

University of Arizona  
Recovery thru Integration,  
Support & Empowerment-RISE  
1450 N Cherry  
Tucson, Arizona 85719-4207

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TUCSON, ARIZONA  
PERMIT NO. 190

## Recovery Support Specialist Newsletter

Issue #17  
April 2008



### Table of Contents

**Page 2**  
News of Note

**Page 3**  
Diabetes and  
Mental Health

**Page 4 & 5**  
Released from  
Prison

**Page 6 & 7**  
Institute 13  
Graduation

**Page 8**  
One Friday Night

**Page 9**  
An Autobiography  
in Five Chapters  
By Portia Nelson

**Page 10**  
Did you know...  
Margaret Trudeau

**Page 11**  
Word Hunt



### Boundaries

By Kathy Wyman, RSS



Setting boundaries has helped me  
with my recovery, personal life, and my job.  
Setting boundaries at work has made my job  
easier. Working at the Haven as a House

Manager I spend much of my time with the clients and found that it is  
easy for the boundary lines to fade. Setting boundaries lets the clients  
grow. It keeps the clients and me safe and lets them know where we  
stand. When the clients get upset with me they can say what they feel  
and I don't take it personally. I know that they are learning how to deal  
with all these new feelings and learning to set **their** boundaries. Since I  
have set my boundaries, they know that they can come back later after  
they cool off and we can let it go and get on with the rest of the day.

Setting boundaries has made a big difference in my life. It has  
helped me to be able to say "**NO**" and feel good about it. It lets people  
know where I stand. Setting boundaries with my family was the hardest,  
but by doing that, it has made it easier to set them at work. Setting  
boundaries at work is important because it allows me to do my job to the  
best of my ability and lets the clients find their own path in life. I don't  
always set boundaries gracefully but **I do it** because in the long run it is  
best for all. It is not going to be easy all the time and it may hurt a little  
but sometimes the things that hurt us make us stronger.

Next Newsletter Comes out in  
**June**

To receive the RSS Newsletter please reply with the following  
information to:

**RISE**

**1450 N Cherry, Tucson, Arizona 85719-4207** or

E-Mail: [bcurrie@email.arizona.edu](mailto:bcurrie@email.arizona.edu)

Telephone: **520-626-7473** Fax: **520-626-7833**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



*This newsletter is for anyone interested in the ongoing and growing RSS Program.*

**Advisory Committee**

Linda Hicks  
CRSS

Kathy Lewis  
CRSS

Ken Rogers  
CRSS

Patricia Porras  
CRSS

Dan Steffy

All Certified Recovery Support Specialists are invited to join the Advisory Committee.

Please call RISE at 520-626-7473 for the date and time of meetings.

**News of Note**

**Come Visit the Website!**

[www.fcm.arizona.edu/outreach/rise](http://www.fcm.arizona.edu/outreach/rise)

To view:

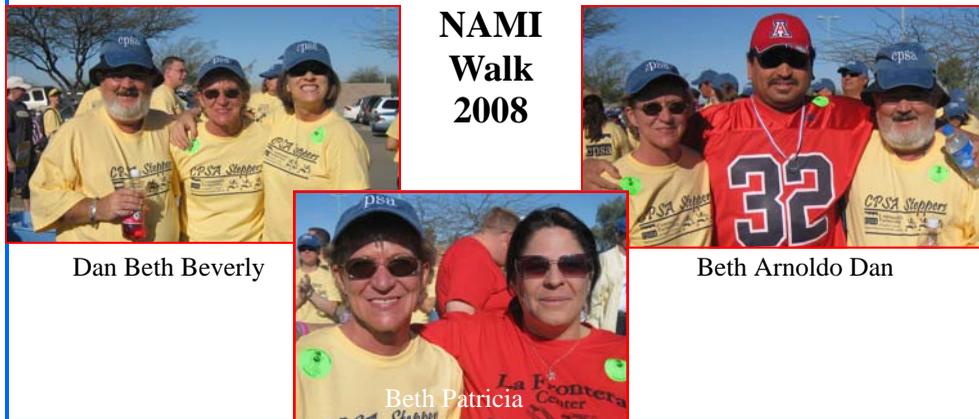
- ◆ **RSS Newsletters**
- ◆ **RISE's Mission and Vision**
- ◆ **RISE's Faculty and Staff**

The newsletter comes out **every other month**. If you have not received it by the end of the month please call, email [bcurrie@email.arizona.edu](mailto:bcurrie@email.arizona.edu), or go to the website to view a copy.

**Salma Ballesteros**, CRSS has spent much time and effort using her bilingual skills in translating one article for each of the Recovery Support Specialists' Newsletters. Her contributions have allowed Spanish speakers to be able to read at least one article from the RSS Newsletter in Spanish. Ms. Ballesteros's contributions have been totally voluntary and those of us who publish the newsletter, as well as all of the readers have greatly appreciated her time and efforts. We thank Salma for her contributions and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.



