

What's Mime is Yours

From the Desk of the Artistic Director

There is much to tell you. It has been a very full summer. We have had more than the usual number of programs and one in particular that gobbled up a fair share of creative juices. Beacon Street went to Phoenix.

Now before you suggest that Phoenix is no place to visit during the summer months, let me remind or inform you that this Phoenix is an organization, not the capital of Arizona. It is a national performing arts body that sponsors a summer conference to which dozens of aspiring or proficient artists bring their dreams or teaching skills. I was asked to be responsible for worship for the week and Beacon Street was asked to present an evening performance so participants would see ensemble rather than individual artistry. We met the challenge.

We were pleased to welcome Kim Manning and Steve Rico back to the ranks of BS on stage. We offered some of our old favorites as well as new material. Phoenix participants at the Grand Rapids conference were delighted.

The evening worship was tall order, so an old associate, Fr. Geri Tol, was invited to share the responsibility. He presided at some of the services all based on the theme of the five senses: smelling, seeing, touching, hearing, and tasting. "Our God is a Sensible God" was the title of the series of services that included familiar elements of worship from many traditions, truly an ecumenical endeavor. An effort was made to include as many of the performing arts as possible, encourage participation, offer light-hearted and prayerful moments, and do so in a manner that folks could easily take home with them. It went very well.

It is our hope that these service notes and many other Beacon Street pieces will be assembled by next Spring for publication at a later date. It's about time!! We believe we have created some very worthy material over the years and it is high time we made it available to others. Publication may serve to bring Beacon Street to the attention of others in far away places, too!

All of this seems a little more within reach now that we have welcomed our newest performing artist on board: Barbara Ballenger. There is information elsewhere in this newsletter about her—enough to substantiate our excitement as we begin our seventh year. Her journalism skills will be indispensable as we knuckle down to the business of publishing.

Our board is in high gear as we anticipate our Fall Benefit. Beacon Street with a New Revue will, we hope, not only please our supporters but prompt others to "come and see" how we could meet their ministry needs. It is the sincere hope of the board that we can manage to gather greater numbers to this, our Third Annual Beacon Street Benefit.

We will have more events to report and folks to thank as this year unfolds. It will be our biggest year for sure. It appears there will be more miles to travel and more diverse groups to encounter. Thank you so much for helping us get this far.

Bob Kloos
Artistic Director

Ask Akhi

Beggar and sage, Akhi sits at the gates of Damascus, gathering coins and wisdom and instructing all in the dance of life.



An individual writing in response to the Spring Appeal letter writes:

Dear Akhi,

Is Beacon Street a 501(c)(3) organization?

Respectfully,

A supporter of BS

Oh, Akhi is not good with numbers. I had to ask others with whom I sit at the gate: "Do you know these 501 numbers?" "Indeed," said one immediately, "they are among the most coveted of Levi's jeans!" If that is the case, Akhi will have nothing to do with them. As beggars, we have no time to covet. We are concerned with basic needs that Allah provides in his goodness.

Another of my friends recalled those numbers have something to do with the IRS. He said he used to work for them. He said those numbers refer to organizations that are not-for-profit. "There are such things in America?" I asked. "Thousands," he responded, "and most do work that cares for Allah's children and they are worthy organizations." Well then, that is a different story.

Those numbers are good numbers, Akhi agrees, hard to come by, hard to live by. Perhaps if more people know they are Beacon Street numbers, more will know what to do when the question of donations come to mind. You see, Akhi believes the letters IRS stand for: I Really Should. Peace be with you.

*Don't go to Syria! Write Akhi at Beacon Street
3570 Rocky River Drive Cleveland OH 44111*

Remember all the terrific pictures in the last issue of *The Beacon*, especially those of Maria and Bob as Zacchaeus and the sycamore? Due to an oversight by a certain phone-manning Office Manager, who will remain nameless (JIM!), the photographer was not credited. So let it be known that the photographer in question was the talented Debbie Phillips, who demonstrated not only great patience during the shoot but also grace under deadline pressure, only to have her name left off the final draft. Thanks for the great photos, Debbie, and sorry again for the mix up.