

## Calendar of Events

- May 18th **29th Annual DD Day**  
*The Conference Center Niagara Falls*  
101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls 14303  
8:00AM
- May 19th **Young Adult Prom**  
*Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart*  
3860 Main Street, Amherst  
6PM
- May 20th **Special Olympics Spring Games**  
*Tonawanda High School,*  
150 Hinds St, Tonawanda, NY 14150
- July 16 **Fantasy Island Picnic**  
*Fantasy Island*  
2400 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island 14072  
11:30AM
- Aug 6 **Buffalo Bisons Game**  
*Coca Cola Field*  
275 Washington St, Buffalo 14203  
1:05PM
- September 30 **10th Annual Step up for Down Syndrome**  
*Save the Date!*



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



**REMINDER: Save those Pop Tops!** If you have pop tops or would like a collection house to benefit Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo please contact Tracey, [leo8408@gmail.com](mailto:leo8408@gmail.com) or Michelle, [michgiambra@gmail.com](mailto:michgiambra@gmail.com).

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



# DSPG News

May 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 29th Annual Developmental Disability Day May 18th

The conference will take place Thursday, May 18th, 2017 at The Conference Center Niagara Falls, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls NY 14303. Doors open at 8:00 am. Visit [www.ddday.org](http://www.ddday.org) to register online.



### Young Adult Prom May 19

Our friends at The Academy of the Sacred Heart are expanding their generosity and hosting a Prom Night for young adults 16 or older with disabilities on Friday, May 19 from 6-9pm at the school, 3860 Main Street in Amherst.

Please RSVP to [dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com) if you or a loved one would like to attend. Thank you!



Young Athletes, an early introduction to sports and the world of Special Olympics for children ages 2 1/2 to 7, has had a great year! We will wrap things up at the 2017 Spring games on Saturday, May 20th at Tonawanda High school. Go athletes! For more information, please email Melissa Garrity at [mgarrity76@gmail.com](mailto:mgarrity76@gmail.com)

### Fantasy Island Picnic July 16

Join us for a day of family fun at our local amusement park, Fantasy Island. Once again, the DSPG will be renting a pavilion for our families to meet and eat under on Sunday, July 16, 2017. Tickets include all day admission to the park and lunch. The park opens at 11:30am. Lunch will be served from 1:00-3:00pm and includes hot dogs, hamburgers, potato and macaroni salad, and ice cream treats. Unlimited soft drinks will be served from 12:30-3:30pm.

Due to your continued generosity, the DSPG will again absorb a portion of each ticket sold to keep this event fun and affordable for our families. Tickets will be sold to immediate family members and grandparents for \$15.00. The cost to families who already have season passes to Fantasy Island is only \$8 per person for lunch. Children ages 2 and under are free. We ask that extended family members and friends pay \$27.00 per ticket. This is still a discounted price for our group through Fantasy Island.

To purchase tickets on-line go to <https://form.jotformpro.com/dspgwny/fantasy-island-picnic-2017> or send checks made out to DSPG to Bonnie Zon, 222 Culpepper Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, by Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. No tickets will be sold at the park. Any questions, please contact Bonnie at [bonzon1102@aol.com](mailto:bonzon1102@aol.com), 632-0137 or text (347) 420-4934.

Let's enjoy this opportunity to spend the day together!

### Buffalo Bison's Game August 6

Join us for a family outing to the Buffalo Bison's game on Sunday, August 6 at 1:05 pm where the Bisons will take on the Lehigh Valley Ironpigs. **Tickets are for immediate family only.** All tickets will be in the shade unless you request sunshine.

Please email Janet Poreda at [janpo788@aol.com](mailto:janpo788@aol.com) for tickets by July 29. Don't forget to include your mailing address!

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### iCanShine

Learning to ride a two-wheeler is a rite of passage for nearly everyone, but many people with disabilities never realize this achievement. iCan Shine Bike Camp is changing that! The camp will be held June 26-June 30, 2017 at Buffalo Niagara Court Center (BNCC), 425 Meyer Road, West Seneca, NY for 75 minutes per day. The cost is \$150 before June 1, 2017 or \$175 after June 1, 2017. For information or questions about for this bike camp please e-mail Amy at [wnylttw@yahoo.com](mailto:wnylttw@yahoo.com) or call 716-817-7204.



Requirements for Participation  
(Rider must meet all of below criteria):

- Minimum of 8 years of age
- Able to sidestep to both sides
- Have a disability
- Able to attend camp all 5 days
- Able to walk without assistive device
- Maximum weight 220 lbs.
- Willing and able to wear a properly fitted bike helmet
- Minimum inseam of 20" (measure from floor while rider is wearing sneakers)

Please apply early as the camp fills quickly. Visit <http://wnylttw.wix.com/icanshine> for registration forms.

### SABAH Summer Skate

SABAH is offering a Summer Skate program which will take place at Northtown Center, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Williamsville in July and August. For more information go to [sabahinc.org](http://sabahinc.org).

### Disability Pride Parade and Festival

WNY Independent Living, Inc. is celebrating the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with a parade and festival on July 22 at Coca Cola Field from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Admission is free and open to all individuals with disabilities.

### Medical Community Outreach

The DSPG gives presentations to local area medical professionals on the best practices in delivering a diagnosis of Down syndrome. If you would like to schedule a presentation please contact Emily Mondschein at [emily.mondschein@gmail.com](mailto:emily.mondschein@gmail.com) or 716-946-0429. See link below for the presentation document.

### What You Say Really Matters

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2ORVF523rU5eIjPMkRjchOdjQ>

### Board News

The DSPG will be providing college scholarships to deserving siblings. Please email [dspg@dspgwny.org](mailto:dspg@dspgwny.org) with questions or to receive a copy to apply for 2018. Applications for the fall of 2017 were due on May 1.

*Have an idea you would like to share with the group? Come share at the beginning of a board meeting and let us know your thoughts. We are always looking for new ideas and feedback!*

If you have a change of address (email or regular mail) please email us at [dspg@dspgwny.org](mailto:dspg@dspgwny.org)

## EMBRACE THE DIFFERENCE®

Welcomes...

**\$10 - \$30 FROM EVERY PURCHASE**  
IS DONATED TO THE PARTICIPATING CHARITY OR ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE

[learn more at embrace.thedifference.org](http://embrace.thedifference.org)

We are now a designated beneficiary of the Embrace the Difference line of jewelry from Reeds. To shop go to <http://embrace.thedifference.org/shop/> and choose the DSPG as your charity!

## 2017 Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle

This year's dinner sold out quickly and was another very successful fund raiser for our group. We would like to send a special thanks to Zachary Flick's uncle who donated his entire 50/50 raffle winnings back to our group. Thank you all for your generosity!

### Thank You To Our Donors

Donations in memory of Patricia Sullivan  
Donations in memory of Shirley Fenello  
United Way  
Erica Melton & the National Fuel Employee Charitable Giving Program  
Transition Service, HealthNow NY  
Tina Crane and her employer, Freeway Insurance. Freeway Insurance held a Rock Your Socks dress down and crazy sock day on 3/21 in honor of World Down Syndrome Day. Freeway Insurance donated the proceeds from the day to the DSPG of WNY.



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

## DSPG NEWS Has Gone Green

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, we will only be mailing printed versions of this newsletter to anyone not currently on our email list. You can receive a printed copy by mail by sending a request to [dspg@dspgwny.org](mailto:dspg@dspgwny.org). Thank you!

### DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

#### Presidents:

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