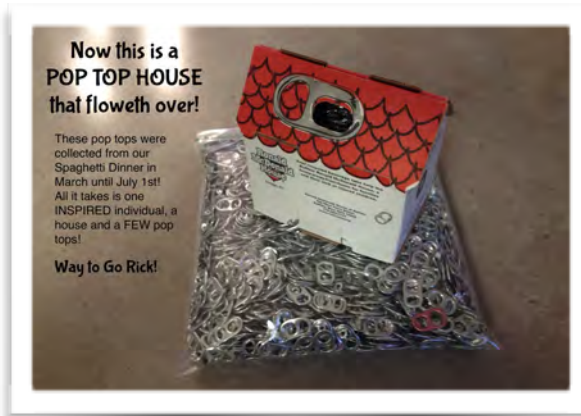


## Calendar of Events

- May 24 **30th Annual DD Day**  
*The Conference Center Niagara Falls*  
101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls 14303  
8:00AM
- May 19 **Special Olympics Spring Games**  
*Tonawanda High School,*  
150 Hinds St, Tonawanda, NY 14150
- July 8 **Buffalo Bisons Game**  
*Coca Cola Field*  
275 Washington St, Buffalo 14203  
1:05PM
- August 12 **Fantasy Island Picnic**  
*Fantasy Island*  
2400 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island 14072  
11:30AM
- September 12 **Kick Off Meeting / Open Forum**  
*Museum of disAbility History, Amherst*  
7PM



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*

*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).*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 30th Annual Developmental Disability Day May 24th

The conference will take place Thursday, May 24th, 2018 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.



May 19

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 19th at Tonawanda High school. Go athletes! For more information, please email Melissa Garrity at [mgarrity76@gmail.com](mailto:mgarrity76@gmail.com)

### A Day at the Bisons Game July 8

Join us for a fun family outing to the Buffalo Bison's game on Sunday, July 8 at 1:05 pm when the Bisons take on the Syracuse Chiefs. The tickets are free to immediate family of members of the Down Syndrome Parents Group through a generous donation. **There are a limited amount of tickets available so please only order tickets if you know you will be able to use them.**



Please RSVP by July 1, to ensure adequate time for mail delivery. Don't forget to include your mailing address! Email Janet Poreda at [janpo788@aol.com](mailto:janpo788@aol.com) or click on the link here <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/bisons-game-2018>

### Fantasy Island Picnic Aug 12

Join us for a day of family fun at Fantasy Island. Once again, the DSPG will be renting a pavilion for our families to meet and eat under on Sunday, August 12, 2018. Tickets include all day admission to the park and lunch. The park opens at 10:30am. Lunch will be served from 1:00-3:00pm and includes hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, cold salads, 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 \$17. The cost to families who already have season passes to Fantasy Island is only \$10 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.jotform.com/dspgwny/FantasyIsland2018> or send checks made out to DSPG to Bonnie Zon, 222 Culpepper Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, by August 1st. **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.

### Kick Off Meeting / Open Forum September 12

Our Annual Meeting and Board Elections will take place Wednesday, September 12 at 7PM at The Museum of Disability History. We will share our annual report, a treasurer's report, and hold elections for positions on our Board of Directors. We are also excited to be hosting an Open Forum where parents can ask other parents questions. We'll have a panel of parents that have children of all ages available to share their incites. No topics are off limits. To register and submit your questions go to <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/Sept2018>

### We've got a new look!

We've updated our logo, while keeping our traditional colors and we're "Stepping Up" our mission of advocating for our loved ones. Thanks to Melissa Garrity for all her hard work on the new design!





## Resource Corner

**iCan Bike Camp.** Registration is open for the 2018 camp. It will be held from June 25-29 at the Buffalo Niagara Court Center in West Seneca. You can fill out the registration form here <http://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/iCanBikeWNY18> or check out our new website at <https://wnyicanbike.weebly.com>

### THE COMPLETE LIST OF FREE THINGS AND GRANTS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

[https://www.dontpayfull.com/blog/free-things-and-grants-for-kids-with-special-needs?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=SocialWarfare](https://www.dontpayfull.com/blog/free-things-and-grants-for-kids-with-special-needs?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialWarfare)

