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Desert Pilgrimage Newsletter

Newsletters

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2-1-1988

## Desert Pilgrimage Newsletter, February 1, 1988

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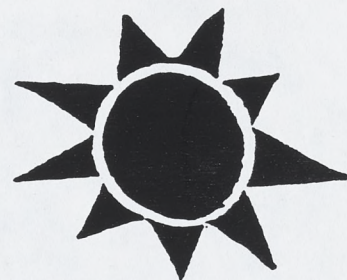
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# DESERT PILGRIMAGE



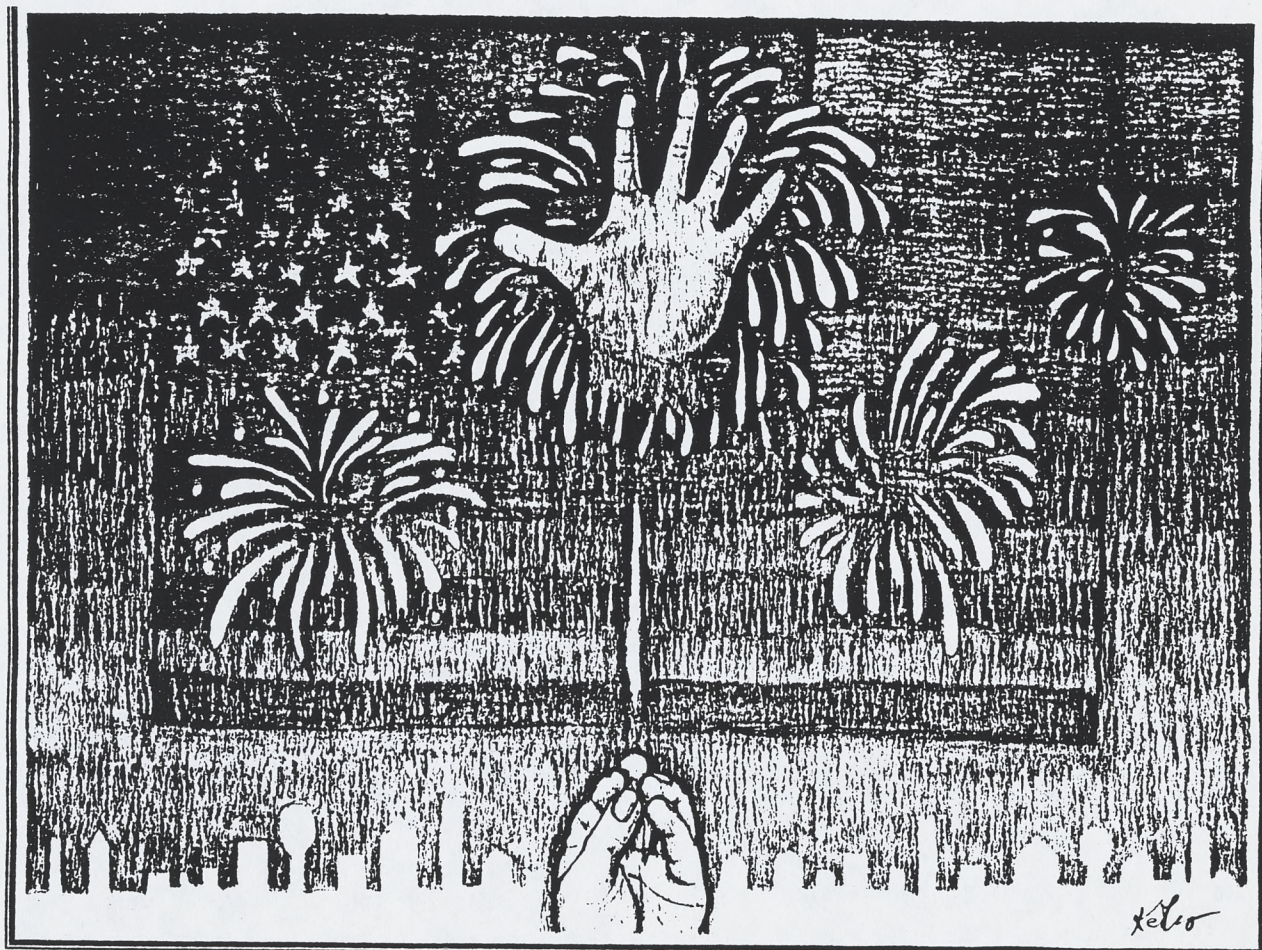
*Pilgrim, there is no pathway,  
you make that path.*

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE DISABLED.....PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
Volume 13, Edition 2.....May/July, 1988

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DISABILITY RIGHTS...  
...a matter of JUSTICE





# DAYS TO REMEMBER

*F R O M*



*Fr. Bob Wicht, PDP*

This year the retreat for the Phoenix Catholic Deaf community was held on April 8, 9, 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Scottsdale. Fr. Thomas Coughlin, a deaf priest from Honolulu, Hawaii, was our director.

