

Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees

243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Newsletter for September and October 2014

Hello Folks! At this writing, summer rain is falling softly on our garden...a good time to get to paperwork and to prepare for our upcoming season of the BCCCL! Our first meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2014 in the 7th floor cafeteria at MEEI in Boston. "Meet and Greet" begins at 1:00PM with our formal meeting at 1:30PM. Whether new to being a laryngectomee or a true veteran of the lifestyle, those who attend find inspiration and support. Please join us for refreshments and good conversation. Free validated parking in the MEEI lots is available to attendees.

We recently received information on a research project inviting members of our club to participate. Julie Candio -Sekel is a professional writing consultant in the Center for Writing Excellence at Montclair State University in New Jersey. After a relative of hers experienced a laryngectomy, she was touched by her relative's resolve to always have a "voice" even after the devastation of losing his natural voice. Ms. Candio-Sekel intends to study expressive writing, which has been proven to be helpful in overcoming other types of trauma, as a potential tool in assisting a laryngectomee's rehabilitation. By participating in her online writing community during September and October you will provide her with valuable information as to the potential benefits of such a format for laryngectomees. If you are interested in participating or in finding out more about it, she can be reached at Speaking.with.a.New.Voice@gmail.com More information is also on the attached flyer. Ms. Candio-Sekel is also the author of an article published in *ADVANCE for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists*, entitled "Apps for Laryngectomy Patients: Speech Programs for Laryngectomy Patients Do Exist, But Do They Know Where to Find Them?"

We wish to sincerely thank the family and friends of George D'Auteuil, Sr. for the extremely generous donations made in George's dear memory. George was truly an amazing man, a sincere inspiration and wonderful mentor. He is dearly missed. We are honored and humbled and so very grateful, that in George's

memory, those wonderful contributions will continue to support laryngectomees and will facilitate their rehabilitation, so as to not only survive...but to thrive. We are also very grateful to George's wonderful wife, Pauline, for donating his laryngectomy equipment and supplies...a blessing to so many! The BCCCL is truly grateful.

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 will resume meeting on the first Sunday in March, April and May. Other than a possible summer gathering, we do not meet in June, July and August. Newsletters will be published four times a year.

Meeting others who have experienced a laryngectomy is truly inspirational and has tremendously helped many individuals and their loved ones adjust to all the changes necessitated by such a surgery. It takes time to find the "new normal" and while it isn't easy to live as a laryngectomee it is certainly doable. Yes, life changes dramatically but that just makes the joys in life that much sweeter....We gratefully and sincerely say, "Life is good".

Please join us on September 7th. We draw strength from one another's presence. We are not only living, but thriving, as cancer survivors.

Enjoy these remaining days of summer.

‘Hope to see you in September!

Andre and Ginny Charpentier

508-285-7325

acharpen@umich.edu

"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