



THE

# NAVIGATOR

Fall 2008

Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona

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A Parent Training and Information Center Network Partner Serving Southern Arizona

## GUARDIANSHIP? WHAT'S THAT?

As our children with special needs approach 18, we are bombarded with information telling us we must apply for guardianship of our child. We have lots of questions and don't know who to turn to for answers. Once 18, without guardianship of some form, schools and hospitals can decide not to work with the parents and your child can enter into a contract, which is binding. This is because the child, in the eyes of the law, is now considered an adult and has the same rights and responsibilities as any adult; and the parents are no longer automatically considered the decision makers.

In an effort for individuals with developmental disabilities to live as non-restrictive lives as possible, there are legal means to protect them while giving them some independence. There are different types of guardianship:

**Full guardianship** which means the guardian has all powers over the ward (child/young adult). Decision making about living arrangements, education, social activities, medical care, right to marry and association with others are made by the guardian in an effort to protect the ward. A ward cannot vote.

**Limited guardianship** which limits only certain areas of the ward's life, such as contracts and medical decisions. However, once found incompetent for purposes of even a limited guardianship, the ward cannot vote.

**Guardian Ad Litem** is an appointment as guardian for a specified time period or a limited purpose. The person with a developmental disability may need a guardian for purposes of filing a personal injury claim resulting from an automobile accident, for example. The guardian would assist in filing, litigating and settling the claim and for the proceeds to be protected and then the guardianship would terminate.

**Temporary Guardian.** A temporary guardian may be appointed immediately by a court. This process will require representation by an attorney who will be appointed for the person with a disability.

Limited guardianship, medical power of attorney, or health care power of attorney should always be looked at first because they are the least restrictive of the guardianships. Power of attorney, medical power of attorney, a signed and notarized letter stating the child gives the parent the right to continue acting as the advocate for educational purposes is also available and must be renewed yearly. It is preferable that you select the least restrictive form of protection or assistance for your child. If a child has a full or limited guardianship in place they may not vote, unless there is specific language giving that right added.

Need more information? Come to the Transition Fair at Amphi High School, 125 W. Yavapai in the old gym on October 21st from 4 pm to 7 pm. There will be information on Guardianship there, or go to Center for Disability Law ([www.acdl.com](http://www.acdl.com)) or The Governors Council ([www.azgcd.org](http://www.azgcd.org)) websites and download a copy of the *Legal Options Manual*, latest edition is March 2006.

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Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona 2600 N. Wyatt Drive, Tucson, AZ, Phone 324-3150

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?



## Adult Books

**“The Down Syndrome Nutrition Handbook” - Joan E. Guthrie Medlen, R.D., L.D.**

This book is the first to look at all aspects of nutrition and healthy living for children with Down syndrome, from birth through young adulthood.

**“Informal Assessments for Transition Planning” - Gary M. Clark, James R. Patton and L. Rozelle Moulton**

The primary purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive source of assessment procedures so that practitioners can identify the transition needs of students. This book contains forms that can be copied for assessment.

## Children’s Books:

**“Pepper Belle” - Willie J. Ferrero**

This is a story based on fact and fiction. It takes place in the small town of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The story follows the birth of Pepper Belle, a standard bred race horse and the early life of Betsy Verini. The events depict the onset of Tourette Syndrome in both Betsy and Pepper Belle and how it created a touching life for both.

Ages 10 and up

**“Otto Learns About His Medicine” - Matthew Galvin, M.D.**

This is a story about a little car who needs “medicine” to stay calm and run correctly. A learning tool for children who are hyperactive and need to take medicine.

Ages 8 and up

**SPEAKING IS  
SHARING  
LISTENING IS  
CARING**

**Would you like to help someone who has just discovered their child has a disability? Do you remember how alone you felt at first? Contact Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona to get information on how to become a trained Pilot Parent and help another family in need.**

**324-3150  
Call today**

Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona is providing one to one consultation on your child’s IEP. Parents seem to always have questions about the IEP and this is a time where most of your questions or issues can be addressed by an educational consultant. Appointments are Monday or Wednesday afternoons between 12:30 and 4:00 pm and will be for a maximum of 1.5 hours. If you are not in Pima County, a phone conference can be held using our toll free number. Your child’s IEP needs to be mailed or faxed to the consultant one week prior to the appointment. Information where to send or fax the IEP will be provided at the time of scheduling the conference. Call 520-324-3157 or 1-877-365-7220 to schedule your time.