The theme of the retreat was "Walking With God". Father urged us to develop a closer relationship with God by allowing Christ into our hearts and minds. He gave us tips on meditation, prayer, insights into reading the bible, and the importance of attending Mass.

The deaf choir performed for Father Coughlin and the congregation during the Mass at the closing of the retreat on Sunday morning, followed by a get-together where four volunteer interpreters had prepared a delicious spaghetti dinner for us.

It was a beautiful experience, one that we will not forget for a long time, and we pray that the retreat will result in spiritual growth among the deaf community.

Patti Schultz

On February 18th I announced to the Board of the Office of Special Services that I would not be renewing my contract as Director. This will be effective July 31, 1988. Because of the positive discussion that followed my announcement, I would like to share some of the thoughts that were developed.

In the past three years creating awareness has been the main thrust of this Office. With this awareness a number of new programs have been started. It has always been my goal that each program started would not depend on one Director or priest to continue functioning. I sincerely believe that we have accomplished this goal. There are many dedicated people seeing that these programs are growing and developing. As Gail Curran's gifts of organizing set the Office on an even course, and my gifts of motivating have developed new programs, it now is time for the gift of a strong administrator. I do not see this as one of my gifts since I have a strong need to work with people on a one to one basis. It is with this in mind that I move on and someone else move in to continue to see the development of this Office flourish.

I want to thank all of you for the richness you have added to my spiritual life. You have made me aware of the role of suffering in the Christian life. But more than that you have shown me the courage, strength and dedication that can come from trusting in the Lord. For this I will always be grateful.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will remember you.

Fr. Bob

\*\*\*\*\*

*For all you are  
and all you've been...*

*we wish him every blessing*



## Be a Volunteer

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

TITLE OF POSITION: 1988 Chairperson 11th Annual Harvest Ball

RESPONSIBLE TO: Office Special Services Director

DUTIES: 1. Organize committee chairpersons  
2. Secure hall, Honorary Chairperson, band (music).  
3. Oversee all dance details

TIME REQUIRED: Depends on organizing skills. Organizing time should start now to run until dance date. (November 13th)

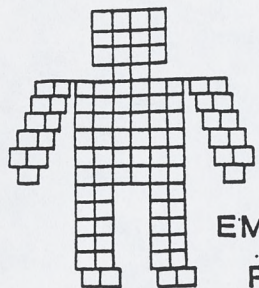
QUALIFICATION: Able to delegate work. Creative and friendly attitude.

TRAINING PROVIDED: Orientation by past chairpersons and office staff.

BACKGROUND: Harvest Ball is held at different parishes every year. Chairperson works with people of different parishes. Dance is to raise money for equipment loan program. Can get own people to work with also. Call 997-6105 as soon as possible.



# SPECIAL MINISTRY WITH DISABLED



## SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RETREAT EMMANUEL PINES PRESCOTT, AZ

There is still time to make your reservations for our Special Religious Education Retreat. Any special education teen and adult who possesses basic self-care skills, enjoys group activities and who does not have severe behavioral problems is welcome to attend. Our retreat site is not too wheelchair accessible.

This year's theme will center on "Community". Fr. Michael O'Grady (St. Daniel's Parish), will once again be our retreat director.

The cost for students is \$37.00. This includes food, transportation, and lodging. There aren't too many openings left. Call Phyllis at 997-6105.

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### *A retreat weekend for the physically handicapped.*

The Desert Pilgrim Retreat for physically disabled persons will be October 7, 8, 9, 1988 at the Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln Drive. Our theme this year will be, "Finding God In Your Life", given by Reverend Ernest Larkin, O.Carm., Spiritual Theology Advisor at Kino.

