

# SIGHTLESS CHILDREN CLUB

MAY 2008

NEWSLETTER

## The Blind Really Do Hear Better

*Next SCC Meeting*

*Monday May 19th, 2008*

*10 Wilmington Place*

*Dayton, Ohio 45420*

*7:00pm*



Nearly everyone has heard the popular notion that the blind hear better than the sighted—possibly to make up for their ability to see. Researchers tested people from 3 categories: those who were fully sighted, “early blind” (blind at birth or lost their sight during the first two years of life), and “late blind” (those who became blind later in life). The groups were tested for their ability to recognize changes in pitch. The subjects listened to a pair of tones and had to decide whether the second tone was higher or lower than the first. ‘Early blind’ subjects outperformed the other groups in every task continuing to make correct distinctions as the notes got either shorter or closer in pitch. However, there were no significant differences in performance between sighted and late blind subjects. These findings reveal the brain’s capacity to reorganize itself to be preserved and used in the early blind to process sounds.

## President’s Corner *Lisa Buckingham (937/ 746-5473)*

May is our last meeting until we meet again on September 15th. There will be no meetings over the summer months. We always meet the 3rd Monday of the month.

If you have any requests make sure you get them sent in at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

## We all Need a Tree

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As he walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my

wife and the children. So I just hang them on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance. We all Need a tree!



I seldom think about my limitations, and they never make me sad. Perhaps there is just a touch of yearning at times; but it is vague, like a breeze among flowers.

-Helen Keller