



TUCSON SOCIETY OF THE BLIND (TSB)

P.O. Box 57655. Tucson, AZ 85732

APRIL MAY 2019 NEWSY NOTES

TSB meets every Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Christ Presbyterian Church, 6565 E. Broadway

Come when you can and leave when you must. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Barbara, 298-2427 or Tom, 721-1029

www.tucsonsoftheblind.org

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 2 Marge Barnhart, "Inspiring Stories of the Visually Challenged." In the future TSB members will be able to purchase the book on thumb drive, which will plug into AZ Talking Book Player. TSB members in book will share personal experiences.**
- 5 Rescheduled Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way, 9:45-1:30 p.m. Gullin Chinese Restaurant, 4445 E. Broadway**
- 9 Anna Miller a Vision rehab teacher from State of AZ will discuss daily living skills and other surprises. Stay until 12:30 PM for a Chic Fil A nugget lunch donated by Erma with pie for dessert.**
- 12 TSB Board Meeting 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Biscuit Country Cafe 7026 E. Broadway**
- 16 AZ Banjo Blasters, Get ready to let the good times roll and enjoy our favorite band**
- 23 Angeline, Tucson Wildlife Center, "Rescuing of Desert Animals"**
- 30 Joanne Gabias, "Growing up with Blind Parents and being sighted," Orientation and Mobility Instructor at SAAVI. Bring items for Youth on Their Own, See article below.**

MAY

- 7 Ginny Ginn and Shirley Pinkerton, "Mother, Daughter Duo, Jessie and Lily Fremont, Living with AZ first governor"**
- 10 TSB Board Meeting 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Biscuit Country Cafe 7026 E. Broadway**
- 14 Star Spangled Seniors Show, get ready for corny jokes and to sing along to favorite tunes.**
- 17 BBQ and Pool Party at John McCan's, 9-1:30 p.m., 8761 E Placita Bolivar, see details below**

- 21 Lynn Urias, "Living in the AZ Territory in Tucson from 1848-1912"
28 Terry Hayward, "Staying Safe and Preventing Fraud," Tucson Police
Community Resource Officer

June 4 - Janet Dyla from Desert Low Vision, "See the latest Assistive Technology

Announcements:

Friday April 5 Rescheduled Field Trip to Tucson Botanical Gardens & Butterfly Exhibit; Lunch at Gullin Chinese Restaurant, 4445 E. Broadway. We will make sure to provide transportation so all can have a Chinese lunch about \$8.50 a plate. Meet at the Gardens at 9:45 a.m., 2150 N. Alvernon Way. Our docent will have many stories and "hands on" exhibits for us. Wear red as the butterflies like that color and will land on your head. Get a 1:30 p.m. Sun Van out of Gullin Chinese Restaurant.

TSB Members Selling Jim Click Raffle Tickets

TSB members need to ask doctors and other service providers and family members to buy Jim Click tickets. All of the funds raised go to TSB. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. The Grand Prize is a white Jeep 2019 Grand Cherokee Summit with all the options. Second prize is two first class round trip airplane tickets to anywhere in the world. Third prize is \$5,000 in cash. To buy Jim Click Raffle Tickets contact Tom Young 721-1029.

TSB members will collect items for Youth On Their Own

Help homeless youth to stay in school, We will be collecting non-perishable food, personal grooming items, household items and gift cards from Fry's Grocery Store, Target or Walmart. Youth on Their Own (YOTO) helps 1600 homeless teens each year to stay in school and finish high school by providing financial assistance, personal counseling, and basic guidance. TSB members can make a difference by investing in Arizona's future, helping YOTO break the cycle of poverty and preventing teens from dropping out of school. YOTO has been helping middle and high school students in Pima County for 30 years and has helped over 16,000 homeless young people.

TSB members can help by bringing the following items:

- **Non-perishable Food:** Macaroni and cheese mix, canned soup and fruit, canned pasta, etc., Spaghetti sauce and pasta, Ramen Noodles.
- **New, Regular Personal Grooming Items:** Shaving cream, razors, deodorant, body wash/soap, shampoo & conditioner
- **Household Items:** paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets. Gift Cards from Wal-Mart and Target for clothing and from Grocery stores for food.

Let's see how much TSB members can contribute to this worthy cause. Many of these items can be purchased at the dollar store. It is great to help our local

teens. For more information call Kristan 293-1136 or go to www.yoto.org. Thank you for your help

BBQ POOL PARTY, Fri, May 19 from 9:00am-1:30pm. TSB will provide hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill. Please bring a side dish to share with others. The McCann's have a fantastic pool, so wear your swim suit. There also is plenty of shade under the large back porch and there will be live music. Come join the fun, and please let Barbara know what food you are bringing. Address: 8761 E Placita Bolivar.

President's Message by Barbara Macpherson

I want to thank the Board of Directors and all the volunteers that made the TSB Spring Concerts run smoothly and be a success. Also thanks to over 55 businesses who donated great items for the silent auction. TSB members had a wonderful trip to the Saguaro National Park. The weather was beautiful and Park Ranger Melanie gave a fun and informative talk about the desert plants. We even got to taste prickly pear jelly on a cracker. Yum! Thank you to all the volunteers that made the picnic so much fun. We have two more field trips: to Ft Lowell Museum and the Tucson Botanical Gardens. See you there.

