



# DSPG NEWS

August 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kick-Off Meeting - September 11

On Wednesday, September 11, at 7pm, in M102 at Medaille College, we will have our Annual meeting and board elections. We will share an annual report of DSPG's activities and a Treasurer's report. We will hold elections for 3 positions on our Board of Directors. See the Board News on Page 2 for further information.



Step Up for Down Syndrome Awareness is right around the corner! The date is Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm at Coca-Cola field. Join us for a one mile walk from Coca-Cola field to the Naval Park and back as we celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Lots of great entertainment will be provided throughout the day, as well as games and activities for children. Lunch is also included in the \$5 registration fee. Register before September 10<sup>th</sup> and receive a complimentary t-shirt. Brochures recently went out in the mail, but if you did not receive one, go to [www.dspgwny.org](http://www.dspgwny.org) and download your registration form today. We can't wait to celebrate the diversity that makes Western New York a great place to live! If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Carver at (716) 908-6837 or [carverlynda@gmail.com](mailto:carverlynda@gmail.com).

### Fall Dance - October 19

Dance the evening away on Saturday, October 19 from 5:30-9pm at Macgruders Restaurant, 4995 Broadway in Depew. Hank will provide dancing music and DSPG will provide pizza, salad and drinks. Please bring a dish or dessert to pass. If you have questions call Lynette (873-0018). RSVP by October 12. Come ready to dance....no costumes please.

### Halloween Party - October 27

For our younger trick-or-treaters...ages 10 and under...come join us at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster from 12:30 - 3:30pm in the gym. We'll celebrate an early Halloween parading around in our costumes. Lots of great activities are planned. Families are asked to bring a snack/treat for the party. Lunch will not be served. If you no longer have little ones but want to join in the fun, consider participating in our trick or treating stations or maybe grandparents would want to get involved as well. For more information contact either Amy Monson at 677-0604 or [amonson23@gmail.com](mailto:amonson23@gmail.com) or Michelle Giambra at 517-7961 or [michgiambra@gmail.com](mailto:michgiambra@gmail.com)

### Front Door Initiative - November 13

Christy Williams-Woods will discuss the latest information on the new Front Door initiative through the OPWDD. Join us on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, in M102 at Medaille College. For more information on the Front Door Initiative please check out [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

### Holiday Party - December 7

Celebrate the holidays with DSPG family and friends at our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7, from 11am-2pm. Students at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street will be hosting. There will be games for the younger kids and Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics will be back. If you are interested in your children receiving a gift from Santa, please bring them wrapped and labeled. The Sacred Heart students will organize Santa's visit. Families attending are requested to bring an item of food. Last names beginning with A-M, please bring a side dish and last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a dessert. DSPG will provide pizza and beverages. Please RSVP to Gretchen ([dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com) or 465-0128) or Maureen ([mhunleybarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:mhunleybarnes@yahoo.com) or 472-1637) by November 27 to let them know what you are bringing.

## Down Syndrome Conference

Saturday, May 3, 2014

St. Mary's High School • Lancaster, NY

The last day-long conference the Down Syndrome Parents Group organized was held in May 2010 and the response was very positive. Join us for guest speakers, great workshop topics, interaction with other parents, friends, agency members and MORE!

### Ways You Can Get Involved:

- **Join the Committee** – We will meet about once every 6-8 weeks until we get closer, usually evenings at Wegmans on Alberta Drive in Amherst
- **Volunteer** – We would also love help on smaller projects you can do on your own or volunteer to help the day of the event
- **Send Your Input** – Send us your ideas for speakers, workshop topics and more!

#### Contact:

Leah Marchewka

Phone: 716-440-5127

Email: [leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com](mailto:leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com)

## Young Athletes

Welcome back current athletes and families! We are also looking for new families to join our Special Olympics Young Athletes group. The program will run from 2:00-3:00 in the Medaille College gym on every other Sunday from September 22 to December 22. If you have a child between the ages of 2 and 8 who are interested, please contact Amy Monson at [amonson23@gmail.com](mailto:amonson23@gmail.com). We have opened the program to Bornhava students who are not DSPG members in the past and again look forward to the inclusion of other children with developmental disabilities from other area programs. Please contact Amy if you have any questions or for further information.



