

SILVER LININGS



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

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DISCOUNTS AND HOW TO FIND THEM

Who is not interested in getting a bargain, also known as a discount? In response to a question about discounts that might be available to a woman with MS, Jim Miller, creator and author of "Savvy Living" wrote the following.

There are a wide variety of discounts and services available to people with disabilities and those living with chronic illness. They can save hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Here are some tips to find them.

Always Ask! The first thing to know is that most businesses that offer discounts to people with disabilities don't publicize them. Ask! also, most non-profits and government agencies that provide disabled services or benefits will require proof of disability before they will accommodate you. A letter from a doctor, or some other form of verification will do the job.

Search Locally! Discounts vary depending on where you live. A good place to start is by contacting the local chapter of the non-profit that specializes in the particular disease or disability which you have. Local chapters often know where to find discounts on medical supplies, mobility equipment and support services. Some organizations have negotiated special discounted rates with suppliers and some provide subsidized equipment directly.

Search Online! One of the best resources for finding disabled discounts of *DisabledDiscounts.com*. This is a free website that lists thousands of discounts in all 50 states. You search by state and county and you can explore at least 30 different categories. You can also visit *Benefits.gov* and *BenefitsCheckUp.org*. These two sites will help you look for financial assistance for which you, or your family member, might be eligible and will explain how to apply. Additionally *Disability.gov* is a useful site that connects people who have disabilities to helpful programs and services in their area.

Types of Discounts! Here are a few examples of discounts and services that are out there for disabled persons.

Recreation: Most movie theatres, museums, zoos, theme parks and aquariums provide reduced admission to people with disabilities. The National Park Services offers the "America the Beautiful Access Pass" to disabled persons. This provides free access to all national parks.

Taxes: There are numerous federal tax deductions and credits for people with disabilities.

Utilities: Many utility companies offer discounts to customers who are disabled, elderly or have a low income.

Communication Devices: 47 states have equipment distribution programs that offer free amplified telephones to people with hearing impairments. Check out *tedpa.org* for information.

Home Modifications: There are number of federal, state, local and non-profit organizations that help pay for home accessibility improvements like wheelchair ramps, handrails and grab bars.

Travel: Amtrak offers a 15% rail fare discount to adult passengers with a disability and up to one traveling companion.

Reading Services: For those with vision of physical impairments that make it difficult for them to read, the Library of Congress offers a "Talking Books" programs that provides free audiobooks, magazines and audio equipment. The National Federation of the Blind offers a free newspaper and magazine reading service at *nftnewslineonline.org*.

Source: "Savvy Living" by Jim Miller, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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PEACEMAKING

One of the concerns of Christians is peacemaking. When one stops to identify all of the places in the world where war is being waged, or the threat of war is present, there are not many nations, if any, on the face of the earth that are not impacted by war in some form or the other.

In our nation, though there is no war within our borders, there is lots of conflict in cities, in neighborhoods and in families. Often the result of these varied conflicts is death for a few people, sometimes many people. When one adds to this, the current political scene in which the race for the office of President is heating up, the political rhetoric is getting nasty. What level will nastiness reach before the election is held in November? Probably, based on past experience, many people will be saying that the 2016 campaign for President of our nation was the most divisive in our history. And, that will be augmented by the campaigns for both the Senate and the House that will be going on in every state, not to overlook state and local elections that will occur this year.

Many people are decrying this situation, but no one seems to have a way to reduce the divisiveness that characterizes much of our public life.

Some years ago, your Editor read about a Peacemakers Camp that was hosted at the Church of the Brethren in La Verne. This event was designed for children in what we commonly know as Vacation Church School, or Vacation Bible School. To help the children who participated in this experience to learn the skills of peacemaking the leaders invited them to consider and to answer these four questions in situations of conflict with others.

1. "Is it kind?"
2. "Is it peaceful?"
3. "Does it respect property?"
4. "Does it feel like the right thing to do?"

Maybe pondering and reflecting on these four questions would benefit the Board of a congregation, or groups of people within a congregation, or maybe, even, a group of Senior Adults in any congregation. What do you think?

A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

In all likelihood, this issue of "Silver Linings" will reach you too late for you to be able to hear Wendy Lustbader's presentations at Walnut Village in Anaheim on Tuesday, February 2, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The theme she'll address is: "Beyond Care: Exploring the Glorious A of the Spirit." We hope some Disciples have registered to hear her.

To see if there is still a place for you in this one-day conference contact Nancy Gordon asap. She is the Executive Director of the Center for Spirituality and Aging at Walnut Village. Phone number is: 714-507-1370. Or e-mail her at: ngordon@frontporch.net.

FEATURED HYMN

WITH LENT BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 10, THIS IS A HYMN FOR YOUR REFLECTION DURING THIS SEASON.

"TRANSFORM US AS YOU, TRANSFIGURED STOOD APART ON TABOR'S HEIGHT. LEAD US UP OUR SACRED MOUNTAINS, SEARCH US WITH REVEALING LIGHT. LIFT US FROM WHERE WE HAVE FALLEN, FULL OF QUESTIONS FILLED WITH FRIGHT.

TRANSFORM US AS YOU, TRANSFIGURED, ONCE SPOKE WITH THOSE HOLY ONES. WE, SURROUNDED BY THE WITNESS OF THE SAINTS WHOSE WORK IS DONE, LIVE IN THIS WORLD AS YOUR BODY, CHOSEN DAUGHTERS, CHOSEN SONS.

TRANSFORM US AS YOU, TRANSFIGURED, WOULD NOT STAY WITHIN A SHRINE. KEEP US FROM OUR GREAT TEMPTATION-- TIME AND TRUTH WE QUICKLY BIND. LEAD US DOWN THOSE DAILY PATHWAYS WHERE OUR LOVE IS NOT CONFINED.

CHALICE HYMNAL, No. 182. WORDS BY SYLVIA DUNSTAN. THE TUNE IS "PICARDY," A 17TH CENTURY FRENCH MELODY. THE TUNE IS ALSO USED FOR THE TEXT OF "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE."