

Nu-Voices Club of Mt Sinai Hosp, Inc

Member of IAL

February 19th, 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

President Saul Silver called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. In attendance were 15 members and friends as shown and named below.



**Standing, L-R: Erle Raterta, Saul Silver, Cindy Fontanez, Talia Schwartz, Scott Goldman, Frank Deppolder, Jay Hauben, Bob Volin
Seated, L-R: Joe Fontanez, Milagros P Huth, Gary Huth, Elizabeth C Mathew, Clarissa Bushman, Larry C Powers**



**Scott Goldman's sleight of hand amazes and amuses
Frank Deppolder, Bob Volin and Milagros and Gary Huth**



**Ace Fotog
Gerry Silver**

We missed

- Leola Glover who was spending the day with her son, who was in town from Florida
- the McDonaghs – Leslie had a bad cold and Don was giving tender loving care. Happy Belated Birthday to Don, who turned 85 on February 6th
- Cecilia Wennerstrom would have loved to come and learn about esophageal speech, but was away in South Jersey.

Erle Raterta read the “Prayer for Laryngectomees” and also led off the round table.

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We were very pleased to welcome Joe Fontanez and his sister Cindy Fontanez to our meeting. Talia Schwartz and Dr Caruana (who did the laryngectomies for Saul and Frank) are working with Joe trying to restore his speech.

Bruce Medical is a company that sells products for laryngectomies. They sent Saul some catalogs of their products and he distributed them at the meeting.

Most of our meeting was taken up with Dr Volin's (he prefers Bob), discussion of esophageal speech. He told us that success using a TEP is an indication of an increased chance of success learning E.S., that a support system is critical for all laryngectomies, that it usually takes 3 – 6 months of lessons and practice to achieve proficiency in E.S. and warned of some difficulties as well. One big difficulty is that insurance may not pay for the months of lessons. On the other hand, Bob told us that the majority (about 65%) of all patients can learn E.S. with lessons and practice. Finally, he demonstrated some of the techniques that beginning students can use and several of those present tried them and were able to produce a syllable or two.

Many thanks to Dr. Robert Volin who sacrificed his Sunday to give us an education about esophageal speech, a subject of great importance to all laryngectomees. Several members said they were inspired to try to learn it and SLP Talia Schwartz said she was also inspired to learn it so she could help her patients to learn it. Many thanks also to Liz Mathew who heard us speak of the difficulty of finding someone to teach us about it and took the initiative to put us in touch with Dr Volin. Thanks also to Jay Hauben who tracked down several Youtube videos about E.S. Here are the links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyN_NFoBfiw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqeRW7_OUdY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtRetlucFeA>

Scott told us he has not attended many meetings recently because he has felt depressed, but he is feeling better now and expects to attend more meetings.

Saul spoke to Jane LeMaster, whose late Husband Jay, was formerly president of the club and wrote the bylaws for the IAL. She told him she now has 24 hour care and sends her regards to the members.

Larry Powers has finished with his hyperbaric treatments and hopes they will take care of his dental issues. He is also looking forward to using his new amplifier to shout at us.

Talia had a couple of new larys in the hospital and Jay visited one of them and Saul and Gerry the other. Visiting patients in this way is one of the most valuable services provided by support groups such as ours.

We ended the meeting about 3:25 with our usual silent prayer. The March meeting will be in our usual place: seminar room B, 2nd floor at 1470 Madison Avenue, between 101st and 102nd. We will meet at 1:30 PM on Sunday, March 19th, 2017.

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