

Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees

243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

www.bostoncuredcancerclubforlaryngectomees.com

March/April 2020 Newsletter

Hello Folks! Even though our sunny morning has turned to yet another gray afternoon we are grateful that this not-so-wintery winter has been kind to us, thus far. But, we do look forward to sunnier, milder days, knowing that the "what ifs" of the frosty weather forecasts are behind us. It's always a treat to notice the ever so slightly increasing late afternoon daylight. How wonderfully reassuring it is to know that spring surely follows winter! This also reminds us 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 3rd. "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 November and December meetings, as at all of our meetings, members shared freely, in support of one another. Members agreed that living as a laryngectomee is not easy, but well worth the efforts involved. As always, members were uplifted by their mutual resolve to not only live, but to thrive as laryngectomees. Whether new to the group or seasoned, members walk away inspired by others and self-affirmed in their communal support, easing frustrations and celebrating challenges met and surpassed. Please come to share *your* story...or even just to simply sit and listen to others.

With the start of our 2020 season we remind you of our meeting schedule: We meet on the first Sunday in March, April and May. After the summer break we resume in September on the Sunday after Labor Day and then on the first Sunday in October, November and December. Due to weather concerns, we do not meet in January or February. This newsletter is published four times a year.

Atos Medical invites all laryngectomees, their family members, friends, caregivers and members of medical teams to a complimentary viewing of an inspiring documentary, *Can You Hear My Voice?* by Bill Brummel who is an award winning producer, director and writer, as well as a laryngectomee. The story is told through the personal accounts of members of the Shout at Cancer Choir in London, made up of individuals who have undergone a laryngectomy. Choir members share their personal experiences of life after surgery and overcoming the psychosocial obstacles of living as a laryngectomee as they prepare for and perform a special concert. This will be shown on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 from 2:30 pm-4:30 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, 220 India Street, Providence, RI 02903 Event Code: cev20aj-0038 For more information contact Andrea Jasinski, Senior Marketing Events Coordinator, 1.800.217.0025 x6403 andrea.jasinski@atosmedical.com

We are delighted to share with you that we will be having a guest speaker at our meeting on May 3rd. Morgan Greve M.A., CCC-SLP is the Northeast Clinical Specialist at InHealth Technologies where she is a strong advocate for the laryngectomy population, working closely with clinicians, otolaryngologists, patients and their families throughout the Northeast and internationally. Morgan completed her Bachelors of Science at Central Michigan University, studying Communication Disorders, Psychology, and American Sign Language. She continued her education at Central Michigan University, receiving her Master of Arts in Speech Pathology. She worked in two private practice ENT offices in North Carolina, and most recently, was in clinical practice at the Vanderbilt Voice Center in Nashville, TN. Throughout her clinical practice, Morgan has worked extensively with the laryngectomy population, as well as with patients with numerous voice disorders.

Morgan joined InHealth Technologies as the Northeast Clinical Specialist in October 2017. This past October, she traveled to Kenya with a team of Head & Neck surgeons from Vanderbilt to educate and treat patients undergoing a laryngectomy, as well as other Head & Neck surgeries. Morgan is a Michigan native but has been residing in Nashville, TN for the last 6 years. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, cooking, hiking, sailing, and playing the piano.

At our May meeting, Morgan will discuss insurance reimbursement and new products that InHealth launched last year, including their new HME compatible laryngectomy tube, post-op kits, and two new baseplates. Included in her presentation will be valuable information on getting your best baseplate seal. She will also bring samples of baseplates. There will be ample time for questions as well. She will even share some of the highlights of her recent mission trip to Kenya where she treated head and neck cancer patients. So, mark your calendars for May 3rd! Don't miss what promises to be a wonderful presentation.

At this time of the year, we want to 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 paper 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 again on April 5th and May 3rd. Our presence is a gift to each other and to ourselves!

'Hope to see you there!

Andre and Ginny Charpentier
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My **H**ear is
Open to the
Potential that
Exists when I strive to not only
survive but to thrive.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.
~ Anne Bradstreet