

Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees

www.bostoncuredcancerclubforlaryngectomees.com

June 2020 Newsletter

Hello Folks! We hope that this newsletter finds you and yours to be ok in the midst of these unprecedented times. As the darkness of Covid continues to affect our lives we marvel that Spring continues to unfold around us. Daffodils, tulips, forsythia, magnolia and weeping cherry trees are but a few parts of the colorful floral panorama nature paints for us each spring. We certainly hold onto these bright spots as the promise of brighter tomorrows.

In that we are not able to meet at MEEI, we are in the process of temporarily transitioning to online meetings through Zoom. Our initial trial meetings have gone pretty well. Several of our members participated and were pleased to have the opportunity to come together in support of one another through the wonders of technology.

We are delighted to share that not only will we be meeting online in June but that we will be welcoming a world renown guest speaker!! Itzhak Brook, MD is a Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington DC. He specializes in infectious diseases. Dr. Brook is also a throat cancer survivor and a total laryngectomee. He will be speaking about health issues specific to laryngectomees during the Covid pandemic. Dr. Brook has authored several books along with his blog <https://dribrook.blogspot.com/> and most recently his Covid newsletter <https://laryngectomeenewsletter.blogspot.com/>. As we have in the past, we highly recommended his books, *My Voice: A Physician's Personal Experience With Throat Cancer* and *THE LARYNGECTOMEE GUIDE EXPANDED EDITION: Fourth Edition*, both of which are available on Amazon. Members of our group had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Brook in May, 2016 when he was our guest speaker. Those who were fortunate enough to be in attendance greatly benefitted from his wonderful presentation. We are truly excited to welcome him at this time through the Zoom platform.

Those of you for whom we have an email address will soon receive an email from us with the invitation from Anna Choi-Farshi MS, CCC-SLP to join the Zoom meeting on **Sunday, June 7th at 1:00PM**. Included in the email will be directions for connecting online via computer, tablet, smart phone or regular phone. If we do not have your email address and you would like to participate, contact us (see contact info below) and we will send you a copy of the Zoom invitation.

We are so grateful to Anna who has graciously offered to handle the technical aspects of Zoom and to host our meeting. **It is important that you let us know if you will be joining us and whether you will be using an email address or phone number.**

Folks, please do keep in mind, that during this pandemic, it is very important for laryngectomees to cover the stoma as well the mouth and nose. If you do need to be tested for Covid, then laryngectomees must be swabbed in the stoma and in the nose.

Sadly, we now share news of the death of our long time member and friend, Edgar Pinkney, who passed away on March 19th. Those of you who had the pleasure of meeting Edgar and his lovely wife, Annie, know what a wonderful man he was. Edgar has been experiencing a number of health problems over the last several years. However, no matter what he was dealing with, he always had a big smile ...and the assurance that he was "doin' fine". Those members who attended the May, 2019 meeting may recall chatting with Annie and Edgar as it was the first meeting they were able to get to in a very long time. We are grateful to Annie and Edgar for their many years of participation in our group. Their strength, their kindness and their

positive attitude were inspirational to all. Edgar's funeral took place on Wednesday, April 1st, on what would have been Annie and Edgar's 60th wedding anniversary. If you would like to send Annie a card, her address is 23 Arborcrest Ter., Mattapan, MA 02126.

We hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming online meeting, Sunday, June 7th at 1PM. In May, we did miss the warmth of our personal interactions at our lovely meeting spot at MEEI overlooking the Charles River, but we were so pleased to come together, as a group through Zoom, sharing our trials and triumphs as we seek to not only survive but to thrive. Be safe...Be well.

'Hope to "see" you on the 7th!

Andre and Ginny Charpentier

508-285-7325 (leave a message)

acharpen@umich.edu

ginnyc_730@yahoo.com (underscore after c)

13 Bryson Dr.

Norton, MA 02766

HOPE = Holding Onto Positive Expectations