**You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face. Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks. It's just a matter of how you look at them. The purpose of life is to live it, to reach out eagerly and without fear for a newer and richer experience. -author unknown**

***IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.....***

**√ VOTE  
ON  
NOV. 4TH**

## A Trip of Dreams

Jerry Meyerowitz

Tucson's Challenger Little League just realized a once in a lifetime trip to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Challenger Little League is a branch of Little League Baseball for players with cognitive and physical challenges. For the past 20 seasons, the Tucson division, whose fields are located at 36th and Kino, has played a regular season for children 6-20 from April through June. Over 200 children and young adults participate in the league.

Early last season, Bill Fields approached the national Little League organization with an idea for the annual Challenger exhibition game that is played during the Little League World Series. The Series is held in Williamsport each year and features national and international teams vying to be crowned champion.

In the past, two Pennsylvania Challenger leagues had played the Challenger exhibition. Bill proposed that two teams from outside the state should have a shot at playing at this year's game. He nominated our Tucson division as one team and a team from the West University Little League in the Houston area as our opponent. This project was a real labor of love for Bill. He had been one of the number of founding parents some 20 years ago when the Tucson Challenger Little League began play on one field at Fort Lowell Park.

In a short time a team comprised of 13 players from our majors and minors division was assembled.

Fundraising became a priority throughout the spring and past summer. The traveling team worked hard at cultivating sponsors and fundraising through raffle sales. The Tucson Conquistadors and other members of the Tucson business community made generous donations.

As the summer began to wind toward mid August it was time to head to Pennsylvania. The traveling group included the players, parents, siblings, and 3 grandparents.

Our travel to central Pennsylvania included air and van travel and we all arrived tired but excited.

We first met our opponents Friday night at a local YMCA domed field. We played a several inning game that was followed by a nice dinner. It was great to meet the parents from Texas. Although our league has been running far longer than their 3 seasons we had a lot of things to learn from each other. The kids on each team got a chance to meet each other.

Saturday morning rolled around and we made our way to the Little League complex for the big game. We had been assigned to the Volunteer Field and found out that the red carpet had been rolled out for us.

The entire umpiring crew of 16 from the championships had volunteered to work at our game. The scoreboard was in operation to post the player's names each time they came to the plate. Each player's name was announced each time they batted and player's favorite foods and TV shows were announced.

Both teams played hard and had fun. It was moving to look around the stands and see the amount of fans that came out for the game. Friends and

relatives traveled from far and wide to support our Tucson team.

The game ended after two innings to a rousing ovation. By mutual agreement before the game we had agreed not to keep score. The President of Little League came down on the field to present the players and coaches with commemorative pins.

The rest of the weekend was devoted to side trips or watching the final rounds of the Little League World Series. The United States team from Hawaii beat a team representing Mexico. Our group was very well received by the Little League community and we were able to get the word out about the Challenger program while we sat in the stands or roamed the complex.

The closing ceremonies before the championship game included a special moment. Both Challenger teams had been invited down to the field to be part of a special ceremony honoring Bill Fields as the Challenger Baseball Volunteer of the Year.

Monday was a travel day back to Tucson. Our flight arrived Monday night and friends and family greeted us. In a moment we went our separate ways but we are left with the memories of a great time.

Interested in Challenger Little League? We'll play another season next spring. Check us out at [tucson-challenger.org](http://tucson-challenger.org).

Jerry Meyerowitz is the parent of Tucson Challenger player Nick Meyerowitz and he teaches in the Elementary Deaf Department of ASDB.



# and so, we give thanks!

As it approaches Thanksgiving, we remember all the individuals who help us provide support to the families who contact us. We don't always take the time to acknowledge your gift to us, and now we will. Thanks to all of you, you know who you are...who have helped us over the year to provide the support needed to parents of children with special needs.

These people have given time in volunteering services to Pilot Parents in many different ways. Some have mentored other families, some have given time to help prepare for projects or workshops provided by Pilot Parents. Each and every volunteer has been greatly appreciated and Pilot Parents thanks you for giving of your time. It did not go unnoticed.

