

HAPPY TALK

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GREATER ATLANTA

VOICE MASTERS

June 2007

If you have received this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, please contact the editor.

Yul Brynner Survivors Banquet May 10th

The Yul Brynner Survivor Banquet on May 10th was a wonderful evening of fellowship and celebration. The head and neck cancer survivors who attended and the doctors, nurses and speech therapist all shared a delicious meal together. Alma Owens, Speech Pathologist at Emory, was the master of ceremonies. There was an award ceremony and a silent auction to raise money for the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation. Voice Master's own Boris Jovanovic won a community service award for all the work he does for his fellow laryngectomees by visiting them in the hospital after their surgery and his work on the GAVM website. The Jane Del Vecchio Inspiration award went to Dr. William Grist and was presented to him by Tina Long, our GAVM treasurer and former patient of his. Dr Grist was very humble and emotional as he accepted his award. Many of his colleagues and co-workers came up and talked about what a wonderful person and physician that Dr. Grist has always been. Congratulations to Dr. Grist! There is not a person who deserved this award more than him. Those who have been

Patients of Dr. Grist or family members of those patients have always appreciated his gentle and caring bedside manner. Also, a big thank you to David Bressler, owner of The 5th Earl Market, for hosting the YBF survivor's banquet. The food and the atmosphere were wonderful! YBF held its 2nd annual head and neck cancer screening at the Atlanta Motor Speedway at the NASCAR race in March. They screened over 200 people that day and 10% had suspicious results and were given referrals to have further testing. YBF has been invited to do screenings at both the March and November NASCAR races from now on! They will need volunteers to help with the screenings. If you would be interested in helping or would like more information about the Yul Brunner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation, you can go to www.headandneck.org/georgia

Relay For Life May 17th 2007

The Relay for Life at Adams Stadium was a great time for our GAVM team this year. We had perfect weather. Our tent was decorated with hearts and our team motto was "Have the Heart of Survivor." It was wonderful to have so many of our GAVM members at the Relay this year: Jim & Janice Hayes, Tina Long, Rita & Sunil Kapahi, Ani & Georgi Tsvekov, Ljerka & Boris Jovanovic, Dan Lewis, Polly Markland, Willard Brown, and Charles Hubbard & family. We all missed seeing Fuzzy & Emily Buck and Keith & Lucy Cox at the RFL. It's always a proud moment for all the survivors to start the first lap of the Relay. The top fundraiser this year was Boris Jovanovic. Boris raised \$1,001.00! Fuzzy Buck raised \$560.00 and Charles Hubbard raised \$355.00! Great job Boris, Fuzzy and Charles and all our team members who raised money for the American Cancer Society this year!

Donations

We are asking that anyone who enjoys the newsletter to please make a donation to help cover GAVM's expenses. As most of you know first class postage has recently gone up. Any donation would help us to continue mailing HAPPY TALK to you all every month. If you wish to make a donation please make a check or money order to: Greater Atlanta Voice Masters. You should mail your donation to: Tina Long, GAVM treasurer, 2051 Little River Drive, Suwanee, GA. 30024. We Appreciate any and all donations to help with the production of Happy Talk.

Loan Closet

Anyone interested in donating a new or used voice instrument may do so by contacting- Melissa Thompson at 770-788-3882 or **mjethomp@bellsouth.net**. These donated instruments help give new laryngectomees a “new voice” after surgery.

Our People

Keith Cox had to have an angioplasty done in April. He is doing better now. Fuzzy Buck had to have his gallbladder removed in March. Fuzzy is on the road to recovering from his surgery. We missed both Keith and Fuzzy at the Yul Brynner Cancer Survivors banquet and Relay for Life! We hope that they both will be well enough to come to the GAVM meeting on June 14th!

GAVM Website

Please make sure and check our new and improved Voice Masters website. Go to www.voicemasters.org for all the latest info on meetings, club activities, photos and links to other websites with useful information for laryngectomees.

GAVM Meeting June 14th, 2007

Our June GAVM meeting will be at Budd Terrace at 7:30pm. Mary Gilbert, a friend of Emily & Fuzzy Buck, will come and talk to us about being a Legislative Ambassador for the American Cancer Society. Mary is a breast cancer survivor and works year round on all cancer related issues that are in the legislature (insurance, non-smoking, healthcare, etc). She is also the Advocacy Chairperson for Henry County. We hope that you will all be able to join us!

*We will not have GAVM meetings in July or August. The next meeting will be in September.

Upcoming Events

IAL Conference in Burlington, VT- July 9-16th

GAVM meeting, September 13, 2007 at 7:30

GAVM meeting October 11th, 2007

Happy Father's Day June 17th!

Have a Safe and Fun Summer! See you in September!!!!!!!!!!!!!!