

# HAPPY TALK

GREATER ATLANTA

VOICE MASTERS

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I WISH UPON A STAR

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the shoulder while on his way to make a speech. He left for medical help, only after the audience noticed he was bleeding.
- Ulysses S. Grant died from throat cancer
- Richard Rodgers, of Rodgers and Hammerstein, was a laryngectomy and spoke esophageal speech
- William H. Taft did not want the presidency; he wanted to be appointed to the Supreme Court. Mrs. Taft wanted him to be President. He had the good fortune to be both.

## *ALMA OWENS SURE CAN THROW A PARTY!*

The first annual Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation Reception was a huge success. The food was just right, the music was just right and the attendees were perfect.

There were so many people there I couldn't begin to "name drop."

Charles Hubbard was there. I know this because Janice Hayes gave him an award for being a treasured volunteer, and the oldest, and dearest laryngectomy in our group. As usual Charles was the best dressed in the whole crowd, OK Rita Brown was really the best dressed, but she is hard to top.

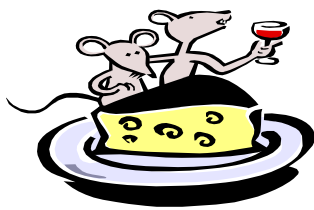
Dr. Iman Naseri gave Alma Owens the Out-Standing Achievement Award. Both Alma and Dr. Naseri gave me, your editor, a Leadership Award, which was a huge surprise and honor. I'm thinking because they appointed me to make a speech.

It was so nice to have the 8 - E nurses from Emory helping out with registration. These ladies are always a beautiful sight and presence, and more fun than one could imagine. Arlene Kehir looked fabulous. Arlene is one person we all depend on for so much; most of which, she does "behind the scene." These special ladies support us deep from their hearts, and with their healing hands.

How great it was seeing Dr. Chen and Dr. Grist with out their white coats, and with out a light shining from their forehead. We are a **very** fortunate group to have Doctors that really are compassionate and so human.

To prove how important this event was, The Chief of Otolaryngology, Douglas Mattox, was there. I over heard Dr. Chen introducing him as her boss. Is it just me or is it hard to imagine any one being the "boss of Dr. Chen?"

Many of us had the pleasure of seeing our friends and admired specialist from Saint Joseph's Hospital. Every time I see John Sandidge he is always smiling and glowing with energy. I wonder if Tanya, Michael or Eva find his vigor contagious?



**"Now that I'm gone, I tell you: Don't smoke, whatever you do, just don't smoke."**

(Yul Brynner on ABC Good Morning America in January 1985)

(By Boris J.)

Before I went to the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation First Annual Survivors Banquet in Atlanta I chatted with my 15-year-old nephew Alexander from Novi Sad – which is the second largest city in Serbia in Southeastern Europe.

I told him: “Alex, I have to go now. We will talk tomorrow and I will tell you how the Yul Brynner foundation banquet was.”

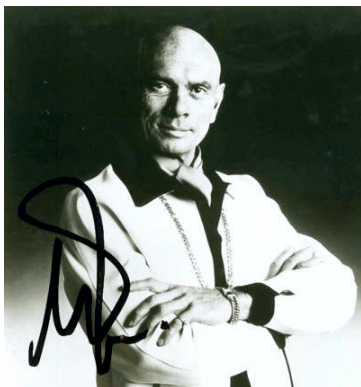
“And who is this Yul Brynner, that name sounds familiar but I can’t think of where from,” asked Alex. I told him that he was an actor well known to our generation, and I thought that would end his interest in Yul Brynner.

However, when we met for a chat next time Alex started with  
“Now that I'm gone, I tell you: Don't smoke, whatever you do, just don't smoke.”

He told me that he “goggled” Yul Brynner and was confused at first what his uncle had in common with the actor that starred in so many Westerns. Then he found the foundation website and everything was much, much clearer.

