

Calendar of Events

- December 6th **Holiday Party**
Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart
11:00AM-2:00PM
- January 14th **Financial Planning Meeting**
Medaille College
7:00PM
- February 7th **Valentine's Day Dance**
Magruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
5:30PM-9:00PM
- March 8th **Spaghetti Dinner**
The Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road, Cheektowaga
4:00PM-6:30PM

The DSPG News is published quarterly in
February, May, August, and November



DSPG of WNY, Inc.
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14223



Our new SUDS shirt...modeled by Trevor!



DSPG News

November 2014

Upcoming Events

Holiday Party December 6th

Celebrate the holidays with DSPG family and friends at our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 6, from 11am-2pm at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street. Hosted by the students from Sacred Heart, there will be games for the younger kids and Kevin McCarthy will be performing live from 12-1pm. If you are interested in your children receiving a gift from Santa, please bring them wrapped and labeled. DSPG will provide pizza and beverages. Families attending are requested to bring an item of food. Last names beginning with A-M, please bring a dessert and last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a side dish. RSVP to Gretchen (dspgwny@gmail.com or 465-0128) or Maureen (mhunleybarnes@yahoo.com or 472-1637) by November 30 to let them know how many and what you are bringing.

Financial Planning January 14th

We will be hosting a Financial Information Night designed especially for parents of children with special needs. Meeting will be held at Medaille College on Wednesday, January 14th at 7pm. Our presenters will be Joanne Beaton and Janise Dunworth from Mass Mutual. They will share information on how to prepare for your child's financial future, including the creation of a special needs trust. They will arrange to meet with interested families to answer questions. Call Trish Winnicki #445-2177 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Valentine's Day Dance February 7th

Dance on over Saturday, February 7th to Magruders's at 5:30-9PM and take a spin on the dance floor. Magruder's is located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. Please RSVP by Monday, February 2nd so that we can ensure adequate food and seating. The DSPG will provide pizza, salad and drinks. Families with the last names A-M are to bring an appetizers, and families N-Z will bring a dessert. Since the dances are becoming well attended we are requiring an RSVP in advance so that we can prepare the space and ensure that we are within capacity limits of the venue. Please RSVP to Lynette at ljph@roadrunner.com or 873-0018.

Spaghetti Dinner March 8th

The Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle will be held at The Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road Cheektowaga, 14227 from 4pm – 6:30pm. We are looking for a few volunteers for the event if interested, and will also be accepting basket donations along with donations of baked goods for the dessert table. If you are interested in volunteering or donating please call or email Tracey (228-5002, leo8408@gmail.com) or Barb (983-2140, bb.wakefield1@verizon.net).



<https://www.facebook.com/DSPGWNYP>

Social Groups

We are each other's best resource. Whether you are a new parent, pro-in-training or seasoned advocate our social groups may be just what you are looking for. Each social group will plan monthly activities that will allow children to interact with their peers as well as parents to meet and talk to other parents.

We need families to join these groups as well as people that are interested in organizing activities for them. Activities can include outings, parties, play times for the kids or nights out for the parents. We are hoping to get these groups active in the first few months of 2015. There are 4 social groups to choose from.

- Preschool - Birth to 5 yrs
- School aged - (6-12 yrs)
- Teens (13-20 yrs)
- Adults (21 yrs+).

If you are interesting joining a group or being the contact person for that group send an email to Leah Marchewka at Leah Marchewka at leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com with your name, child's name, child's age, what group you would like to join along with your current phone number and email address so we can get you on the list.

We are Making Email Changes

We have changed how we send emails to better serve our membership and supporters. We are using Mail Chimp to send all correspondence. We ask that you are patient as we make this transition. Questions?! Contact Michelle Giambra at 716-517-7961 or at michgiambra@gmail.com

National Down Syndrome Convention

Next years convention will take place in Phoenix, AZ on June 25-28th, 2015 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge. Registration will open in March 2015. Have you wondered about going? The DSPG offers scholarships to our members. See details on page 3.

Fantasy Island

Great weather contributed to a fun day at the Down Syndrome Parents Group Picnic held at Martin's Fantasy Island on August 10, 2014. We held one of our largest picnics this summer with 106 people in attendance. Tickets were sold to group members for only \$15.00 which included all day admission to Martin's Fantasy Island along with lunch consisting of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, soft drinks, and ice cream. The DSPG paid for \$8.40 of each ticket sold, a total of \$840.60 to keep the cost reasonable for our families. Looking forward to another great year in 2015.

Thank You to Our Donors

- **Scott Bieler and West Herr Automotive Group**
- **Jacquelyn Ennis**
- **Paul Irvin**
- **Adella Kirchmeyer**, proceeds from painted pumpkins
- **In Memory of Augustine Fenello:**
Shirley Fenello, Dennis Buckley, Louise Buckley, Janet Ogeen, Diana Martino, Ralph and Connie Lichtenfels, Thomas and Shannon Henson, Laurie Rogg, Kathleen Rogg, Michael Quail, Laurie Quail, Diane Swinehart, Robert Swinehart, Henry Fochler, Sherri Fochler, Joan Weiss, and Todd and Kathy Bender.



Looking for a gift?

We have DSPG merchandise for your family, friends, teachers or therapists!

Totes - \$12
Sweatshirts - 2 for \$40
Magnets - \$5
Calendars - \$10

Please contact the DSPG at dspgwny@gmail.com for details on how to make purchases. These items will be available for sale at the Holiday Party.

Prices in effect until
December 31st, 2014



Thank you so much for your support of our Step Up for Down Syndrome walk that took place on September 27. We had a beautiful day and a great turnout of over 900 people. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Young Athletes

We are 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. Children ages 2 1/2 to 8 enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics. The children learn new things, play and have lots of fun! If you have a child between the ages of 2 and 8 who are interested, please contact Amy Monson at amonson23@gmail.com. The Young Athletes, as with all Special Olympics programs, it is open to all children with developmental disabilities.



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

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