By Beth Stoneking



Dan Beth Beverly

Beth Arnoldo Dan

Beth Patricia

Beth C. Stoneking, PhD, MSW, CPRP  
Beverly McGuffin, RN, MS, CPRP  
BreAnn Currie

Publisher  
Editor  
Page Designer



**Word Hunt**

Find all 16 words

Message Spiritual Advocate Label	Audience Sidewalk Received Navigate	Passion Accompanied Contributions Healthy	Schedule Circumstances Stamina Rewarding
---	--	--	---

I	D	E	H	N	U	A	D	V	O	C	A	T	E	Q
Y	S	C	S	K	G	C	A	N	I	M	A	T	S	S
J	E	N	X	S	N	C	R	T	H	D	K	N	P	B
H	C	E	W	I	I	O	W	E	K	N	O	A	I	N
T	N	I	E	D	D	M	C	F	D	I	S	G	R	E
B	A	D	T	E	R	P	Y	X	T	S	L	G	I	A
M	T	U	A	W	A	A	E	U	I	T	J	W	T	U
O	S	A	G	A	W	N	B	O	F	U	C	Q	U	J
O	M	A	I	L	E	I	N	D	A	O	H	I	A	V
Z	U	J	V	K	R	E	C	E	I	V	E	D	L	W
K	C	Y	A	T	K	D	C	F	L	A	B	E	L	T
R	R	E	N	I	H	A	I	M	L	O	K	A	E	X
L	I	O	F	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	P	I	A
D	C	Y	A	G	T	B	P	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H
A	H	P	O	L	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S	M	O

## Did you Know...

### Margaret Trudeau

Adapted from an article in the Vancouver Sun

Quitting cannabis has been an important part of her recovery from mental illness, Margaret Trudeau said at a press conference in Vancouver for the Canadian Mental Health Association's upcoming Bottom Line Conference. Trudeau, who has bipolar disorder, spoke openly with reporters about her experience with depression and the effect of her long-term marijuana use.



It is not uncommon for people with mental illnesses to self-medicate with alcohol or marijuana, she said, rather than reach out to family and friends or seek medical assistance.

**"Marijuana can trigger psychosis," said Trudeau. "Every time I was hospitalized it was preceded by heavy use of marijuana."**

Trudeau was hospitalized three times for mental illness. Her most recent hospitalization followed the deaths of her son Michel, and Pierre Trudeau, former Prime Minister of Canada. Although she has had the mental illness for 35 years, it was not until the most recent hospitalization that she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

While delivering a message of hope, Trudeau admitted recovery isn't easy.

**"I have found a spiritual replacement," said Trudeau, who studies Buddhism and the teachings of the Dalai Lama.**

Spirituality is just one cornerstone of a healthy lifestyle that includes eating well and remembering that **"your mental health is just as important as your physical health."** Trudeau wants people to know that **"you can change the course of a depression if you catch it early."**

She advocates **"recognition, acceptance and compassion"** as the three fundamental elements of the disclosure and recovery process.

Trudeau, who is a committed advocate for mental health, spoke further on her own journey through mental illness at a conference in Vancouver.

For more information go to [www.bottomlineconference.ca](http://www.bottomlineconference.ca), [dryan@png.canwest.com](mailto:dryan@png.canwest.com)

## DO YOU HAVE DIABETES AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES?

Yes, I do. It's like being in a circus on the high wire, trying to balance the baton.

When I was diagnosed with diabetes in 2001, it was devastating! I worked hard to adapt to my new lifestyle. By attending diabetes classes at St. Joseph's Hospital and communicating with my diabetes health team, I have gained skills and knowledge about my disease. I am on a mission to prevent neuropathy, kidney disease, periodontal disease, glaucoma and/or heart attack.



In 2005 I was diagnosed with mental illness. Part of the diagnoses was due to trying to cope with finances and working at getting my diabetes under control. I attended dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) classes at La Frontera Center and followed my provider's instruction while building up my support system over the years. I never want to be hospitalized again. I have realized that there is too much to experience in life.

By checking my blood sugars, communicating with my diabetes and mental health teams, keeping appointments, taking my meds as prescribed, eye exams, asking for help when needed, dental exams and physical exams, I feel like I can cope with any bump in the road.

I still have "bad" days, but not as frequent as in the past. When I'm feeling "bad", I check my blood sugars and check to see if I have taken my medications; if that is not the issue, then I put my coping skills into action and my day is not so "bad."

I attended the RSS Institute 5 in September, 2005. I am now a CRSS and work full time at La Frontera Center, Inc. It took time and patience to accomplish my goal of full time employment, but I did it and I love my job.

**KATHY LEWIS, CRSS**

## Released from Prison

By Michele Keller, RSS  
Adapted from the Tucson Citizen



### While in prison...

While serving her first two prison sentences in the late 1990s and shortly thereafter, Michele Keller said she didn't care what programs were offered inside the prison.

"Each time I went in, I had a different mentality," said Keller, 37, who was convicted of drug offenses. "Yes, I did the classes, but I needed the mentality to change," Michele Keller said.