The retreat is open to men, women and couples with any physical disability. The cost for the weekend is \$50, which can be paid in monthly installments.

What makes this retreat so special is accommodations are made to make sure the physical and medical needs are met, i.e. wheelchairs, personal bathroom appliances, etc. A nurse is in attendance also. We're looking for non-disabled persons to share a room with a person with a disability to make sure these needs are met. Our retreats are always an enriching weekend - a weekend where you can see the Holy Spirit at work. Applications are in this newsletter. Deadline is September 23rd.

## Faith and Light



FAITH AND LIGHT BELIEVES THAT EACH PERSON, HOWEVER PROFOUNDLY HE OR SHE MAY BE HANDICAPPED, IS CALLED TO BE A SOURCE OF GRACE AND PEACE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR ALL HUMANITY.

From: Association Internationale Foi Et Lumiere, Paris, France

The Phoenix Faith and Light community is part of an international association of Faith and Light Christian communities; all have at their heart the mentally handicapped. Faith and Light brings the handicapped together with their family and friends to share in meals, prayer, activities and experiences. The goal of Faith and Light is to celebrate the life we all share together and to learn a greater appreciation of the gifts we all possess.

Faith and Light is founded on the belief that each person is fully entitled to human rights, and above all the right to be loved and respected for himself or herself and know they are loved equally by God. Faith and Light also recognizes the need in each person's life for community and an environment to grow in faith and in love.

The Phoenix community began in February and is still in its formation process. The first community gathering was held March 9th at the home of Rita Prassa with 15 people attending. Eventually the community hopes to come together every two weeks. The next scheduled meeting is April 27th. For further information please feel free to call Jeff Brede, hm. 942-7230 - wk. 395-5168 or Maria Maday, 952-0678.

*All the events of your life are there because you have drawn them there. What you choose to do with them is up to you.*

Richard Bach



# PARENT'S RIGHTS



The following parent's rights were taken from REACH OUT AND TEACH' a parent handbook distributed by the American Foundation for the Blind. Although written for parents with young blind children, these guidelines speak to ALL parents. They help us to maintain a healthy perspective, especially when working with professionals such as our child's teacher(s) or doctor(s).

1.     **THE RIGHT TO FEEL ANGRY**  
Nothing in life prepares anyone for being handicapped, and when it is your child who is handicapped, it seems all the more unfair. Be angry, but use your anger to get the best services you can for your child.
2.     **THE RIGHT TO SEEK ANOTHER OPINION**  
Everyone is told today that it makes good sense to seek a second opinion before having surgery, or before investing money, or before buying a used car. It should not be any different for you and your handicapped child whether you are looking for medical care or an educational program.
3.     **THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY**  
Some aspects of your life are simply no one else's business. If you do not want to discuss something, or if you do not want your child's picture taken, it is your right to say "No".
4.     **THE RIGHT TO KEEP TRYING**  
Parenting is not easy, but all parents try to do the best job they can. It sometimes becomes harder when well-meaning friends and professionals tell you that you have set goals that your child will never be able to reach. There is nothing wrong with you if you are not willing to give up.
5.     **THE RIGHT TO STOP TRYING**  
Well-meaning friends and professionals have also told parents that they do not work often enough or long enough with their handicapped children. YOU are the one who lives with your child; YOU are the one who is being asked to do one MORE thing; YOU are the one who is somehow expected to accomplish at home what trained teachers have not been able to do at school. If you just cannot do it tonight - okay. That is your decision.
6.     **THE RIGHT TO SET LIMITS**  
There are limits to what one person can do; you shouldn't expect yourself to think about your child all the time. And your child shouldn't expect to be the center of attention. You are not SUPER-PARENT.
7.     **THE RIGHT TO BE A PARENT**  
You and your child need time to fool around, giggle, tell stories, laugh, and just do nothing. Those times are just as much a part of your child's education as the time you spend following the activities in any book.
8.     **THE RIGHT TO BE UNENTHUSIASTIC**  
Sometimes you feel sad, or you're worried about money or your child, or you feel sick. If other people take that as a sign that you're "not adjusting" or that you're "not accepting your child's handicap" that is their problem. You have a right to be "up" sometimes and "down" others.



