

Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees

243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

www.bostoncuredcancerclubforlaryngectomees.com

March/April 2015 Newsletter

Greetings! With the recent record breaking snowfall it almost feels as if we will be dealing with mountains of snow forever. But if we can overlook the snow and focus on that increasing daylight at 5PM then we remember that spring surely follows winter. We are also reminded that another season of BCCCL meetings is about to start. Please plan on joining us in the 7th floor cafeteria at MEEI in Boston on Sunday, March 1st. "Meet and Greet" begins at 1:00PM with our formal meeting starting at 1:30PM. Being with others who truly understand the experience of having a laryngectomy is both affirming and inspirational. Please join us for some tasty refreshments and good conversation.

At our December meeting, our long-time mentor and friend, Bob Mehrman, resigned from his position as president of our club. Being 87 years young, he felt that it was time to pass the club's leadership on, while assuring us that he will continue to be an active member. We thank Bob for his many years of guidance and encouragement and are looking forward to many more years of his mentoring and friendship. Vice-president Andre Charpentier was then voted in as president and Bill McCrean was voted vice-president. Mike Moffi agreed to continue as treasurer. We are very grateful to these men for their willingness to accept these positions. Together they share their positive attitudes and the many lessons life has taught them since their laryngectomys. Bob, Andre, Bill and Mike, you are an inspiration to so many...Thank you!

We are sincerely grateful to the family and friends of our dearly departed member, George D'Auteuil for the very generous memorial donations. At our November meeting, the members of the BCCCL discussed options for using these wonderful donations so as to honor George's memory. We decided to make a donation to Dr. Daniel Deschler of MEEI to be used for scholarships for speech pathologists to attend a two day course that the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary is hosting with Harvard Medical School in March of 2015. We think that George would be more than pleased to facilitate the training of speech pathologists who then will help laryngectomees who have not had the opportunity to receive the latest in state of the art support. In addition to the scholarships, we will also be donating, in George's name, ten electronic notepads known as Boogie Boards to the MEEI Voice Lab, three to the speech department of Beth Israel and three to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute to be loaned to patients in the immediate aftermath of their surgery to assist in their communication transition. Each person who borrows one of these devices will know that it is made possible through the generosity of George's family and friends, in his honor. The balance from the donations will be used to support the ongoing mission of our group. We will always remember George's words of encouragement, when, at one of the last meetings he attended, spoke out and said, "We are all mentors. Don't ever give up. You may not have a voice, but, you will always be heard." Again, we wish to express our sincere thanks to George's wonderful wife, Pauline, his family and friends.

With the start of our new year, we remind members that yearly dues, which is \$15.00 for laryngectomees and \$5.00 for family members, is due. If you are an inactive member and wish to continue receiving a copy of this newsletter, then the dues is \$5.00. Payments are to be made to our treasurer, Mike Moffi, 15 Lakeshore Drive, Holliston, MA 01746. If you have an email address kindly send that information along to us as this will reduce mailing costs.

Please join us on March 1st and on April 12th. Our presence is a gift to each other and to ourselves!

'Hope to see you there!
Andre and Ginny Charpentier
508-285-7325
acharpen@umich.edu

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Eleanor Roosevelt

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