

November 2017

www.slaanei.org

(617) 625-7961

NEI NEWSLETTER



New England Intergroup of S.L.A.A.

"I am grateful
for everything
everyday."

-- Marsha

Beginning & Fundamentals Mtgs
Grace Episcopal Church, Newton
Tuesdays, 7pm & 8pm

NEI-Sponsored Events 2017

November 2017

- 4 Fall Recovery Gathering
Newton, MA – **see below!**
- 19 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5 pm*
Newton-Wellesley Hospital
(Full address above)

December 2017

- 15-17 12-Step Retreat
Chester, VT

*To confirm date, time or note any
changes to any of the events above,
please call NEI at (617) 625-7961
or visit www.slaanei.org*

"First Things First" Fall Recovery Gathering

**Saturday, Nov. 4
12:30-5:30pm**

Grace Episcopal Church
76 Eldredge St., Newton MA

Half-day event with keynote
speakers and meetings on various
recovery topics, including:

**Looking at the Person
in the Mirror** (Steps 4-7)

Fools Paradise
(Fantasy, Intrigue & Obsession)

It's Okay to be Me (Sexual,
Social, & Emotional Anorexia)

Show Me the Love
(Love & Relationship Addiction)

Happy Destiny (Intimacy w/ God,
Ourselves & Others)

\$15 in advance, \$18 at the door.
More if you Can, Less if you Can't.
No one will be turned away!

New Speaker Initiative is Growing

More speakers are traveling to different S.L.A.A. meetings throughout New England. Is your group interested? Are you?

by **Joe B, Gentle Path Group**

Haverhill, Thursdays 7:30-9pm (CSD12, handicapped accessible; no fragrances)

As reported in the October **NEI Newsletter**, program members have put together an email list of people interested in sharing their experience, strength, and hope at S.L.A.A. meetings in New England in need of speakers. The idea is modeled on the "commitment meeting" format that has been used by Alcoholics Anonymous for many years. In AA, groups "book" speakers from other groups to share at their meetings.

I attended the October NEI meeting, and reported on the early success of the idea at my recent meeting in Haverhill, MA. The meeting alternates between speaker-discussion and reading the Steps. There are usually six to 10 people there, so, over time, participants have heard the presentations of its members many times over.

This is not to say that there isn't progress and new hope at each telling, but outsiders naturally can often spark greater interest and participation with a new and different story of addiction and recovery, unheard before by the "regulars" at a meeting.

In early September, the speaker in Haverhill was Laura, from another home meeting. Three other women came with her, exponentially increasing the gender mix for a meeting that rarely has female attendees, though not by design. It was a great experience all around.

According to Joe G., a regular at Newburyport and a volunteer with the speaker program, there is a great deal of interest. Guest speakers have been to Weymouth and Northampton, MA as well as Portsmouth and Salem, NH and York, ME, among others.

Interested in being a speaker?

Email your contact info to Joe (jmgn2@yahoo.com). You'll receive calendar announcements about upcoming speaking opportunities, including all the meeting's specifics.

Interested in a speaker coming to your meeting?

Email your contact info to Joe (jmgn2@yahoo.com) and he'll email you the speaker request form that includes questions such as the date, meeting type, sobriety requirements, etc. so an appropriate match can be made.

STEP OF THE MONTH

STEP 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with a Power greater than ourselves, praying only for the knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.

Hat in the Ring? N.E.I. Elections in January

Looking for ways to be of more service and to get more deeply involved in S.L.A.A.? Please consider taking on a service position within N.E.I. The December issue of this newsletter will detail roles more specifically as to responsibilities and sobriety requirements, but there is usually a place to get started in service no matter where you are in your recovery journey.

You're encouraged to visit the N.E.I. website at neislaa.org and explore its pages now to see what opportunities might appeal to you, but again, we'll detail it here in December's issue. Just wanted to give you a head's up before elections in January.

Stay tuned!

Newburyport AWOL Group Forming

A new AWOL (A Way of Life) will be starting in Newburyport as soon as 6-8 people sign up. It will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturdays from 9-10am. The group will be using **A Gentle Path through the 12 Steps** by Patrick Carnes. Those interested should contact Laura at laurae1967us@yahoo.com

Local Meeting Changes

1) FRIDAY CAMBRIDGE, MA 7-8PM (OT) Check In, Don't Check Out Men's Beginner's Meeting.

First Church Cambridge
Congregational, 11 Garden St.
Info: checkindontcheckout@gmail.com
****As of 9/15/17 the group has been back at its regular meeting space.**

2) SUNDAY BROOKLINE, MA 8-9:15 PM (OSLD12NF) WOMEN

Literature, step study, and speakers, 4th Sunday of the month focuses on sexual anorexia. All women suffering from sex and love addiction are encouraged to attend. Contact Tina at btina6650@gmail.com for the location and more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR GROUPS:

All changes to the meeting list require an NEI Meeting Registration Form to be completed. This applies to any time, date, place or address changes as well meeting name changes and contact changes. Submit updates online at slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting/

November Is Gratitude Month

Giving Back What has so Generously been Given

Every November, members of S.L.A.A are invited to acknowledge their gratitude to the Fellowship that has sustained their lives as recovering addicts. As a way of giving thanks, individuals, groups, and local intergroups are encouraged to contribute directly to Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.). This is in keeping with Tradition Seven, which states that "Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Overall, S.L.A.A. has seen a significant reduction in contributions over the last two years, both at the local level as well as the fellowship-wide level. Recognizing this, NEI voted to donate \$600 to F.W.S. at its October meeting.

The F.W.S. Office, in San Antonio, TX, is the direct link to all S.L.A.A. Intergroups, groups and individual members worldwide. Its main responsibility is to carry the message -- to help the addict who still suffers. The F.W.S. Office, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, performs all the duties and legal requirements needed to support new meetings and intergroups, outreach to prisons and institutions, as well as administrative tasks such as mailing literature to those who request it.

Here are some ways to give this month

- Groups are encouraged to pass an additional basket every week during the month of November that goes directly to F.W.S.
- Individuals can set up recurring contributions (i.e. monthly) to be automatically deducted from one's debit or credit card at www.slaafws.org
- Individuals, groups and Intergroups can make a one-time contribution online at www.slaafws.org.
- Individuals, groups and Intergroups can make a one-time contribution by check made payable to Fellowship-Wide Services, with "Gratitude Month" in memo. Send to: F.W.S., 1550 NE Loop 410 Suite 118, San Antonio, TX 78209

Individuals who make direct contributions to F.W.S. may claim their gift as tax deductible as S.L.A.A. is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

TRADITION OF THE MONTH

TRADITION 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members.