



Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

Newsletter for September and October 2019

Hello Folks! We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying some beautiful summer weather...The past several weeks have certainly had more than their share of heat and humidity! As we sit on our back-porch in the now slightly cooler evening darkness enjoying the late summer sounds of the crickets and cicadas we are reminded that August will be quickly waning. So, it is a good time to start thinking about our upcoming season of the BCCCL!

Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2019 in the 7th floor cafeteria at MEEI in Boston. "Meet and Greet" begins at 1:00PM with our formal meeting starting at 1:30PM. If you can't make it in September then do consider joining us at our October 6th meeting....You may even win a "door prize"! Being with others who truly understand the experience of having a laryngectomy is both affirming and inspirational. Whether new to being a laryngectomee or a true veteran of the lifestyle, those who attend find encouragement and support. Topics range from the very mundane to the merry! So often, a member will bring up a particular issue he/she is dealing with and someone else has some insight which helps to alleviate the concern. Please join us for light refreshments and good conversation. Free validated parking in the MEEI lots is available to attendees.

Our schedule for the upcoming series of meetings is as follows: We will meet in September on the Sunday after Labor Day and then on the first Sunday in October, November and December. Due to weather concerns, we will not meet in January or February. We resume meeting on the first Sunday in March, April and May and then recess for the summer. These newsletters are published four times a year.

We are delighted to share that we will have a guest speaker at our meeting on October 6, 2019. Anna Choi Farshi, M.S., CCC-SLP is an Inpatient Coordinator and Senior Speech Pathologist at Mass. Eye and Ear and has worked in the acute rehabilitation and outpatient care settings for more than 22 years. She will be speaking on recent developments of interest to laryngectomees as well as sharing information on dealing with issues that may arise in the aftermath of surgery, in the short and long term. There will also be time allowed for Q and A.

John Fernandez, President of MEEI, recently announced that Mass. Eye and Ear has once again been ranked a top hospital in the nation for its specialties by *U.S. News and World Report*. Among other distinctions within the hospital's departments, the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ear, nose and throat) ranks #2 in the U.S. and #1 in New England! Personally, we have always felt very fortunate to be affiliated with this wonderful hospital. Congratulations and thank you to all who contribute to this honor!

We also want to notify you of an upcoming community event, sponsored by Atos Medical, entitled *Being Prepared at Home and When Going Out*, which will be held on



Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 10:00AM-12:00 noon at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in New Bedford. Preregistration is necessary. You can do so online at <https://events.atosmedical.com/cev19rm-0215>, mention code cev19rm-0215 or by phone at 800.217.0025x6406. Discussion will include practical tips for laryngectomees to live well each day and to feel at ease when venturing out.

We so very much appreciate the support we have received in attending the BCCCL meetings these past eleven years. Meeting others who have experienced a laryngectomy is truly encouraging and has tremendously helped our adjustment to all the changes necessitated by such a surgery. Andre found his "new normal" and while it isn't easy to live as a laryngectomee it is certainly doable. At the time of his diagnosis, he said he just wanted to do whatever he had to in order to be here for "the long haul". We are so grateful to be 11 ½ years into "the long haul"! But, we would not be doing as well as we are without our association with this small, but mighty group who have had to make adjustments in their daily lives in ways no one would freely choose.

Please join us on September 8th and again on October 6th. We draw strength from one another's presence. We are not only living, but thriving, as cancer survivors and their loved ones.

Enjoy these waning days of summer.
'Hope to see you in September!

Andre and Ginny Charpentier

13 Bryson Drive
Norton, MA 02766
508-285-7325
acharpen@umich.edu

One moment at a time, one day at a time...always hoping for the best...

HOPE = Holding Onto Positive Expectations

Another favorite quote...

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow'.

Mary Anne Radmacher