



*"The search for a new personality is futile; what is fruitful is the human interest the old personality can take in new activities."*

*-- Cesare Pavese*

## Upcoming Events

### December 2019

8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm\*

13-15 12-Step Retreat (Co-ed)  
Chester, VT

### January 2020

12 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm\*  
**Election of Service Positions**

\* Annual "Meeting & A Movie"  
Date/Time TBA

### February 2020

9 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm\*

\* Annual "We Are Not Alone"  
game night and meeting.  
Date/Time TBA

### March 2020

8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm\*

27-29 12-Step Retreat (Co-ed)  
Chester, VT

\*Newton-Wellesley Hospital  
2014 Washington St, Newton  
Bowles Conference Room #6  
(Main hospital building)  
**Conference call: (605) 313-4446;**  
**Passcode: 774308#**

## New "Queer- and Trans-Affirming" S.L.A.A. Meeting in Somerville on Saturdays from 6-7pm, All Welcome

by Betsy L.

"Queer SLAAw" is a new meeting that launched in November. It's held at the U.C.C. Church, 89 College Ave., in Somerville on Saturday nights from 6-7pm.

The organizers stressed that the meeting is open to all who have the desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction – the program's Third Tradition. What is different at this meeting, however, is that when participants introduce themselves by first name, they are asked to also share their pronouns. Organizers explained that this is one aspect of what it means to be queer- and trans-affirming: not assuming another's gender or sexual identity.

Organizers further explained that for those who identify as queer or transgender, having a safe, understanding place where there's a higher likelihood that people may feel seen and heard by others who are queer, trans, and also in S.L.A.A. can be refreshing. And reassuring. And empowering.

Even when S.L.A.A. meetings are welcoming and affirming, there can be the barrier of being misunderstood through lack of understanding. Rather than the default being to have to explain their experience to the majority culture, this meeting operates on the premise that those attending the meeting have put the effort into becoming queer- and trans-affirming.

"So while not every person that comes through our halls is queer or trans, the expectation is you understand and accept," explained one of the organizers. "Whoever you are, you can be yourself here."

For more information, contact [queerslaaw@gmail.com](mailto:queerslaaw@gmail.com) or simply show up on Saturday at 6pm!

### STEP OF THE MONTH, STEP 12:

Having had a spiritual awakening  
as the result of these steps,  
we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts,  
and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.

## **NEI bylaws may change to allow for more flexibility in setting sobriety requirements for elected positions**

The merits of removing sobriety requirements for elected positions from the bylaws has been an ongoing discussion at recent NEI meetings. The change being considered is to remove sobriety requirements from the bylaws and instead have the sobriety requirements detailed in a separate document. Moving forward, this document will allow the S.L.A.A. membership and NEI representatives to determine what the sobriety requirements should be at that time based on the current needs of NEI and its membership.

## **Join in the Planning and Fun with the Activities Committees in 2020!**

Want to go bowling with program friends? Hiking? See a movie? Why not join the Activities Committee and share your ideas for new activities as well as help plan events like the Vermont Retreat (March 27-29, 2020) and the Spring Gathering in April. Planning meetings happen by phone. Next phone meeting is Sunday, Jan. 5 at 7pm. Call (605) 468-8004; Passcode: 263895# ALSO: The position of Activities Committee chair will be up for election at the Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> NEI meeting. Consider stepping up! Questions? [activities@slaanei.org](mailto:activities@slaanei.org)

## **Members' Input on Technology Needs Sought Via Online Survey**

The Board of Trustees of Fellowship-Wide Services (FWS) – the umbrella organization for S.L.A.A. – is seeking input on the technology needs of the Fellowship in order to establish a realistic technology strategy. If this interests you, click on the **Technology Survey** link on the FWS homepage at [slaafws.org](http://slaafws.org) and complete the brief online survey. The Board would like to begin review by early January, so your timely response is appreciated. The Board is also seeking tech-savvy S.L.A.A. members to be part of a new Technology Committee. If you or someone you know is interested, the survey offers a space to include an email address so the Board can connect with you. The Committee will discuss such issues as developing an S.L.A.A. App, increasing use of WhatsApp to connect with international groups, and how and if S.L.A.A. should be participating in social media.

## ***State of Grace: Daily Meditations* available for pre-order**

Now available for pre-order online through [slaafws.org](http://slaafws.org) is the meditation book that has been 22 years in the making. Only 1976 copies of the Limited Edition are to be printed, to honor the founding year of S.L.A.A. – in Newton, MA! Here are the basics, check online for more details:

- \$24.95 Each
- Gift-Quality Limited Edition 5"x 8" Hard Cover, Final Book Design Still TBA
- Custom Deluxe Dust Jacket • Silver Embossed • Hand Numbered
- Limit 10 per order, payment required in full at time of order
- Shipping is Expected to Begin Late 2019/Early 2020
- Soft cover edition to be released mid-2020 at \$12.95 each

### **TRADITION OF THE MONTH, TRADITION 12:**

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.