## WHERE TO LOOK FOR SERVICES



### POTATO PUPPET PLAYHOUSE

Potato Puppet Playhouse is presented by CREATIVE CONCEPTS FOR CHILDREN. CCC achieved national acclaim for individualized programs for children with developmental or learning disabilities, or who are experiencing stress. Music, art, puppetry, drama

movement and imagination are the means by which children express concerns, hopes, love and latent potential. For further information about programs, contact Creative Concepts for Children 3743 E. Glenrosa, Phoenix, AZ 85018-954-8177.

### SIBLING EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Siblings Exchange Program is a support program for brothers and sisters of children with handicaps and is sponsored jointly by the Phoenix Children's Hospital Child Development Center and Pilot Parents. Siblings react in a variety of ways to their individual situations. The program consists of 13 weekly sessions running for 1½ hours a week. Topics covered include self-esteem, communication, knowledge of handicapping conditions, etc. For further information on the program or to become a facilitator, contact Suzi Usdane, Sibling Coordinator, 239-4225.

## Welkome Lekotek!

Children's Lekotek of Phoenix, a joint venture of Hacienda de Los Angeles, Inc. and Southwest Human Development, is a worldwide system of support for families with children who have handicaps or special needs. Lekotek focuses on the family unit, seeking to strengthen that relationship. Rather than "working" with a child, or "teaching," the Lekotek Leader "plays" with the child and parents and, through play, demonstrates the abilities of the child. They have an extensive library of toys, therapeutic and electronic play materials and books for parents to borrow. The Children's Lekotek of Phoenix is located at 2850 N 24th St, Suite 300. Contact Cathy Otto at 468-0933 or 243-4231.

### New Stroke Club for Persons Under 50

The Arizona Easter Seal Society and Good Samaritan Hospital will co-sponsor a new stroke club for persons 50 years and younger. The purpose of the program is to bring together persons who have experienced stroke at mid-life or younger who would have similar experiences adjusting to the disability. Call Diane Ridderhoff at Good Samaritan Rehab, 239-2786 or Beth Lucas, 252-6061.

### TDD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



If you have a friend or know someone who could benefit from a TDD, ACHI is still accepting applications for loaning TDD's to speech impaired and hearing impaired individuals who are residents of the state of Arizona. For more information call 1-800-352-8161 TDD/voice.

### PASSPORTS TO INDEPENDENCE

Crestwood Company has some new communication aids for children and adults who have difficulty expressing their needs orally and cannot be understood by others. It is not a substitute for speech, but rather it should be used to augment and supplement the communication system. It does lead to greater independence for shopping and dining. These are cards with pictures. The passports are called:

Supermarket shopping passport

Casual dining passport

Personal needs passport

Fast food passport

For more information, call Crestwood Helpline Service, (414) 461-9876.

### SUMMER LD PROGRAM

8 weeks, 5 days, 6hrs. a day. From June 15 to August 15th. Enrollment limited to 10 students (gr. 1-6) \$400 per program. Tutoring available at \$12.00 hr. John R. Allen, Ph. D. & Associates. Phone 954-9236



# Pilgrims Progress



Where has the year gone! This office structure operates from fiscal year to fiscal year - July to June. Already work has begun for next year's programs. We have had three new programs this last year- Faith in Action, Faith and Light, and a Parents Support Group. By the response we received, they were well received and much needed. They came about through the direction of Fr. Bob who saw the need.

Faith and Light is a community movement of people wounded in varying degrees by a mental handicap. These communities are not residential, but rather communities whose members meet at regular intervals.

Faith **in Action** is for persons with physical disabilities who meet on a regular basis for spiritual and social enrichment.

The Parent Support Group is for parents of mentally handicapped children.

We have given over 40 performances of KIDS ON THE BLOCK this last school year. Not all of them have been to schools. The farthest we went was to Flagstaff for a State Blind Convention of Educators. We had many requests from schools outside of Maricopa County. As much as we like to bring this program to the schools, we were unable to reach these children, due mostly to the unavailability of our volunteers being able to travel at great distances. Also it was difficult to finance any trips over 40 miles. Hopefully, next year we can see some changes in this aspect of the program.

Many people will be taking long trips this summer. We do have ACCESS TRAVEL: AIRPORTS, a guide to accessibility of terminals. Just call and we will send you a booklet. Hopefully you will enjoy a 'cool' and safe summer.

