

Background of Speakers Presenting at DBSA-Boston Summer 2015



July 8: “The Medical Mind vs. Meaning,” Ben Boone

Ben Boone, an author, public speaker, workshop presenter, and life coach, advocates that people with mental illness can live meaningful lives and make valuable contributions to society.

Boone, a native of Massachusetts, has a BA in writing and publishing from Emerson College in Boston. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia the day after he graduated from Emerson College.

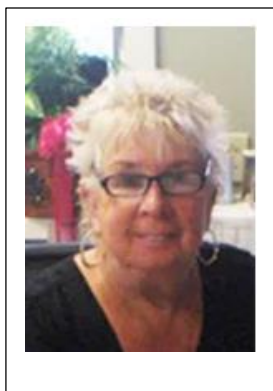
After repeated hospitalizations, Boone has written a memoir: *Minority of Mind*, as well as *Experiments in Imagination*, a guide to help others like himself find meaning and joy in living. Boone has made numerous presentations, aimed at professionals in the mental health field as well as mental health consumers, and appeared on radio shows and internet podcasts in the U.S., Europe, and Israel.

Ben Boone will be presenting one of his books, *Minority of Mind*, which details his experience with schizophrenia. The talk will give an inside look at medical research in Boston, and a first-hand account of living with schizophrenia within the “medical model”. Boone addresses how society treats those with serious psychiatric disorders and challenges our definition of madness. He will have books available for signing.

“The Mind Game of Life and How to Play It,” Al Tatarunis, EdD.

Dr. Al is the president of the Greater New England Academy of Hypnosis, Inc. In 1984 he established the New England Stress Management Center. While the major focus of the NESMC is stress management, nevertheless, weight loss, smoking cessation, chronic pain management, sports hypnosis, and working with cancer patients is also offered at NESMC.

Dr. Al will discuss how to relax, how to let go of negative emotions, and cognitive restructuring.



August 12: “Social Security Disability: Who is Eligible, Why They Should File,”
Ginger Lanigan and Associates

Ginger Lanigan and Associates is a group of experienced, professional Disability Advocates dedicated to helping disabled people find their way through the maze of rules and regulations involved in obtaining Social Security monetary and medical benefits.

For the past twenty-two years, Ms. Lanigan has successfully advocated for the physically and mentally disabled within the Social Security System. [Read more](#)

[about Lanigan and Associates.](#)