

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

Laryngectomee to celebrate 100th birthday

Lynne Williams, medical school information
April 21, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reno's oldest laryngectomee, Alvin Binswanger, will celebrate his 100th birthday on April 26, 1995, from 1-2:30 p.m. at the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Speech Pathology and Audiology Clinic.

Joining in the celebration will be students, faculty, and other local residents who have had laryngectomies. The guest speaker is Anthony Zamboni, M.D., a ear, nose and throat specialist.

"Laryngectomees" are people who have had part or all of their larynx removed. There are 28 of these individuals living in the Reno area, and they all have a story to tell: the initial shock of being diagnosed with laryngeal cancer, the fear of surgery, coping with family dynamics, learning a new way of "talking" when they leave the hospital, and returning to work.

The Speech and Hearing Clinic plays an important part in helping with the adjustments required of these patients by providing pre-surgical and post-surgical counseling, and post-surgical speech therapy. Laryngectomees "graduate" with not only the most effective means of communication suited to their lifestyles, but also with the knowledge that they can turn to the clinic with questions and concerns.

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Several people in the area who have had this type of surgery are trying to revive "The Lost Cord Club," a support group for local laryngectomees. Community members who would like to be involved in the group can contact the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at 784-4887.

Media representatives who are interested in attending this celebration should contact Thomas Watterson, Ph.D., at 784-4887 or Lynne Williams at 784-6003.