"While I was in the walls, I found out where to get help for every scenario I knew of because I knew when I got out, I would have to do it on my own". Keller is determined to stay sober and out of prison. She recently defied some occupational advice and completed training at the Recovery Support Specialist Institute (RSSI).

"They told me I couldn't do that," Keller said. "But I did it. They told me I needed to find work in fast food, but I refused to believe that. I'm reaching out. I'm helping others do what they want to do, because I know what it's like to get out and take the easy road . I know what it's like to struggle for what you want."

### Thoughts after prison...

It can be really hard for one who is released from prison to reach out and seek help; either due to our pride of "I can do this all on my own-I don't need help", or our fear of being rejected by another. For me, I realized that I could not do this on my own. I needed help mentally, physically, emotionally, financially, and most of all spiritually. Despite my fear of rejection I reached out to several

## An Autobiography in Five Chapters

By Portia Nelson

Chapter 1: I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to get out.

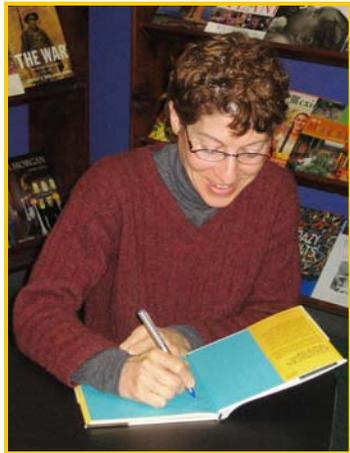
Chapter 2: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I'm in the same place but it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3: I walk done the same street. There is a deep hole in the side walk. I see it is there. I still fall in. It's now become a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4: I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter 5: I walk down another street.





Nadia

## One Friday Night Antigone Books Featured Nadia Shivack, CRSS

Antigone Books had a book signing that featured Nadia Shivack for her book *Inside Out: Portrait of an Eating Disorder*. Nadia was accompanied by Beverly McGuffin, who helped Nadia get back into work.

Nadia's book depicts her life with ED, her eating disorder, who she met when she was fourteen

years old. Nadia shares that *"work is at the core of my recovery and has helped me to define myself for the first time as more than an eating disorder and more than a label."*

Nadia's supporters in the audience included Beth Stoneking and Cynthia Aspengren, a new graduate of the RSS Institute 13 (see centerfold page 6 & 7). Nadia was well received by the audience and had the opportunity to answer questions and speak about her book.



Nadia and Beverly



Beth and Cynthia

### Newest Achievement



Nadia's *Inside Out* has just been named to the New York Public Library's annual Books for the Teen Age list. The book will appear in the 79th edition of the list, which honors the best books of the year published for readers 12-18 years of age.

To purchase the book and read more about Nadia go to [www.simonsays.com](http://www.simonsays.com)

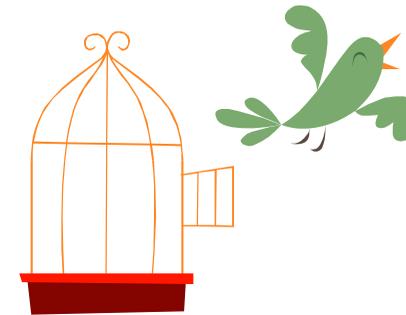
agencies for help; knowing that if one door closes another will open.

I believe my desire to help others stems from my past; my past life of addiction, the streets, homelessness, and prison. To reach out and help others through peer support is now my addiction, a natural high; a passion in life. If I can help save another from being hungry, homeless, cold, or from a relapse from an addiction, I know that I am doing what God has called me to do.

Today I believe in a power greater than Michele. Through persistence and perseverance I have been clean and sober for a little over 2 ½ years. I have a job at La Frontera Center as a RSS. I could have never made it without faith in my Higher Power.

### Points to follow:

- ◆ Recovery **IS** possible! Believe in yourself and NEVER give up!
  - ◆ Take it one day at a time!





Shawnette Martinez,  
MORE SEACRS

**RSS Graduates**



Belinda Boring,  
SEACRS Safford

**Institute 13**



**From Left to Right: Tom , Shawnette, Cynthia, Julie , Belinda**

**First Institute where all graduates are working**

**CRSS Panelists**



Pam Riggs,  
Sierra Vista Outpatient



Albert Regain,  
SEABHS



Tom Summers,  
Sierra Vista Outpatient



Sheldon Cowles,  
Comfort Zone SEACRS



Sonya Sova,  
Benson Outpatient



Julie Bishop,  
Willcox Outpatient



Cynthia Aspengren,  
Bisbee Outpatient



**SEACRS Safford  
Belinda and Adrian Molina, Supervisor**



**Dana Jonhson CEO of SEABHS,  
between Cynthia on left, and Julie on  
right**



Robert Lopez,  
Douglas Outpatient



**Sierra Vista Outpatient  
Pam, Tom, and Darlene Mehegan, Supervisor**

SEABHS= South Eastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services

MORE= Mobile Outreach Recovery Empowerment