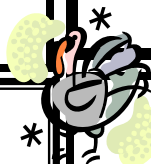
## ***PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING***

*Pilot Parents would like to welcome the new class of Partners who began the program in September. And, we would like to congratulate the graduates from April 2008 :*

Karen Belleau, Tucson	Stacie Mockbee, Tucson
Janett Carbajal, Tucson	Kathleen Moroney, Phoenix
Julie Cresswell, Sierra Vista	Mauri Popp, Marana
Paulette Fitzpatrick, Oro Valley	Michelle Rasmussen, Tucson
Steven Freeman, Tucson	Marcos Sanchez, Queen Creek
Shannon Gallaher, Tucson	Denise Schaumlöffel, Phoenix
Robin Gaura, Willcox	Barbara Scheidel, Sahuarita
Kathy Gray- Mangerson, Tucson	Sharon Stogner, Yuma
Maria Kukiela, Tucson	Norma "Charlie" Thorn, St. Johns
Lisa Dee Meyerson- Marshall, Scottsdale	Ruth Zaragoza- Humes, Yuma
Lisa Nagy, Tucson	

## **A GREAT PART TIME OPPORTUNITY**

**Pilot Parents needs your help. We are looking for a part time staff member that will help us provide support, resources, and education to families. Are you a parent, family member or professional interested in joining our team? Do you have knowledge or experience working with community agencies that serve families who have children with special needs, are you familiar with special education laws and services, and are you bilingual? Call Lynn at 520-324-3150 for more information about this opportunity.**



## **8 STEPS TO BETTER IEP MEETINGS**

1. **Make every attempt to sustain relationships.** Try to get to know and connect with other team members.
2. **Keep the focus on the child's needs, not the district's resources or parents' expectations.** Get independent evaluations; design specific, measurable, realistic IEP goals, parental expectations v. district resources.
3. **Provide "face saving" ways out of a dilemma.** Have a back-up plan. Encourage brainstorming with all informed people at team meetings, the solutions that present themselves are amazing.
4. **Build your record.** Parents must be willing to face the reality of their child's abilities!
5. **Walk a mile in the other side's moccasins.** Spend time at school. What really goes on inside schools? How tired are you at the end of the day?
6. **Listen actively, especially to the things you do not want to hear.**
7. **Encourage everyone to love your child, then let them!**
8. **Have a little faith.** Give your child's team some credit for acting in good faith.

Read complete text of article : [Play Hearts, Not Poker](#), by Jennifer Bollero at [www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com).

# FYI

## Wrightslaw

**Advocacy Training**  
Special Education Law & Your Child's Rights  
presented by Supreme Court Winning  
Lawyer & US Special Ed Law Expert

**Peter Wright, Esq.**  
[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

**Thursday, March 12, 2009**  
**9:00 am - 4:30 pm**  
**Save the Date!!!**

**Tucson Convention Center**  
**260 South Church Avenue**

Individual \$35\*  
Couple: \$60\* (1 set of books)  
Professional: \$85\*

\*Continental breakfast, lunch and snacks are included in the registration price. Participants will receive two books for use during the training: Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition and Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd Edition.

To register and/or receive the latest details visit our website [www.pilotparents.org](http://www.pilotparents.org), e-mail [ppsa.org](mailto:ppsa.org) or call 520-324-3150.

This special education and advocacy conference is being brought to you by:

The Arc of Tucson  
Autism Society of America, Pima County Chapter  
Martinez-Ross Marketing  
Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona  
Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome  
Tucson Community A.C.T.I.O.N. Team  
Tucson Unified School District Exceptional Parent Project

**OCTOBER IS:**

**DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH**  
**NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH**  
**RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH**

**TUCSON BUDDY WALK**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2PM –6 PM**  
**REID PARK, DEMEESTER BANDSHELL**  
**ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND FUN**  
**PLEASE COME!!!**  
**LOCAL EXHIBITORS**

**2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE FORUM**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2008, 6:00 TO 8:30**  
**PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE—AMETHYST ROOM**  
**NW CORNER OF STONE AND SPEEDWAY**  
**SPONSORED BY THE ARC OF TUCSON**

