

Boston Cured Cancer Club for
Laryngectomees
243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts
02114

September Newsletter

Hello Folks! It's time to come together and begin a new season. Our upcoming meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2010 in the 7th floor cafeteria at MEEI in Boston. "Meet and Greet" begins at 1:00PM with our formal meeting at 2:00PM. Please join us for refreshments and good conversation.

At our meeting in May we firmed up our schedule which 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 will resume meeting on the first Sunday in March, April and May. A mid-summer gathering in June or July takes the place of a formal meeting at MEEI.

Member Brian LaGrant attended the International Association of Laryngectomees Convention on June 17-19 in Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky. Entitled the "Sunny Side of Louisville", it was the 59th Annual Meeting and the 50th Voice Institute of the International Association of Laryngectomees. Brian had a wonderful time meeting larys from all over the world. He found the conference interesting with many vendors offering free samples and information for the larys in attendance. While there, a large group chartered a bus to do some sight-seeing which included a stop at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Brian said, "All in all, it was a great gathering, I highly recommend it to new and veteran larys". He'll be sharing more of his experience on the 12th. In the meantime, you can view a picture gallery of the conference on www.webwhispers.org. Brian also had this info to share: "The August issue of the IAL News is in the mail to those on the mailing list. For those who want to access it on line, it is now available to download at: <http://www.theial.com>. Then click 'The IAL News' under 'Organization' on the left side of the home page."

The BCCCL is honored to have received a very generous donation from Maureen Buzzell's estate. Maureen was truly an extraordinary woman who shone a flashlight into the darkness of the unknown for many laryngectomees and their families and was a beacon of hope to all who knew her. In addition to meeting with new larys, Maureen served as vice-president and then president. She is greatly missed.

Very sadly, we share that Bob Mehrman's dear wife, Selma, passed away on July 22nd, on her 79th birthday. Selma, herself a 31 year cancer survivor has been an enthusiastic, active

member and past secretary in our organization. She too, was a tremendous support visiting new larys and their loved ones. Our hearts go out to Bob and his wonderful family at this very difficult time. Selma, also, will be greatly missed.

In closing, let us reflect on an excerpt from an article, which member Martha Clelia shared at one of our meetings, entitled *Attitude Makes All the Difference: How to Really Live with Cancer*.

Attitude Summary

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

- Attitude really matters.
- Squeeze every drop out of life.
- Choose to be driven by a passion for life rather than fear.
- Surround yourself with people who will encourage you.
- Draw strength from others.
- Remember to laugh.
- Don’t give up.
- Find purpose in your situation and make a difference.
- Focus on what you can control.

Please join us on September 12th. We draw strength from one another’s presence. We are not only living, but thriving, as cancer survivors.

Enjoy these waning days of summer.
‘Hope to see you in September!
Andre and Ginny Charpentier
508-285-7325
acharpen@umich.edu