

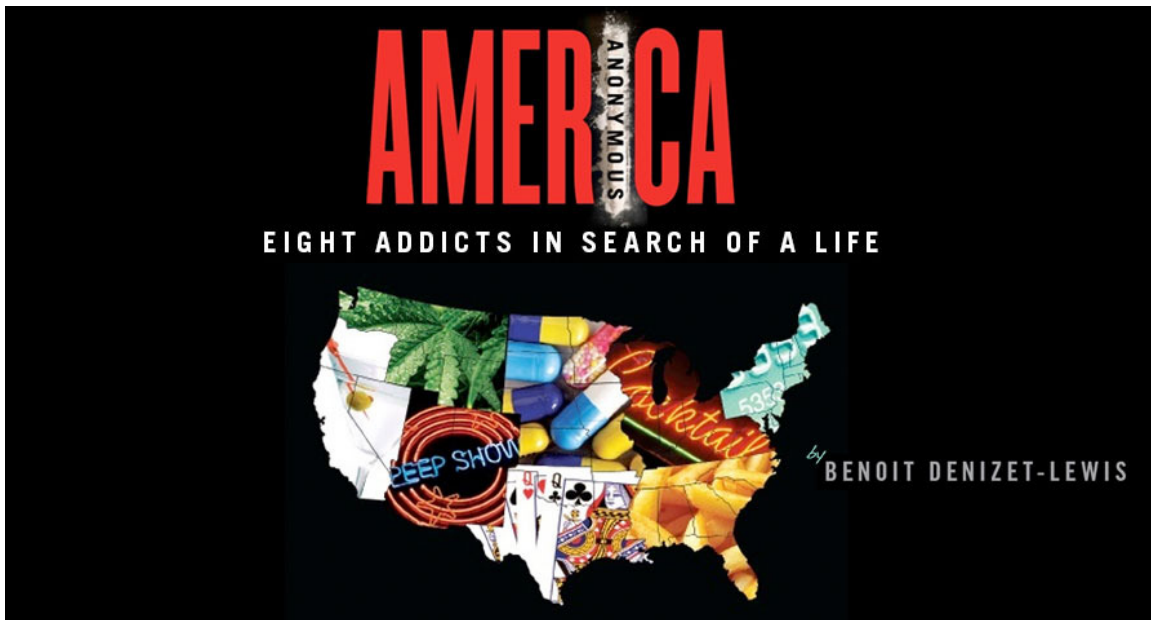


National Council on Problem Gambling

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Contact: Keith Whyte
202.547.9204

23rd National Annual Conference Features Benoit Denizet-Lewis



WASHINGTON, D.C. – *America Anonymous* author Benoit Denizet-Lewis will speak on addiction and recovery as the Community Day lunch speaker at our 23rd National Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN. *America Anonymous: Eight Addicts in Search of a Life* is the story of eight men and women from around the country—including a drug and gambling addiction counselor—struggling to recover from addictions. Alternating with



these stories is Benoit's own chronicle of addiction and recovery. Addiction (to nicotine, alcohol, illegal drugs, and prescription drugs) is this country's biggest public-health problem, costing us \$524 billion each year and triggering or exacerbating many of our most pressing social problems—crime, poverty, skyrocketing health-care costs, and childhood abuse and neglect. But while cancer and AIDS survivors have taken to the streets and to the halls of Congress demanding to be

counted, millions of addicts with successful longterm recovery only talk to each other in the confines of anonymous Twelve Step meetings.

Through the stories of Americans in various stages of recovery and relapse, Benoit shines a provocative spotlight on our most misunderstood health problem (is addiction a brain disease? A spiritual malady? A moral failing?) and breaks through the shame and denial that still shape our cultural understanding of it—and hampers our ability to treat it. As the addicts in this book stumble, fall, and try again to make a different and better life, he records their struggles—and his own—with honesty and empathy.

“America Anonymous makes for addictive reading.”—*The Boston Globe*

“Fascinating... Thought-provoking.”—*Time Magazine*

“Stirring... The book's transparent intention is to tell compelling stories that lead to an understanding of, and thereby de-stigmatizing of, addiction. It succeeds admirably.”
—*Winnipeg Free Press*

“An arresting, personal glimpse into the merciless world of drug and behavioral addiction. All eight of the people (Benoit) followed are gripping subjects, and he describes their plights in seasoned, dexterous prose.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“I was skeptical about another book about addiction, but Denizet-Lewis finds a fresh, provocative approach to the subject... I often felt like I was right there listening to the conversations. And, boy, was I paying attention.”—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Benoit is an award-winning contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, where he has authored features and cover stories about addiction, youth culture, sex and sexuality, sports, and music. Formerly a senior writer at *Boston Magazine* and staff writer at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, his work has also appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, *Details*, *Slate*, *Spin*, *Out*, and others.

The 23rd National Annual Conference will be held June 25-27, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. The two-day conference will feature over 50 presentations on:

- Problem gambling prevention, treatment, research and recovery
- Advanced clinical training
- Responsible gaming
- Criminal justice, regulatory and legal issues
- Community Day on Saturday includes sessions on recovery and community issues. A special one-day fee will allow the public to attend these sessions. You also have the opportunity to earn up to 17 CEU's.

For more information regarding the Conference, please visit www.ncpgambling.org/conference.

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