

History of the Disability Movement

10:45-11:15

Disability Pride Month – Boston 1990 – Nationwide 2004 - These events celebrate "disability culture" with the intention to positively influence the way people think about and/or define disability and to end the stigma of disability.

3500 BC - The Rig Veda, an ancient sacred poem of India, is said to be the first written record of prosthesis. Written in Sanskrit between 3500 and 1800 BC, it recounts the story of a warrior, Queen Vishpla, who lost her leg in battle, was fitted with an iron prosthesis and returned to battle.

218 BC - Marcus Sergius, a Roman general who led his legion against Carthage in the Second Punic War sustained 23 injuries and a right arm amputation. An iron hand was fashioned to hold his shield and he was able to go back to battle. He was later denied a chance to be a priest because he did not have two natural hands.

1616 - G. Bonifacio published a treatise discussing sign language, "Of the Art of Signs."

1755 – The first free school for the deaf opens in Paris. Samuel Heinicke then established the first oral school for the deaf in Germany.

1817 - School for the deaf opens in Hartford Conn. On April 15.

1829 - Louis Braille invents the raised point alphabet that has come to be known as Braille. This system began in the 1780's with Valentine Hauy

developing an embossed print. Haüy later opened the School for the blind in Paris.

1861-1865 – Civil War over 30,000 Amputees in the Union Army alone.

1927 - Lanterman Developmental Center opened as Pacific Colony

1935 – A group in New York City called the League for the Physically Handicapped formed to protest discrimination by the Works Progress Administration. The league's 300 people – mostly disabled by polio or CP – had been turned down for jobs. The Home Relief Bureau of NYC was supposed to forward their job requests to the WPA, but was stamping all of the applications "PH" for physically handicapped, as a signal to the WPA to not give them jobs. Members of the league sat in at the Home Relief Bureau for nine days and went to the WPA headquarters and held a weekend sit in there. They eventually generated thousands of job nationwide.

1939-1941 – Nazi euthanasia program – codenamed Aktion T4 to eliminate "life unworthy of life." After murdering nearly 100,000 people the program was officially ended but they continued using drugs and starvation as tools to kill with disability.

1954 – Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka Kansas

1965 – Bureau for the Office of Special Education formed

1968 – ABA (Architectural Barriers Act)

1969 – Lanterman Act

1970 – Ed Roberts forms the Physically Disabled Students Program or Rolling Quads at CAL Berkeley which became the model for the ILCs

1971 - First ILC Formed

1972 – PARC v Penn and Mills V DC Board of Education- cases to force school districts to educate children with disabilities

1973 – Rehabilitation Act - **prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities by any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or by any program or activity conducted by a federal executive agency or the U.S. Postal Service**

1975 – Education for All Handicapped Children passed and Federal Mandate for Protection and Advocacy Agencies

1978 – California PAI – now DRC (2008)

1986 – ACAA (Airlines)

1988 - FHA (Housing)

1990 – ADA

1999 – OCRA

2010 - 21st Century Communication Video Accessibility Act