**NATIONAL BREAST CANCER**  
**AWARENESS MONTH**



**HAVE YOU HAD A WELL WOMAN**  
**CHECK RECENTLY?**  
**SCHEDULE ONE TODAY!**

*WHAT WOULD YOU DO*  
*TODAY, IF YOU KNEW YOU*  
*COULD NOT FAIL? ~ unknown*

# Upcoming Free Informational Workshops

These workshops have been designed for families and others to become better informed advocates for their child or children with special needs. All workshops are approximately 2 hours in length with Spanish interpretation if needed. There will be a morning and afternoon session at each site. **Registration** is needed in order to have enough materials. All sessions are subject to cancellation. One may register for one or both. Check the schedule for the site nearest to your home. **One can register by calling 520.324.3150 or 1-877-365-7220 or at seminars@pilotparents.org.**

## Workshop Titles:

**MORNING** session:

### **IDEA...What is it?...How does it affect your child's education?**

This workshop will focus on IDEA 2004, which is the law used in providing special education services. The process of the law for services will be shared and parent rights as well. Topics to be covered are:

- √ Evaluations
- √ IEP (individualized education programs)
- √ LRE (least restrictive environment)
- √ Parent/student participation in making decisions
- √ Procedural safeguards for the family

**AFTERNOON** session:

### **...Understanding Your Child's Test Scores...**

#### **What do all those numbers mean?**

The outcome of this session is for a better understanding of the information provided to parents after their child has been evaluated. Instead of it sounding like a foreign language to you, it will have some meaning after one attends this session.

Topics to be covered are:

- √ Types of test and what they measure
- √ Scoring
- √ Understanding a bell curve.

## LOCATIONS and DATES

Starting time at all sites for AM is 10am and the afternoon start time is 1pm.

Tucson	October 28, 2008	Valencia Library, 202 W Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ
Rio Rico	November 4, 2008	J Scholnick home, 1230 Calle Rafael, Rio Rico, AZ
Globe	November 18, 2008	Globe Library, 339 S Broad St, Globe, AZ
Bisbee	November 25, 2008	Bisbee DDD Office, 209 Bisbee Rd, Bisbee, AZ

Register at 520.324.3150, 1-877-365-7220, online at [seminars@pilotparents.org](mailto:seminars@pilotparents.org)



For All DDD Consumers & Families  
RESOURCE HARVEST FAIR



October 24, 2008

Maximizing Positive Supports & Services  
through...

Conversations with  
Families \* Consumers & Representatives from ALTCS  
Social Security \* Behavior Intervention \*  
Early Intervention \* Transition \* Transportation  
Vocational Rehabilitation \* Day Programs  
DDD Administration & Staff  
And other topics



CRS Campus 4710 E. 29th Street  
(Swan @ 29th)  
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN, HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND SEASON'S GREETINGS TO  
ALL FROM PILOT PARENTS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA!**

## TRANSITION FAIR 2008

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE A YEAR OPPORTUNITY

EXPLORE COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND  
IMPROVE YOUR FUTURE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT, PARENTS, GUARDIANS, TEACHERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008 FROM 4PM TO 7PM

AMPHITHEATER HIGH SCHOOL  
125 W. YAVAPAI ROAD. IN THE OLD GYM

COME MEET AGENCIES THAT CAN HELP YOU  
FIND: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT,  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION,  
RECREATION, SCHOLARSHIP, COMMUNITY LIVING

FREE REFRESHMENTS, FOOD FOR PURCHASE

### Staff Members:

Lynn Kallis— Executive  
Director—Pilot Parents  
of Southern Arizona  
324-3151

Cheryl McKenzie—  
Receptionist/Secretary  
324-3150

Karen Kelsch—  
Partners in Policymaking,  
Coordinator  
324-3158

Jo Ann Spencer—  
Coordinator  
Special Projects—  
Sibshop Coordinator,  
Editor, *The Navigator*,  
324-3153

Robert Snyder— Parent  
Training & Information  
Center Coordinator  
(Education) 324-3157



You can now view or download *The Navigator* from our web page. Go to [pilotparents.org](http://pilotparents.org) and click on *The Navigator*. If you no longer wish to receive *The Navigator*, please contact the office.

*The Navigator* is published quarterly; winter (January), Spring (April), summer (July) and fall (October). Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. You may e-mail notices, articles, etc. to [joann@pilotparents.org](mailto:joann@pilotparents.org), fax them to 520-324-3152 or mail them to: PPSA, 2600 N. Wyatt Drive, Tucson, AZ 85712 attn: Jo Ann Spencer, editor. Submissions will be used based upon space availability and, if dated material, publication date.

# NAVIGATOR

**Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona  
2600 North Wyatt Drive  
Tucson, Arizona 85712-6106**

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