

**Nu-Voices Club of Mt Sinai Hosp, Inc**  
Member of IAL  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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Dear Members and Friends,

President Saul Silver called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM. In attendance were 8 members and friends as shown and named below.



**Standing: Erle Raterta, Jay Hauben, Saul Silver.**

**Seated: Frank Deppolder, Clarissa Bushman, Leslie Getz McDonagh, Don McDonagh**



**Ace Fotog  
Gerry Silver**

We missed Talia Schwartz who sends regrets and says she hopes to attend more meetings in 2017. We missed Cecilia who was away at another trial with Sophia. We all missed and sent best wishes to members Leola Glover, David Koslofsky, Elaine Hudson, Larry Velez and Larry Powers.

Nobody read the “Prayer for Laryngectomees” because Saul forgot to bring it, so we started with a silent prayer. Saul promises to do better next time.

Saul started the round table by updating the members about his cancer treatments. On the latest PET scan there was a lymph node that lit up. A biopsy of the node showed cells consistent with metastatic lung cancer. The oncologist said there are several forms of immunotherapy, chemotherapy and even possibly radiation therapy that could be effective, so there are plenty of options for treatment. He sent the tissue samples for further testing to see which treatment option is most likely to be effective and he expects to have a treatment plan in place before the end of the year.

We passed around a copy of Bert Bell’s obituary from the N.Y. Times. We mentioned in the last newsletter that we had found out that Bert died.

The IAL had requested some additional info with our latest club dues. Our thanks to treasurer Leslie Getz McDonagh for taking care of this.

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Jay Hauben had come across an article about researchers working on artificial larynges and we passed it around at the meeting. Several of us felt that the tone of the article was wrong in that they made no mention of any person being rehabilitated after laryngectomy with a new way of speaking. Many of us feel that we are still highly functioning people after our laryngectomys.

Clarissa and Erle said that they do not receive the IAL News publication. Saul said that he would send an email to Susan Reeves, the IAL administrative manager to get their names and addresses on the list.

Clarissa reports that in addition to all her other health issues, her tumors and treatment have caused her to lose the vision in her right eye. We are all in awe of her ability to remain cheerful and keep fighting despite all her problems. She told us about an organization called the Patient Access Network (PAN) foundation which can help those who need very expensive medications they can't afford.

The last IAL News had a good article by Barb Nitschneider about getting her life together again after her laryngectomy. We had some discussion about esophageal speech (ES). This was the method used by Barb Nitschneider to get her life back together and despite its advantages there are hardly any SLPs around still able to teach it. One that still can is Latimer Kells, longtime SLP at the VA hospital. Saul will try again to invite her to come to a meeting and tell us about it. After the meeting Jay Hauben sent an email telling about a woman named Elizabeth Finchem that he heard of from Web Whispers. She lives in Arizona, but teaches ES via Skype and a Facebook page. Her email is [elizabethfinchem@me.com](mailto:elizabethfinchem@me.com) and the direct address of the Facebook page is: <http://drtompkins.evsuite.com/elizabeth-finchem/>

We had some discussion about the upcoming IAL meeting. The 2017 meeting will be in Newport News Virginia. Saul and Gerry have attended the last 2 meetings and plan to attend the 2017 meeting as well. It is a chance to find out the latest about help for laryngectomies and make new friends.

We ended the meeting about 2:45 with our usual silent prayer. The January meeting will be in our usual place: seminar room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 1470 Madison Avenue, between 101<sup>st</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup>. We will meet at 1:30 PM on Sunday, 01/15/2017.

## Happy New Year to all!

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Saul Silver, President  
390 First Avenue, #8F  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 677-6392  
[argentum@nyc.rr.com](mailto:argentum@nyc.rr.com)

Leslie McDonagh, Treasurer  
150 Claremont Avenue, #2C  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 662-6515