- Step Up For Down Syndrome Walk.** We are looking for volunteers for the day of the event for a variety of roles. Contact Michelle Giambra at 517-7961 or [michgiambra@gmail.com](mailto:michgiambra@gmail.com) to find out how you can get yourself an group involved
- I Can Shine** (formerly Lose the Training Wheels) are looking for volunteers to join their committee. Email: [WNYLearnToRide@yahoo.com](mailto:WNYLearnToRide@yahoo.com) or their website at <http://wnylttw.wix.com/icanshine#>
- DSPG Conference 2014.** Contact Leah Marchewka at 440-5127 or [leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com](mailto:leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com) for more details.

## Recreation Ideas

### SABAH - Skating Athletes Bold At Heart

Registration is now open for the 2014/2014 skating season. You can register online at [www.sabahinc.org](http://www.sabahinc.org) or contact them 362-9600.

### Gliding Stars - Adaptive Ice Skating Programs

Registration and additional information can be found on their website [www.glidingstars.org/wny.html](http://www.glidingstars.org/wny.html)

The Recreation and Leisure Services Directory provided by Parent Network of WNY provides many additional recreational opportunities. Check it out at [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)

## Special Thanks to Our Donors

- ★ Lois Newman donated some of the proceeds from bracelets she made and sold at the AllenTown Art Fair
- ★ West Seneca Women's Club
- ★ Praxair
- ★ Carolyn Cross in memory of Leonard Folga

### DSPG Scholarships

We would like to remind our members that the DSPG offers 4 conference scholarships per year (\$250.00 per scholarship). Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. A proof of conference registration must accompany the request in order to be awarded. Individuals who have been awarded a DSPG Scholarship will be requested to present information received from the conference either in writing which will be featured in a future publication of our newsletter or presented at a DSPG meeting. There is a limit of one scholarship awarded per family per 5 year period. For more information please contact the DSPG at [dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com)

### Looking Ahead

#### National Down Syndrome Congress

2014 Convention will be in Indianapolis, IN on July 11-13, 2014. Registration will open in March 2014. Check out <http://convention.ndsccenter.org>

#### New Families

We would like to welcome the  
**ABLE**  
family to the DSPG.

Please be sure to say Hello at the next event.

### DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

**Presidents:**

Amy Monson  
677-0604  
Heidi Wieczorek  
983-0133

**Vice Presidents:**

Leah Marchewka  
631-7505  
Gretchen White  
834-0853

**Treasurer:**

Janet Poreda  
695-1229

**Communications Coordinator:**

Anita Ballow  
741-3848

**Secretary:**

Bonnie Zon  
632-0137

**Members at Large:**

Lynda Carver  
908-6837  
Tracey Flick  
228-5002  
Michelle Giambra  
517-7961  
Lynette Hameister  
873-0018

**President Emeritus:**

Carol Hetzelt  
832-4972

## BOARD NEWS

### New Board Positions

At our Annual meeting on September 11, we will elect 3 board members for a term of three years. The positions available for elections are Vice President, Communications Coordinator and Member at Large. If you are interested in running for the board, please e-mail [dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com) by September 1. If you would like more information about being a board member, e-mail us or call any board member listed. We would love to see some fresh faces getting more involved in our organization; please think about running for the board. We will e-mail the slate of candidates on our list and have them available in print at the annual meeting on September 11. If you don't get our e-mails, this would be a great time to join the list.

### 2014 DSPG Calendar

Our 2014 calendar will be ready for sale at Step Up for Down Syndrome on September 28. The 12 month wall calendar features photographs of our children at local parks and events. We also hope to get as many pre-sale orders as possible. If you are interested ordering copies of the calendar which always make great holiday gifts for family, friends, therapists, and teachers, please call Gretchen (834-0853).