

HAPPY TALK

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GREATER ATLANTA

VOICE MASTERS

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“Wherever there is a human being, there is the opportunity for kindness”.

~Seneca

Oh What A Night!

By: Tina Long

Once again there were many smiling faces at the monthly meeting of the Greater Atlanta Voice Masters held on April 12th, 2007.

David and Barbara Kilgo were the most popular couple there.

David had surgery the third week of March, and recovered amazingly fast, (his surgeon, nurses and physical therapist said so.) Janice Hayes and I witnessed how their whole family loves each other and take care of each other. I also recognized some of David's humor in his daughters. Thursday night David looked well and seemed to be getting back to his old self.

Janice filled us in on what the International Association of Laryngectomees has accomplished since the Annual Meeting

in Schaumburg, IL. The next IAL Annual Meeting will be July 11-14 in Burlington Vermont. Wednesday evening on July 11th the Meet and Greet will kick off the annual meeting, followed by the Opening Ceremonies on Thursday morning July 12th. Many sessions for registered attendees will be new and up-dated and there will be sessions for the spouses and caregivers.

Burlington Vermont is a pretty city with great architecture surrounded by mountains. The temperatures in the summer are mild and comfortable. So, Shirley Olson should plan on bringing a couple of sweaters and a jacket.

The hotel is very nice and everyone who works there is very friendly. There is a free shuttle service from the airport and I know you will be happy to tip the driver. He will give you some history of Burlington while in route, and will actually help carry your luggage to the airport.

Be sure to check the IAL website www.larynxlink.com for all the information to register for the IAL Annual Meeting and to make reservations for the hotel.

Since Melissa Thompson, our Relay For Life Captain was unable to make the April meeting, Janice reminded us that the date for the Relay For life is May 18th. The theme this year is "Celebrate Holidays" and we will be decorating with valentines and hearts. Remember survivors are treated to a free dinner and t-shirt by the American Cancer Society. Everyone else should plan on either bringing your meal or buying food at the Relay. In most cases, any team or individual group that sells food, BBQ, hot dogs, pizza, etc. usually donates all their earnings to the American Cancer Society.

If you have never experienced the Relay For Life, You Must Go! The crowd at the Relay seems to become one. We all encourage each other, laugh together and at times cry together. The first

year I was there, I ran into a friend from high school. He and I had not seen each other since we graduated. That first Year I also made friends with an older lady and a gentleman my age, who I eagerly look for the minute I arrive at the Relay every year. For the past 7 years the 3 of us have reunited. You can't imagine the feeling of pure joy I feel every time I see them.

Back to the Meeting on April 12th.....

Dan Lewis and Polly were there, thank you Polly for taking such good care of Dan. Dan had cataract surgery on Wednesday, April 11th; yes you read that correctly, the day before the meeting. He looked pretty good, and he said with his new improved vision, we all looked pretty good too.

Rita and Sunil Kapahi both looked rested and healthy. They both are enjoying their "empty nest." Boris Jovanovic was there, but Ljerka had to miss our meeting, but she will be joining us all at the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Survivor's Banquet. Lucy and Keith Cox joined by their son, Ed, made the meeting and made many of us laugh. But, not as hard as we laughed when Emily Buck stood up and said her name and where she is from, she is quick and witty!

I always have SO MUCH fun at every Voice Masters meeting. We may have started out as a support group, and we still are when needed, but for the most part it's like going to a family reunion where you really enjoy your entire family!

For more information regarding the YBF Banquet and the Relay For Life go to our website www.voicemasters.org.

*"My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness."
~The Dalai Lama*

“Kindness is an inner desire that makes us want to do good things even if we do not get anything in return. It is the joy of our life to do them. When we do good things from this inner desire, there is kindness in everything we think, say, want and do.”

~Emmanuel Swedenborg

Relay For Life 2007

The Relay for Life at Adams stadium on May 18th is getting closer and I hope that all the people that signed up for our Voice Masters team are out there raising money for this worthy cause! For those of you who are collecting money, you can either give it to me at the Yul Brynner Survivor's Banquet on May 10th or mail your donations to my home at: 2228 Lakeside Drive, Monroe, GA 30655. Please make sure you have turned in your donations by May 15th. I will be going to the final Relay captains meeting on May 16th and would like to turn in all money we have raised then. The Voice Masters team motto this year is "Have the Heart of a Survivor." Please plan on bringing lawn chairs to sit in, bug spray and sun block. We would appreciate anyone who could come at 5pm to help my husband Craig and I set up and decorate our tent. All survivors will get a free dinner, t-shirt and the honor of starting the 1st lap of the Relay For Life. If your not a survivor plan on bringing dinner for yourself. We will have bottled water in our tent. We hope that you will join us for the Relay for Life. It's a great night to honor cancer survivors and to remember those we have lost to cancer. The Relay For Life is also about hope. That one day we will find a cure for cancer. Hope to see you all there!

-Melissa Thompson, Relay captain

“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.”

~George Washington Carver

Donations

The monthly newsletter that you have been receiving is costly to produce. We are asking that anyone who enjoys the newsletter to please make a donation to help cover GAVM's expenses. If you wish to make a donation please make out a check or money order to: Greater Atlanta Voice Masters. You should mail your donation to: Tina Long, GAVM treasurer, 2051 Little River Drive, Suwannee, GA. 30024. We appreciate any and all donations to help with the production of Happy Talk.

“Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.”

~Theodore Isaac Rubin

Loan Closet

The GAVM loan closet is in desperate need of donations of new or used voice instruments. Many new laryngectomees must pay for a voice instrument out of their pocket and then get reimbursed after the insurance claim is paid. This can take up to six weeks. If you have a voice instrument that you no longer need or use please donate it to the GAVM loan closet ASAP! You may do so by contacting- Melissa Thompson at 770-788-3882 or

mjcthomp@bellsouth.net. These donated instruments help give new laryngectomees a "new voice" after surgery.

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"Kindness is tenderness. Kindness is love, but perhaps greater than love....Kindness is goodwill. Kindness says, "I want you to be happy."

~Randolph Ray

Upcoming Events

May 10th- Yul Brynner cancer survivor dinner at 6:30pm

May 18th Relay for Life at Adams Stadium, 6pm

June 14th meeting-7:30pm at Budd Terrace

July 11-14 IAL Convention in Burlington, VT

"What wisdom is greater than kindness?"

~Jean Jacques Rousseau

*Please join us on May 10th in lieu of our regular May meeting at the Yul Brynner Cancer Survivors Banquet. We will be back to our regular meeting time and place on June 14th at Budd Terrace at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing you soon!