

3rd EDITION 2010

NEWSLETTER



SURVIVORS OF INCEST ANONYMOUS
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE
P.O. Box 190
Benson, MD 21018
(410) 893-3322
www.siawso.org
<http://siawso.flyingcart.com>

28 years helping survivors thrive!

MISSION STATEMENT:

We empower those who have survived child sexual abuse (who are not abusing any child), who want to become survivors and thrivers. Using our experience, strength and hope, we do this by:

- offering referrals to SIA, self-help, support groups
- providing information to start SIA groups, intergroups, and national service offices
- creating and distributing SIA information tools (literature, newsletter, electronic media)
- offering a speakers' bureau
- guiding SIA's public information efforts worldwide

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WE CONTINUE TO GROW

We would like to welcome the following new groups to our SIA family:

ARIZONA: Tuscon, Sunday 6:00pm

CALIFORNIA: Beverly Hills, "Survivors Becoming Thrivers" Saturdays 1:00pm

Santa Monica, Tuesdays 7:30pm

COLORADO: Grand Junction, Wednesday 6:30 pm

MASSECHUSETTS: Brookline, "Brookline Group" Wednesdays 7:00pm

REPORT ON SIA NAME CHANGE AND PERPETRATORS AT MEETINGS

If you would like a copy of the report with all of the responses, please send a 9 x 11 manila envelope and we'll be happy to send it to you.

We're working on refining the Perpetration Statement with prior and current membership feedback in mind, and furthermore, we are seeking written legal opinion concerning perpetrators at meetings. In this way, we are insuring that SIA, as a whole, is protected from liability.

There is a small group of people who are working on the statement. If you'd like to help, please send an email to:

responsetoreport@yahoo.com

The most popular **name change** was adding: "*for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse*. We won't change the name; it will remain the same. The addendum, in italics, will simply be put on everything that already has the SIA name on it.

You can expect a survey which will be sent out to all registered groups concerning this and other concerns. If your group is not registered, or if your group secretary isn't active, you'll want to let the WSO know who will be the contact person.

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DID YOU KNOW?

*New groups can be added and old groups updated online. There are **many** more meetings in the hardcopy directory than the online directory? Does your meeting want to be listed online? Have you checked lately to see what your online listing says? All of this can be accomplished quite efficiently by going to www.siaowo.org and following the steps. If you have any questions please email Becky at hrrsgart@zoominternet.net*

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**FREE via EMAIL!!
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS
RETREAT INFO
NEW LITERATURE**

The SIA World Service Office has created a low-volume, announcement-only mailing list to share news within the fellowship. Items sent out over this list will include retreat information, notification of

events, the quarterly newsletter, and more. Your email address will be kept strictly confidential, and you may unsubscribe at any time.

To be added to SIA's mailing list, please send an email to:

siaowo+subscribe@googlegroups.com

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MISSING PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS?

Look on-line at www.siaowo.org. You can find some of them there.

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WANT YOUR OPINION TO BE HEARD?

Why not join one of the following World Service Committees?

Literature

Finance

Outreach

Conference committee

(*By-laws and planning 2010 and *Conference structure and Conference Planning)

Group Concerns

If so, please contact Elias at:
ecolombotos@yahoo.com

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FOR SALE

RECOVERY MEDALLIONS AND LITERATURE ON SALE

Visit <http://siaowo.flyingcart.com> for more details!

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T-SHIRTS

The WSO will be selling t-shirts to help finance the WSO. We'll have more information in the next Newsletter.

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FROM THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2010-August 6, 7, and 8

If you can't wait to get the Minutes (in the next Newsletter), the following are some of the highlights.

Survivors of Incest Anonymous World Service Conference Mission Statement

We gather in service with the intention to hear from individuals, groups, intergroups and committees as to progress, problems, and visions for the next year, to insure the integrity, commitment, continuity, growth, and accountability to the Mission, Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of SIA as a whole. The hand of SIA will always be there to carry the message of hope to the survivor who still suffers.

The WS Conference did not make any policy. It can't. Until we have more area reps, anything that is discussed at the conference will be put to a vote on a survey which will be coming out very soon. **** PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR SECRETARY IS CURRENT. WE WON'T ACCEPT PHOTOCOPIES, ONLY THE ORIGINAL WILL BE ACCEPTED, AND IT WILL BE MAILED TO THE PERSON WHO IS CURRENTLY GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR GROUP.**

Some of what we discussed at the WSC:

1) We are asking groups to please verify that your meeting information is correct on our [database](#). If your group is not currently getting Newsletters in the mail, then your contact person is no longer attending and you need to update that information.

2) Conference Minutes and Board minutes will be included in an upcoming Newsletter.

3) Groups are encouraged to take up a 2nd collection weekly to be used to send someone to the next WS Conference.

4) Service work at meetings is lacking and yet "When you get busy, you get better"! Service work could include arranging chairs or keeping track of the group's literature. Reminder: You're allowed mistakes.

5) Include a group inventory with the Newsletter.

6) Would you or your group be interested in a "call in"? Meaning, at a prescribed time, someone with a lot of 12 Step experience will be available via a conference call to discuss problems, concerns or suggestions your group may have.

7) We are hoping to use SKYPE or some other internet service next year so that more people may join us for the 2011 World Service Conference.

