



Long Island / Queens Affiliate

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Get in into the Loop and Learn about Lupus!

Bellmore, NY – May is Lupus Awareness Month and the Lupus Alliance of America of Long Island/Queens, the only local resource for those who have lupus and need help, is spreading awareness about this incurable disease. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that affects over 2 Million Americans. Simply put, lupus causes the body to attack itself, causing inflammation and wreaking havoc on the brain, kidneys, skin, lungs, blood, heart, and more. Living with lupus can entail constant visits to doctors, frequent hospitalizations including those for chemotherapy treatment for severe organ involvement, and a medication regimen that can include multiple pills daily, some with side effects almost as bad as the symptoms they are trying to suppress.

Some of the medications taken for lupus are off label, which means they were designed for other conditions, and therefore sometimes denied by insurance companies, even though the medication can save a lupus patients life. Last year, for the first time in over 50 years a medication was designed specifically for and approved by the FDA for the treatment of Lupus, Benlysta. This new drug, so far seems to be showing good results, and has helped pave the way for other pharmaceutical companies to do more research into the development of drugs to treat lupus.

For Lupus Awareness Month the Lupus Alliance of America LIQ Affiliate is offering their free Lupus self-screening test to anyone who calls their office this month. The test is a 10 question bookmark that can help you identify if you could have lupus. To receive this free test you can call the Alliance at 1-800-850-9000 or email them at: info@lupuslqueens.org. Online, the Alliance is also listing 31 facts about Lupus that you may not know, hoping to reach those on Facebook and Twitter with facts about lupus, to spread more knowledge about this sometimes misunderstood disease.

The Lupus Alliance of LIQ also offers education days designed for those who have been living with lupus for years, and for those who are newly diagnosed and have questions. They also offer support groups, telephone counseling, kids groups, financial assistance and much more. Their next Education Day is on June 23rd, and registration is required by calling the office, or applying online at www.lupuslqueens.org. The fee is \$15pp for non-members and \$10pp for members, and includes breakfast, lunch and all educational materials.

To help raise funds for their support and awareness programs, the Lupus Alliance will also be holding a fundraiser on May 30th entitled, Have a Laugh for Lupus: The Sequel, at Governors Comedy Club in Levittown. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased on their website, or by calling the office. To learn more about lupus, request information, attend an event or educational seminar, please call the office at 516-783-3370 or 1-800-850-9000 or email them at: info@lupuslqueens.org.

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