**Friendship Circle.** You may want to discuss an Individual Emergency and Lockdown Plan© (IELP) at your next IEP meeting. This will help you get started. <http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2017/03/06/keeping-students-with-disabilities-safe-in-lockdowns-evacuations-and-other-school-crises/>

### The Best Inclusive Education Links

<https://www.thinkinclusive.us/the-best-inclusive-education-links-100-links-to-the-best-inclusion-related-articles-videos-and-media-on-the-web/>

### Alzheimer's Disease & Down Syndrome: A Practical Guidebook for Caregivers

<https://www.ndss.org/about-down-syndrome/publications/caregiver-guide-order-form/>

**All of those acronyms can be so confusing. Here is a list to help you decode what it all actually means.**

<https://parentnetworkwny.org/wp-content/uploads/Acronym-122017.pdf>

### Essential List of 500+ accommodations and strategies (SDIs) for your IEP meeting

<https://adayinourshoes.com/printable-list-of-strategies-sdis-for-your-iep-meeting/>

**If you would like to be more involved with the DSPG we have several opportunities available.**

We are already starting to plan for the next Step Up for Down Syndrome. If you would like to help please contact Gretchen at [gretchen.w@dspgwny.org](mailto:gretchen.w@dspgwny.org) We always looking for your input on additional activities and speakers. Feel free to contact anyone on the board or email Amy at [amonson23@gmail.com](mailto:amonson23@gmail.com)

## Spaghetti Dinner

We had a great turnout at our annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle on March 4. Thanks to all our volunteers, basket donations and attendees. The proceeds from our 50/50 went to Zoe Ditto.. She is still in need of bone marrow donor. Go to Be the Match to find out more information <https://bethematch.org/> or check out her Go Fund Me page <https://www.gofundme.com/zoe-fiesty-and-fierce>.

Check out the following link to see DSPG Board Member and Self Advocate Craig Donatelli in the Buffalo News . . . .



<http://buffalonews.com/2018/03/25/sean-kirst-for-athlete-with-down-syndrome-power-of-a-life-trumps-cruelty-of-a-word/>

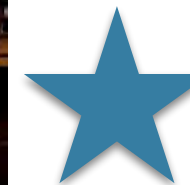
## Board Elections & Scholarships

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 2019. Applications for the fall of 2018 are due on May 30.

We are also still offering \$250 scholarship for the National Convention in Dallas Texas July 12-15. Send us a copy of your registration for the convention and we will send you a check. We ask that you bring back any information you gather to share at our kick off meeting in September.

At our Annual Meeting on September 12, we will elect four Board Members for a term of three years. The positions are Treasurer, Secretary and two Members at Large. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, please e-mail [dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com) by September 1st. If you would like more information about being a Board Member, e-mail us or call any board member listed on page 3. *We would love to see some fresh faces getting more involved in our organization.* We will e-mail the slate of candidates and have them available in print at the annual meeting on September 12th where we will hold elections.

World  
Down  
Syndrome  
Day  
2018!



Hope you can join as next year for a bigger, better celebration at Santoras...Here are some links to the media coverage we received.

Channel 2 – <http://www.wgrz.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/daybreak/wednesdays-is-world-down-syndrome-day/71-8042586>

Spectrum – <http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2018/03/21/world-down-syndrome-day-museum-of-disability-history-buffalo.html>

Channel 7 – <https://www.wkbw.com/news/buffalo-childrens-author-overcoming-down-syndrome>



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

## Thank You To Our Donors

Donations in memory of Margaret Schaub

Frederick and Donna Kittleman

All the generous donations through Embrace the Difference and Amazon Smile

United Way

### DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

#### Presidents:

Amy Monson, 716-677-0604  
Barbara Wakefield - 716-983-2140

#### Vice Presidents:

Gretchen White - 716-834-0853  
Trish Winnicki - 716-445-2177

#### Treasurer:

Janet Poreda - 716-695-1299

#### Communications Coordinator:

Melissa Garrity - 716-534-6121

#### Secretary:

Bonnie Zon - 716-632-0137

#### Members at Large:

Jason Brydges - 716-830-8636  
Joan Cofield-Bridges - 716-432-4851  
Craig Donatelli  
Tracey Flick - 716-228-5002  
Marcy Hagen - 716-632-1418  
Maureen Hunley-Barnes - 716-472-1637  
David Rosenhoch  
Wendy Slisz - 716-465-7574

#### President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt - 716-832-4972