In Loving Memory of Mike Bording

Mike Bording passed away on Monday Feb 2 due to brain cancer. Mike was a long time member of TSB since 2008 and served TSB for 10 years. He loved to talk to people and help the blind. He would tell all that he met about TSB. Mike did many things at TSB from setting up the room, making coffee, greeting individuals, serving refreshments, calling Bingo, and cleaning up afterwards. Mike served on the Board of Directors and especially loved field trips. Mike loved to sing and was deeply religious and regularly attended Church of Jesus Christ-Peniel. He was a special friend of Erma Seal and drove her van back to Kansas twice.

Mike was born on August 18, 1939 in Tennessee and was 79 years old. He was a nursing assistant. Mike is survived by brother Don, sister Carol, and two daughters Jill and Leslie. TSB members already miss Mike's bubbling personality and thank him and his family for his years of service to TSB.

Arizona Daily Star Newspaper article 3/14/19 for the TSB Spring Concerts by Loni Nanini

The Tucson Society of the Blind is holding its annual concerts March 22-23, one of its main fundraisers for the year. The nonprofit, which also participates in the Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle, provides educational, emotional and social support for the visually impaired and their families. "These concerts are so important to help us get the word out. We know there are lots of people out there who could use our services, but they have to be brave enough to come out and ask for help," said President Barbara Macpherson, who lives with Retinitis

pigmentosa, a disease that causes retinal degeneration resulting in a gradual decline in vision. Macpherson said many people who have severely impaired vision struggle with isolation, loneliness and a fear of leaving home, and that organization meetings can help alleviate these problems.

The meetings are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., Christ Presbyterian Church, 6565 E. Broadway, featuring activities such as, bingo, luncheons, and guest speakers on topics ranging from the latest in research and technology for the visually impaired to coping with loss of vision, and health and safety tips for living your best life. “Lots of people don’t want to come out of their houses, but it is worth it for them to do it. You have to build up your self-esteem; it makes a big difference in your attitude and quality of life. You really come away with an ‘I can do it’ attitude,” Macpherson said.

The group also offers a wide range of regional field trips designed to enrich the lives of members. Past excursions have included Sabino Canyon and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The trips provide specially-adapted activities that allow participants to rely on other senses besides sight, and are designed to keep members engaged in life and learning, according to Tom Young.

Tom and his wife, Bobbie, are members of the group; Bobbie, 83, lost the sight in one eye after an accident and suffers glaucoma in the other eye; Tom, 81, also has impaired vision. “We try to create an environment where we teach people to be independent,” said Tom.

The Tucson Society of the Blind is holding its annual concerts March 22-23, one of its main fundraisers for the year. The nonprofit, which also participates in the Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle, provides educational, emotional, and social support for the visually impaired and their families.

Eye Talk by Annie Schlesinger

The Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired offers free correspondence courses and online videos. The new discussion groups are by online login or telephone call-in. They currently cover the following topics: Tech It Out about technology devices and services, Braille Chat about tips and tricks, Spanish Chat for learners of all levels, Writers Circle about many topics involving writing, and Book Club Chat which meets monthly. I have the contact information if you are interested in any of the discussion group

Tip: Don’t try to put toothpaste on your toothbrush, squirt desired amount directly into your mouth.

Blind users can now explore photos by touch with Microsoft’s Seeing Ai;

Article Link: <https://techcrunch.com/2019/03/12/blind-users-can-now-explore-photos-by-touch-with-microsofts-seeing-ai/>

Microsoft's Seeing Ai is an app that lets blind and limited-vision folks convert visual data into audio feedback, and it just got a useful new feature. Users can now use touch to explore the objects and people in photos. It's powered by machine learning, of course, specifically object and scene recognition. All you need to do is take a photo or open one up in the viewer and tap anywhere on it.

"This new feature enables users to tap their finger to an image on a touch-screen to hear a description of objects within an image and the spatial relationship between them," wrote Seeing Ai lead Saqib Shaikh in a blog post. "The app can even describe the physical appearance of people and predict their mood."

Because there's facial recognition built in as well, you could very well take a picture of your friends and hear who's doing what and where, and whether there's a dog in the picture (important) and so on. This was possible on an image-wide scale.

But the app now lets users tap around to find where objects are — obviously important to understanding the picture or recognizing it from before. Other details that may not have made it into the overall description may also appear on closer inspection, such as flowers in the foreground or a movie poster in the background.

In addition to this, the app now natively supports the iPad, which is certainly going to be nice for the many people who use Apple's tablets as their primary interface for media and interactions. Lastly, there are a few improvements to the interface so users can order things in the app to their preference.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

**10 Lori Kirsop
12 Annie Schlesinger
12 Young Anniversary**

On the Lighter side: Some comic lines from Phyllis Diller

**I was the world's ugliest baby. When I was born, the Dr. slapped everybody.
They say housework can kill you, but why take a chance?
I never made "who's who," but I'm featured in "what's that?"**

**Why did the mushroom get invited to the party? Because he's a fungi (fun guy).
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
A will is a dead giveaway.
A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just too tired.
A boiled egg is hard to beat.**