

## **Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees**

**243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114**

**[www.bostoncuredcancerclubforlaryngectomees.com](http://www.bostoncuredcancerclubforlaryngectomees.com)**

### **May, 2019 Newsletter**

Hello and Happy Spring! Pussywillows, tiny crocus, tall yellow daffodils, budding trees and forsythia glowing in the warm sunlight along with the chorus of spring peepers at dusk.....Yes, the winter is over and gone! It is in this spirit of hope, of rebirth, of light overcoming darkness, that we invite you to the upcoming meeting of the BCCCL. Please plan on joining us on Sunday, May 5, 2019 in the 7th floor cafeteria at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. We offer free validated parking in the MEEI lots, some good conversation and tasty refreshments. "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.

Our March and April meetings were beneficial to all in attendance. New and seasoned members shared freely, rallying in support of one another, while discussing the early challenges as well as the ongoing issues that laryngectomees have to face. As always, those in attendance were uplifted by their mutual resolve to not only live, but to thrive as laryngectomees.

Sadly, we share news of the passing of longtime member and past president Bob Mehrman. He was truly the heart of this organization for many years. At 91 years young, he was an inspiration to live life to its fullest...after having had his laryngectomy in 1990. We are grateful for many wonderful memories of his courage and strength, his kindness, and his great sense of humor all of which allowed him to lead a very full and rewarding life for 29 years following his laryngectomy. He is dearly missed. For more information you can go to <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?pid=191586280>

In an effort to extend the outreach of our group, volunteers are offering their contact information in the event that you have a comment, question or concern with which they might be of assistance. Please keep in mind that they are not medical professionals but simply folks who have had a laryngectomy and have figured out how to navigate many of the life changing challenges inherent to the surgery. Our Vice-President Bill McCrevan had his surgery in the fall of 2010. His positive attitude and kind, caring demeanor are a tremendous support to members, seasoned and new. He can be reached at 617-825-5427 and [williammccrean@gmail.com](mailto:williammccrean@gmail.com). Our President Andre Charpentier had his surgery in March, 2008. He quickly adopted the mantra, "Gotta' keep moving forward!" ...and that he surely has. Such a positive and inspirational guy! (Of course, I may be biased here!) He can be reached at 508-285-7325 and [acharpen@umich.edu](mailto:acharpen@umich.edu). If they can't answer your question, they may be able to direct you to someone who can.

The International Association of Laryngectomees (IAL) is holding its Voice Institute and Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on May 15-18 . Our club offers members \$200 to help defray expenses in attending. The IAL also has group rate reservations. The special room rate will be available until April 26, 2019 or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. For more information go to the IAL website: [www.theial.com](http://www.theial.com). Our dearly departed Bob Mehrman attended a number of these meetings and highly recommended attending, at least once!

We do hope you will plan on joining us on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be our last meeting prior to our summer break. We will then resume meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Whether you feel like you could use a little extra sunshine in your life or if you might be able to offer some sunshine to a fellow laryngectomee, we would be delighted to have you join us!

‘Hope to see you on the 5th!

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HOPE = Holding Onto Positive Expectations