He also found that Yul Brynner was in the Yugoslavian 1969 movie “The Battle of Neretva.” Alex reminded me of that movie that, thirty five years ago, filled movie theaters in Yugoslavia and was well received abroad as well. It is a story of Yugoslavian resistance against Nazi Germany during WWII. Other big names starring in the movie were Orson Welles and Franco Nero. Now I am surfing the Internet and search for the movie to buy. The world is small and one never knows where one will encounter a name he has read long ago on the movie canvas...

Alex promised me that he will always mind the words of Yul Brynner that he found on the Internet.



"Now that I'm gone, I tell you: Don't smoke, whatever you do, just don't smoke."

*WHAT'S UP WITH.....??*

I received a note form Wilda Roberts. She is doing well and now living with her Daughter. She wanted us to know that she is thinking of us, and sorry she

was unable to be at the Reception. (Wilda please re-send your new address. I was unable to read it off the envelope.)

Roy Hulsey is doing well and has moved from East Point to Atlanta. Thank you so much for another generous donation to Voice Masters. I hope the newsletter makes it to the correct address.

Jerry Landers has had a challenging year. He told me he has missed getting together with everyone at the Voice Masters Meetings. He wanted me to pass on his regards. Thank you Jerry for your generous donation. We will keep you in our prayers.

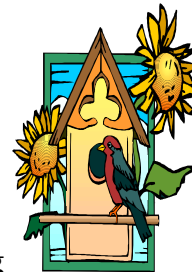
I had the most fun visiting with Deidre Duncan a couple of weeks ago in Athens. We always meet at our favorite Border's Bookstore. The weather was so nice we sat out side. We sipped our drinks and laughed out loud. When I first saw Deidre I didn't recognize her. I was looking for a petite lady with long straight hair. The new Deidre has a head of tight curls. She told me after her chemo, her hair grew back curly. The curls really become her. She looks wonderful, curly hair and all.

Kathleen Presgrove is loving retirement and it shows. It is always a treat to see her beautiful smiling face.

Alma's and my boy friend, Jarrell Yates, celebrated his 82 birthday. Not only is he cute and handsome, he's truly an inspiration. "*happy birthday Mr. Yates.*"

We were glad to see that Joe Shekey is feeling better. Melissa Thompson told Joe and Carolyn that our meetings have been this elaborate all year, and look at what they have been missing.

Speaking of missing ..... Paul and Linda Daniels where are you? Joyce and Ruben Valez, Windi and I love you. You have to come to one more meeting before you guys move.



A little madness in the spring, is wholesome even for a King

----- Emily Dickinson

*Keep your fears to yourself;  
share you courage with others.*

----- Robert Louis Stevenson

I am always so amazed by the courage and resilience so many of our group exhibits. While taking everyone's reservations for the Yul Brynner Reception, I had the pleasure learning a bit about people that I have never met.

I was so touched by Zandra Labarge's enthusiasm and **total** love and dedication she has for her mother, Patricia Labarge. Needless to say how impressed I am with Patricia's beauty and tenacity. I heard about Stan Rasso's new battle, and was so taken away with his courage and spirit. I heard one of the best voices ever, when I spoke with Dr. Elizabeth Shaw. I could see her working with a patient and how comforted and encouraged some one would be, just by the appealing and rich sound of her voice. Even now I have a smile on my face when I think of Kelley Newman. Kelley has the sweetest sounding voice and an angelic spirit that is like a stone thrown in water, forever expanding. Mark Bongiorno I just love the sound of his name ... Bongiorno. The couple who drove from Macon to join in the festivities, and who shared encouraging words with a couple who will be going through what many of us have already known.

I don't believe I have ever been in a room with so many people of valor with such a love for life and others. Dr. Chen, Dr. Naseri, Arlene and Alma a heartfelt thank you from all of us.

If the world is cold, make it your  
business to build fires.

Horace Traubel

**RELAY FOR LIFE.....** Our meeting Thursday, May 12, 2005, will be devoted to organizing our group for the relay. Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, our group will meet at Adams Stadium, to help "Find a Cure."

This is a great time to play and celebrate with each other. If you haven't walked in the survivors walk you owe it to your self to experience the emotional rush.

*Dan ... Even though Bonnie Shore and I will be unable to make it this year, can we still get a tee-shirt?*



*Doc I've been a bit hoarse.*

