked for defects and packed. It would easily fall into the "worst job I've ever had" category.

I continued to vision a different life as an illustrator even though it was extremely unlikely to happen in that rural area. I did not know it at the time, but I was instinctively following much of what is taught in D.A. One night as I was packing bottles, an extraordinary thing happened. A small white moth fluttered up and landed on my shoulder...a brilliant white moth against my purple turtleneck in a dark, hot, noisy factory. It rested there for a very long time. It felt like a sign and gave me renewed hope.

Shortly thereafter, I learned that there was a local business in the next (and still very small and rural) town that made filmstrips. I applied and got a job *illustrating* the stories. Many years later this is still, to me, an amazing thing because such a job was so out of the norm for these rural areas.

Since that time, I have joined D.A. I've had many jobs, and they have always been in the commercial art field. Many emphasized design over illustration, but I was always thankful that my days were filled with creativity. A number of years ago, I had the opportunity to have my own studio where I can use both my design experience and my illustration skills to create beautiful products for people's homes.

D.A. has taught me to consciously believe in my visions, to cradle them and nurture them like a precious infant that will in time grow. Thank you D.A.

- Ritsa

---

## GSR? What is a GSR?

A GSR is a dedicated person who strongly serves not only his or her home meeting but also serves the entire D.A. community. GSR stands for General Service Representative.

If your meeting does not have a GSR, it is strongly encouraged that someone step into this position of great service. A GSR's main functions are to carry information from the World Service Office to local meetings and vice versa, attend the annual D.A. World Service Conference where business pertinent to all D.A. meetings is discussed and decided, and work on Conference committees. The long days of business and committee meetings at the Conference are both grueling and exhilarating. Out of the various committees come supportive materials such as the reworking of AA literature to specifically reflect D.A.

The General Service Representatives for Northern California meet once a month. **All members are welcome to attend.** You may wish to phone the contact for any changes in dates, times or room.

Where: San Francisco Public Library, main branch,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room  
(across from the Civic Center BART station)

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

Time: 10:15am – 12noon

Contact: Brandi 408-313-4137

To help the Northern California GSRs better serve the members, it is suggested that each group, send a donation to the NorCal DA GSR. See below.

## 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:**  
NCD A 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

## Winter Lights

It is not too early to start thinking about the next D.A. Intergroup event, Winter Lights. It will be held in February 2008. Watch for further details in the January-March issue of Prosperity Times or on the NCD A web site.

We are looking for an abundant and convenient location for Winter Lights. If you have any suggestions please tell your Intergroup Rep or send the suggestions to: [registrar@ncdawe.org](mailto:registrar@ncdawe.org).

## Do you have a theme

that you would like to have addressed in the Prosperity Times? This is your newsletter. You are encouraged to make requests or give feedback. The theme for the next issue is:

### Performing Service

Service has a double benefit. It serves the membership, and it strengthens one's own recovery.

Prosperity Times welcomes your personal story of experience, strength and hope. Please send submissions in the body of an email. Length may be 300-400 words. Articles may be edited to fit the space. Send to:

[prosperitytimes@ncdawe.org](mailto:prosperitytimes@ncdawe.org)

or mail to:

**NCD A P.O. Box 31224 San Francisco, CA 94131**  
Attn: Prosperity Times, Editor

*Submissions must be received by December 1.*

## Is Your Meeting Information Correct?

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

[registrar@ncdawe.org](mailto:registrar@ncdawe.org)

The information will go to both the Prosperity Times Editor and the Web Guardian and will be updated in both places.

**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.