8) Anonymity is so very important for our fellowship. This includes at the level of press, TV,

radio, films, and internet including social media: (Facebook, Twitter, My Space, LinkedIn), [as well as](#) interactions with those sharing our meeting spaces, and across other 12 Step programs.

9) Accessibility was also discussed. Please be aware that LGB and 3rd gender also want to recover.

10) Explain the logo. See below

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OUR LOGO

At the WS Conference the explanation for our logo was read, and we thought that all of you would like to know how the artist interpreted what she'd made. Below is a column from a 1996 Newsletter written by Linda D., Executive Director:

Dear SIA Members,

Above is the new SIA logo. I wish we all could have voted on it, but it was not possible. After attending a day-long seminar on graphic designing, I asked the presenter if she would be willing to work pro-bono for SIA. She informed me that she did not have the time. However, she told me that she taught graphic design at a local college. She was willing to assign SIA's logo as part of their curriculum. I needed to attend a few of the classes in exchange for a logo from a last year, graduate-level student. I agreed.

I was presented 17 different designs. I was able to bring them back to the office for one week before making a final decision. Every person that came into the office was ushered into the room where I'd displayed all 17. It was an almost unanimous decision. I hope you like it. I would love to hear your comments.

Following are written words from the artist who designed the logo. I thought you might like to hear how she interpreted it.

In our first meeting, you shared the story of SIA, its history, its mission of outreach and programs that foster hope, healing, personal recognition and group togetherness. We learned that although SIA is now a successful, global organization, you are looking for ways to trim expenses and to guide additional members and possible donors to SIA.

You shared with us the many pieces of literature, the variations of the logo, art and format you are using and told us that you think that it's time to refine the visual presentation of SIA.

We agreed to accept the assignment, to study the problem as you presented it and to give special attention to the psychological and economic background of the group.

The image I designed brings harmony to the basic concepts of SIA programs; it speaks to survivors about the continuity of life; the ladder, Jacob's ladder, speaks of the 12 Steps to revelation and hope; the tree, a universal symbol of the passage of time, of strength and growth; the heart, our emotions, ragged but still intact, at time naïve, our heart now has wings.

Conceptually, the logo mirrors the idea of changing the perspective of self, from the self formed in the days of incest, mirrored in the roots of the tree, to the present day, healing self, or heart with wings. It's not medical, austere or restrictive. It asks you, as a survivor, to allow yourself to hope again, to change your patterns of dealing with your inner circle of family and friends and your new, wider, global circle – your fellow survivors.

It asks you, as a donor, to help this group to keep their hope alive.

It subtly tugs on the sleeve of the world:

"We are here. Listen. We help ourselves through change. We are ready to help others."

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RECOVERY WORK

LINDA'S THOUGHTS

As always, take what you like and leave the rest.

In the last newsletter I wrote about **MY MIND'S JOB**. I came across a poem that I wrote years before I knew that I was abused as a baby, yet I wrote about a "yearling". I am in awe of the mind's ability to protect us until we are ready to deal with the pain.

INCEST

Defy gravity
find solace on the ceiling.
Hush the motionless clock
Wait, wait,
Feed the thirsty animal
Who devours youthful tenderness.

Embrace the beast's iniquities as your own
for happy is the disease
when the cure is within reach

Go in, /N
where holy is the void
and reflections abhorred.

Wearing elderly eyeglasses, yours unrequested,
Grow old, die hard, oh restless yearling.
Inspire yourself, for it is all that you have.

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Be gentle with yourself,
Linda D. Co-founder/Executive Director

See you at the October retreat in Uniontown, PA.

Linda's Keynote speech can be ordered for \$20.00
plus \$2.00 S/H

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She Lives

She is falling
Falling through starry shapes
To land on a crying stone

In a black ocean
in this world where no one
knows her name

She sees into darkness
the mirror worlds
people here don't recognize her gifts

For two thousand years they have shunned her
burned, raped, tortured her
they frightened her so she could not speak
made her the scapegoat of their ills
but it's their own soul they've abandoned

They tried to kill her
so she tried to kill herself
but she lives

As the sun still dances shadows across the plains
she lives

As the night wind rustles autumn leaves
she lives

As the weeping cherry still blossoms in Spring
she lives
she lives

Kelly M.

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DO YOU HAVE TALENT?

The WSO is looking for poetry, artwork or recovery articles to include in the next Newsletter. Please send them to: SIA, PO Box 190, Benson, MD 21018 with written permission to print it.

IF THERE'S ROOM:

MATCHING GIFT? AUTOMATIC DEDUCTION? DONATIONS FOR YOUR TIME?

Does your employer have a matching gift policy? When you send in \$50.00, your employer will match it. So, **your \$50.00 donation becomes \$100.00!** Please check it out.

Does your employer have automatic deductions for non-profits? If so, please consider **designating SIA World Service Office as the beneficiary.**

☺**Thank you** for anything you can do to help!

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VOLUNTEERS – MOST APPRECIATED

We love volunteers at the World Service Office. General office work is needed. If you can get to Exit 74 off of I-95, we would love to have you help out. **If you can volunteer once**, we can use the help! Please call 410.893.3322 and leave a message for Linda. (The # button by-passes the long answering machine message.)

Thank you!

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DID YOU MOVE? DID YOUR AREA CODE OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGE?

If so, please notify us so we can save on postage for undeliverable mail, and survivors will be able to find your group.