

Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC)

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Lenora J. Marten, President

Looking Forward

We've gone through many changes in 2009. We elected a brand new board and started Adventures in Blind Optimism Saturday Program.

We had an IEP workshop, field trips to historical sites, made our way

through a corn maze and more! We look forward to many more exciting events for 2010, including state and national conventions, workshops and field trips. So stay tuned – check your e-mail often, connect with us on our facebook

page and make contact with your local chapters for even more connections in our blind community.

*Lenora J. Marten,
President*

Adventures in Blind Optimism Saturday Program January 16

**.IMAX Theatre
World Golf Village
Presents ALPS in
DVS technology**

The third film in our Ultimate Adventure Series, The Alps, is a stirring and emotional film, full of adventure, courage, personal loss, and family triumph. Filled with majestic views of Switzerland's natural beauty, this film follows the true life story of mountaineer and journalist John Harlin III, who sets

out on an epic personal journey to climb the deadly North Face of Eiger, the steepest peak in all of Europe.

Visually disabled adults and children can immerse themselves in IMAX films like never before with the use of a Starsound headset for descriptive narration during pauses in a film's dialogue. These headsets are easily used from any seat in the theater. The narrations will provide information about

key visual elements such as actions, settings, facial expressions, costumes and are inserted into pauses in the soundtrack, resulting in no interference with the films dialogue.

Saturday, January 16th
IMAX Theater World Golf
Village
St. Augustine, FL
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Adventures in Blind Optimism Saturday Program February



We are encouraging everyone to attend the 4th Annual **Heart & Hope Statewide Family Conference** by Family Network on Disabilities.

What is Heart and Hope? It's a full day event that is designed to help bring individuals who are at risk, families

who have children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them awareness in and of their options and rights that are available to them within the school system and beyond.

There will be workshops, keynote speakers, a FunCamp for kids (registration

required as space will be limited), vendor displays and information, a silent auction and more! Topics to be covered in the workshops will include IEP, IDEA, Dispute Resolution, Related Services, Collaborative Communication, Evaluation and more!

FREE LUNCH

FREE CHILDCARE



Who should attend Heart and Hope? Parents/family members of students with disabilities, self-advocates, professionals, agencies, providers and other interested parties.

Those who wish to, may schedule an individual assistance

session concerning an IEP, IFSP, or TIEP. This must be done on the registration form. You will then be contacted by a member of the FND family for appointment time and room number.

On-line and/or mail in registrations can be found at www.fndfl.org FND may be contacted

at (727)523-1130 or (800)825-5736

FOPBC members wishing to apply for travel expense funding to attend this event, please send an e-mail to fopbc@aol.com

NFBF / FOPBC State Convention Seminars 2010

May 28 – May 31, Holiday Inn Orlando 6515 International Drive Mark your calendars! Our state convention seminars will be held in Orlando over Memorial Day

weekend. Join us for a weekend full of information and networking opportunities! Meet our state affiliate president, local chapter presidents as well as fellow parents

and blind children. Learn what NFBF and FOPBC are doing to change what it means to be blind!

Stay tuned for more exciting info to follow!!

NFB / NOPBC National Convention Seminars 2010

The 2010 room rates are single, double and twins \$62; and triples and quads: \$67 a night; plus a 15 % sales tax. The hotel is accepting reservations now. A \$60 per-room deposit is required to make a reservation. 50% of the deposit will be refunded if notice is given to the hotel of a reservation cancellation before June 1, 2010. The other 50% is non-refundable.

The schedule for the 2010 convention will follow that of last year:

Friday, July 2
Parent Seminars
Saturday, July 3
Seminar Day
Sunday, July 4
Registration Day
Monday, July 5
Board Meeting Division Day
Tuesday, July 6
Opening Session
Wednesday, July 7
Business Session

Thursday, July 8
Banquet & Adjournment

more info can be found at www.nfb.org

National Convention Scholarships Available!

Have you ever wanted to attend National Convention but just didn't have the funds?

Consider applying for a National Convention Scholarship. If you are a member of the National Federation of the Blind, you may apply. While every application is carefully

considered, preference will be given to first time attendees.

Last year, the Jernigan Fund Scholarship Committee awarded 60 Kenneth Jernigan scholarships with the average grant being \$600.

For questions and additional information, contact Allen Harris

(205) 655-8221 or e-mail allen.harris@dws.com

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas and enjoying convention with you and all of our fellow Federationists!

This year, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NFB, so you won't want to miss out!

Sentiments of a Blind Child

by: Tracie Inman, Secretary
FOPBC
NFB-Jax Board Member

I'm walking In A World of
darkness
Searching always for the Light
I'm walking thru a twilight fog
Hoping for the Stars at Night.

Where is the Sunshine in the
Morning?
Where is the bright Light of Day?
Where is the Moon in the Night-
time?
Where have all the Stars gone
away?

Mommy, what color is the Sky?
Daddy, what color is the Sea?

Won't someone tell me why?
Why can't these things I see?

I can hear the birds chirping,
Singing their Song in the Rain.
I can hear the meadowlarks
singing,
And the horn on the choo choo
train

I'm wondering of the world
around me,
So filled with all kinds of sound;
I'm wondering what the Lions
look like, And what the little Kitty
found?