## PILGRIM LIBRARY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED REQUEST FORM FOR CASSETTE TAPES

TITLE OF BOOK(S) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SUMMER CAMP

Camp Adventure - 9241 N 32nd ST Phoenix AZ 85028. 996-7893 or 864-2643  
Week-long camp experience for MHC in June.  
Fee: \$175, scholarships available

Camp Conquest - 8434 N 39th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85051. 934-7166  
One or more weeks for autistic children age 10-18 in August.

Camp Easter Seals - 903 N 2nd St. Phoenix, AZ 85004. 252-6061  
Serves all physical disabilities and developmentally delayed 6 years to adult. June thru July. Cost is \$80 week, no one turned down.

Camp Outreach - Contact Roger Baker 242-8221  
Serves mentally handicapped individuals.

Camp Tatiyee - Lakeside, AZ P.O. Box 1303 Phoenix, AZ 85001 964-5575  
For physically handicapped 7 years and up.  
One or two week sessions. No fees.

Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. 2741 W. Southern, Ste.1 Tempe, AZ 85282. 894-2376  
Located at Verde Valley School in Sedona, open to any one with muscular dystrophy, no fee.

## BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH MAY - 1988

The Sixth Annual Better Hearing and Speech Awareness Festival will be held Saturday, May 14, 1988 at the Christown shopping Mall, 19th Avenue and Bethany Home Road, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is sponsored by the City of Phoenix, Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Exhibit tables will be set up in the covered mall walkway.

FOR SALE: Used spa, 2 yrs old, like new. Brown marble with redwood siding. 105 gals/ 3 jets/24"deep. 84X60X30½. \$1,250. 863-6034.



# APPLICATION

DESERT PILGRIM RETREAT

OCTOBER 7,8,9, 1988

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ ABLE BODIED: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ IF DISABLED, STATE DISABILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK

AREAS OF ASSISTANCE DRESSING \_\_\_\_\_ EATING \_\_\_\_\_ BATHROOM \_\_\_\_\_ WALKING \_\_\_\_\_

IF DISABLED :

WHEELCHAIR TYPE: MANUAL \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTRIC \_\_\_\_\_ NEED TRANSPORTATION: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

NO ASSISTANCE NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PERSON TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

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cut on line and send in top half.

## APPLICANTS COPY

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Office of Special  
Services

DESERT PILGRIMS RETREAT October 7,8,9, 1988

Sponsored by: Office of Special Services  
for the Handicapped  
1825 W. Northern Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
997-6105

Franciscan Renewal Center  
5802 E. Lincoln Dr.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85252  
948-7460

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

COST: \$50.00

Check-in-time 4:30 p.m. October 7th Friday





OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
FOR DISABLED PERSONS

WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE DEAF



The Diocesan Office of Special Services for Disabled Persons is here to serve you. Anyone wishing to receive our newsletter or if you would like to send in articles concerning disabled persons or activities, please send to:

Desert Pilgrimage  
1825 W. Northern Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

We are quarterly and the deadline for the next issue is JULY 15th.

DIRECTOR - Rev. Robert Wicht, S.D.S.  
COOR. HC PROGRAMS - Phyllis Vogelsang  
COOR. DEAF PROGRAMS - Dee Hostetler

Telephone: 997-6105 - 241-7095 -242-0338 voice,  
946-0702 TTY

Please advise us of any change of  
address. Returned newsletters cost  
25¢ each. Call the office at 997-6105

**DIOCESE OF PHOENIX**  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
400 East Monroe  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

**RETURN REQUESTED**

St. Theresa, 5001 E. Thomas Rd -Sunday 9 a.m.

St. Daniel the Prophet, 1030 N. Hayden RD  
-Sunday 9 a.m.

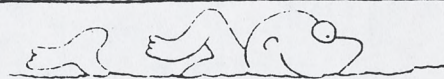
St. Gregory, 18th Ave. & Osborn Rd.  
-Sunday 9 a.m.

St. Jerome, 10815 N 35th Ave -Sunday 7 p.m.

St. Mark, 400 N. 30th St. -Sunday 10 a.m.

Kino Institute, 1224 E. Northern Ave  
(2nd Sunday of the month) -Sunday 11 a.m.

May 8th will be with R.E. students. June 12th  
will be last one until September.



*Have A Happy Vacation!*



REV. JOE BRUCE, S.J.  
DEAF CATHOLIC ARCHIVES  
HOLY CROSS COLLEGE  
WORCESTER, MA 01610