

# SVI 2015

## SAIL FOR THE BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED



### Courtesy Rules for Communicating with the Blind and Visually Impaired



*When you meet me, don't feel ill at ease. It will help both of us if you remember these simple rules of courtesy...*

- ☛ Please introduce yourself. I want to know you personally.
- ☛ If I am walking with you, don't grab my hand; let me take yours. I will keep a half step behind to anticipate curbs and obstacles.
- ☛ I want to know who is in the room with me. Speak when you enter and introduce me to others, including the children. Let me know if there is a dog or cat. Guide my hand to a chair.
- ☛ The door to a room, cabinet, or car left partially open is a hazard to me.
- ☛ Please ask me first if you can pet my dog.
- ☛ At breakfast or lunch, I will not have trouble with ordinary table skills.
- ☛ Don't avoid words like "see"; I use them too. I am always glad to see you.
- ☛ I don't want pity, but don't talk about the "wonderful compensations" of blindness. My sense of smell, hearing, or touch did not improve when I became blind. I rely on them more; therefore, I may get more information through those senses than you do... that is all.
- ☛ If I am your boat guest, show me the tiller, the boom, the hatch, stairs, cleats, or anything that I need to watch out for.
- ☛ I'll discuss the blindness with you if you are curious, but it's an old story to me. I have many other interests as do you.
- ☛ Do not think of me as a **blind person**... I am a **person** who happens to be **blind**.