Why did God make me this way?
Why didn't He give me Sight?
Why do I live in this world today?
It just doesn't seem right.

I read with my fingers dots that I
can feel
They make up the letters of
Words,
In stories that others tell,
My friends say they can read
printed Words,
And long books with simple
ease.
But I have to read slowly, so be
patient with me, please



I walk with a long stick called a
Cane so that I will not fall
If I run, I must have a guide Or I
better not go at all
Day after Day I hope and Pray
That somehow this Blindness will
be taken away.
For the Gift of Sight, that I can
See

all the things that fascinate me
I pray that God will let me See
The little bird that sings to me
I hope to See the Cow that cries
"MOO!"
The grass that I play in, and the
Ocean, too
I pray that I will See the

Airplanes Fly,
When they take off and come
down from the Sky.
I want to see the little girl smile
When I say, "Good Morning, Can
I Play with you a while?
But Most of all I Pray that I can
See My Mother's face when she
says she loves Me!



*"Sentiments of A blind
Child" was inspired by
Tracie's daughter
Katie Inman shortly
before Katie became
Deaf in addition to her
blindness. Katie, now
a 7th grader at the
Florida School for the
Deaf and Blind is
forever asking lots
and lots of deep
questions. She's a*

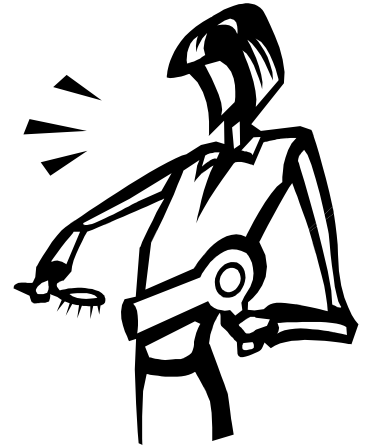
*deep thinker who
always has a bright
smile and a warm hug
for everyone.*

Spring Fundraiser

Beauty Alliance, A Salon Centric Company, Redken, and Elite Salons in the Greater Jacksonville area are proud to donate \$1 for every promotional kit sold to FOPBC! This promotion will run through April 1, 2010. We would like to thank the following salons for their support.

The Spa at Tre Salon
Salon B2Y
The Green Room
Concept Cutters
Salon Nouveau
Ten, a Sheila Powers Salon

Cut Up and Dye
Elite Hair Studio by Tre Salon
Bella Amici
DeMi Salon
EM Studios
Two Blondes and a Guy
Rapunzel
Beleeza Salon and Boutique
Mantra Salon
Dirty Blonde
Luxe Studio
Tranquility Salon and Day Spa



Gear Up for Greatness!

National Federation of the Blind
2010 Junior Science Academy
A STEM Program for Blind Children
Ages 8-12
Baltimore, Maryland,
at the NFB Jernigan Institute

The Junior Science Academy is a four-day session that will expose blind children to the excitement of science in real-life applications. The students will learn about how much fun science can be through hands-on instruction,

field trips, and interactive activities. Attending parents will participate in a corresponding seminar with workshops designed to focus on meeting the needs of their blind children.

Session 1: July 28-August 1, 2010
Session 2: August 4-August 8, 2010

A registration fee of \$150.00 will be charged for each accepted student and parent/chaperone pair. The cost of travel, room, board, and program

materials will be covered by the NFB Jernigan Institute for all student and parent/chaperone pairs.

For questions and application contact:
Emily Neubeck
Project Assistant
National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute
(410) 659-9314, ext. 2419
eneubeck@nfb.org

http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Junior_Science_Academy_Mentor_Info.asp

FOPBC

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nfbflorida.org/parents

2010 Race for Independence

Come! Be a part of it! Join the FOPBC March for Independence Team and help raise money for the Imagination Fund!

The Imagination Fund is an annual campaign that ensures that the initiatives of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jernigan Institute are advanced and that NFB state affiliates have

the support needed to reach out to the blind in local communities.

Participation takes just a few clicks of your mouse – go to www.raceforindependence.org/goto/fopbc - sign up – send the e-mail invite to family and friends and watch the donations roll in! It's that easy!

The Imagination Fund makes it possible for: Blind youth to

achieve careers in Math and Science.

Advance technology helpful to the blind

Train and inspire professionals working with the blind

Provide parents with critical information helpful to their blind children

2010 NFB LAW PROGRAM / APPLY ONLINE UNTIL FEB 1

The NFB Leadership and Advocacy in Washington, D.C., (LAW) Program will be a four-day experience that will provide blind and low vision students with a unique opportunity to explore the inner workings of our country's government, its history, and its culture while

staying at the national headquarters for the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to learning about grassroots legislation efforts, how resolutions are passed, and how various blindness legislation is brought about,

participants will learn more about the inner workings of the National Federation of the Blind, its advocacy work for blind individuals, and available resources for blind students and adults. This program also strives to help empower youth with valuable resources to

enhance their transition to high school including technology, training programs, publications, mentoring programs, Aids and appliances, and scholarships.

Who: Youth who are in Grades 6-9 or Ages 12-16 during the time of the program

When: April 16-20, 2010

Where: Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland

Cost: There will be a \$250 fee per student/chaperone pair. All other expenses including transportation, room, and board will be provided for each student and their chaperone.