

Calendar of Events

- August 12 **Fantasy Island Picnic**
Fantasy Island
 2400 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island 14072
 11:30AM
- September 17 **Kick Off Meeting / Open Forum**
Museum of disAbility History, Amherst
 7PM
- Sept 29 **Step Up for Down Syndrome**
 Coca Cola Field,
 275 Washington St, Buffalo, NY 14203
- TBD **Halloween Party**
- Nov 3 **Fall Dance**
 MaGruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
 5:30PM



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 or Michelle, 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.



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



August 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kick Off Meeting / Open Forum September 17

Our Annual Meeting and Board Elections will take place Monday, September 17 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. If you are interested in running for a position on the board, please send an email to dspg@dspgwny.org.

We are also excited to be hosting an Open Forum with no topics off limits. We'll have a panel of parents that have children of all ages available to share their experiences. Go to <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/Sept2018> to submit questions or topic ideas.



Advance registration for Step Up is open until September 11th for \$7 and includes a FREE t-shirt. Brochures will be mailed soon or go to <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/StepUp2018> to register on line. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the event for \$10. Check out our Facebook page or contact Gretchen White at gretchen.w@dspgwny.org or 716-465-0128 for more info.

Halloween Party TBD



For our younger trick-or-treaters...come join us at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster.

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. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Check our website for a date or for more information contact Barbara Wakefield at bb.wakefield1@verizon.net or 716-983-2140 or go to <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/halloween-party-2018>



Fall Dance Nov 3

Come dance the night away with us on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 5:30PM to 9:00PM, at Magruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. Once again there will be a charge of \$5 per person, to cover the food provided by the DSPG. Food will include pizza, salad, pop, snacks and desserts. Please RSVP to Janet at janpo788@aol.com or click the link below by October 28, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating.

<https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/fall-dance-2018>

The DSPG will be charging a fee of \$5 per person and will provide all food including: pizza, salad, snacks, drinks, and desserts. If you would still like to bring in a special treat for the group please feel free to do so.

Dances have been so well attended that we are requiring a RSVP to prepare the space and ensure that we are within capacity limits of the venue. We will be limiting the number of people in attendance so please do not bring additional guests. Thank you for your understanding.

DSPG Scholarships



We proudly announce our first two winners of the Eric Hetzelt Memorial Scholarship. Jimmy Poreda was awarded the 2017 scholarship for his many years of service to the DSPG. The 2018 award goes to Caitlyn Zon who has also given much time to help out at our events. Congratulations Jimmy and Katilyn!

For more about the award visit our website at dsgpwny.org or click on the link below to fill out the application on line. Deadline for applications is May 1 each year.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUw0BRI_-NkJf8uteqFfQXHIAeKZnrFq0YwCNK-BIzZaGLLA/viewform?c=0&w=1

Resource Corner

Trisomy 21 Toolkit for Transitioning to Adult Medical Care

<https://www.chop.edu/services/trisomy-21-toolkit-transitioning-adult-medical-care>

Self care for parents with special needs children

<https://dontjustexistlive.com/self-care-parents-special-needs-children/>

100 Simple Calm Down Strategies for Kids

<https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2017/07/calm-down-strategies-for-kids.html>

Awareness campaign targets families of disabled

<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2018/06/04/awareness-campaign-targets-families-of-disabled.html>

Fantastic Friends of WNY

<https://www.facebook.com/events/399042160606501/>

Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York

<http://www.ddawny.org>

NY ABLE - HELPING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

<https://www.mynyable.org/home.html>

Thank You To Our Donors

Merchants Insurance Group for donating through their Casual for A Cause event

Target Employee Giving Program

Network for Good

Facebook fundraiser through Michael Ciesiulka in memory of his son Ethan.

All the generous donations through Embrace the Difference and Amazon Smile

United Way

Buffalo Bisons Baseball Game



We had a great day with lots of sunshine, family and friends!

How and Why to Use Sign Language to Communicate with Your Child

Join us for a fun and interactive class on how and why to use sign language to communicate with your child on **Saturday, November 3 from 9-11am at Bornhava**. Sign language is the use of manual signing allowing infants and toddlers to communicate prior to spoken language development. There will also be Bornhava staff and fellow DSPG families on hand to answer any questions you may have about local Early Intervention services. To register for the class go to <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/sign-language2018>.



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

COMING SOON:

GiGi's Playhouse!

DSPG is proud to partner with local and national Down syndrome organizations to bring a Down syndrome achievement center to WNY.

#strongertogether

Please join us in this endeavor by visiting <https://gigisplayhouse.org/buffalo> to learn more about GiGi's Playhouse.

sign up for our mailing list • join us - volunteer
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

For more information email us at dspg@dsgpwny.org or call 716.832.9332



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

Summer Styles

EMBRACE THE DIFFERENCE

Downs Syndrome Parent Group
Interconnecting Circles joined by a Square show we are all connected regardless of our difference.
Be kind, accepting and financially give back with every purchase.
Available exclusively at ReedsJens.
Please join us in sharing this important message.

WE ARE A BENEFICIARY OF
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Every purchase makes a difference.

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Board Elections

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 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.

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