

Calendar of Events

September 14	Kick-Off Meeting & Elections <i>Medaille College, Room M102</i> 7PM
October 1	Step Up for Down Syndrome <i>Coca Cola Field, Buffalo, NY</i> 11AM
October 22	Halloween Party <i>St. Mary's High School, Lancaster</i> 11AM - 1PM
November 5	Fall Workshops <i>St. Mary's High School, Lancaster</i> 11AM - 1PM
November 12	Fall Dance <i>MaGruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew</i> 5:30PM
September 18 October 02	Young Athletes <i>Medaille College Gymnasium</i> 3PM

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



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



iCanShine Bike Camp 2016



DSPG News

August 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kick-Off Meeting & Elections September 14th

We will have our Annual Meeting and Board Elections at Medaille College, Wednesday, September 14 at 7PM. We will share our annual report, a treasurer's report, an overview of the NDSC Conference in Orlando from some members who attended last month and elections for 5 positions on our Board of Directors. *(See the Board news on page 2 for more information.)* We will also have a speaker from Special Olympics to explain the program and answer questions.

Step Up for Down Syndrome October 1st

Our 9th annual awareness walk will be held Saturday, October 1st from 11am-2pm at Coca-Cola field. We will walk one mile around Harbor Center as we celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. We are excited to have music from Strictly Hip again this year as well as a photo booth, games and activities for children and entertainment from various local groups. Online registration will be opening soon at dspgwny.org! Advance registration is open until September 12th and includes a FREE t-shirt for \$7. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the event for \$10. Also check out our Facebook page or contact Gretchen White at 465-0128 or gretchen.w@dspgwny.org for more information.

Halloween Party October 22

For our younger trick-or-treaters...come join us at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster on Saturday, October 22 from 11:00AM -1:00PM in the cafeteria. 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. For more information contact either Amy Monson at 677-0604 or amonson23@gmail.com or Michelle Giambra at 517-7961 or michgiambra@gmail.com

Save the Date – Fall Workshops November 5

Looking for the latest info to help your loved one with Down syndrome? Join the DSPG for a half day of seminars, speakers and chatting with other parents. Knowing everyone's schedules are busy, we have chosen a shorter day but have kept plenty of content. Registration brochures will come out in September - stay tuned and check the website for more info. Any questions, please contact Leah Marchewka at 440-5127 or leahmarchewka71@yahoo.com.

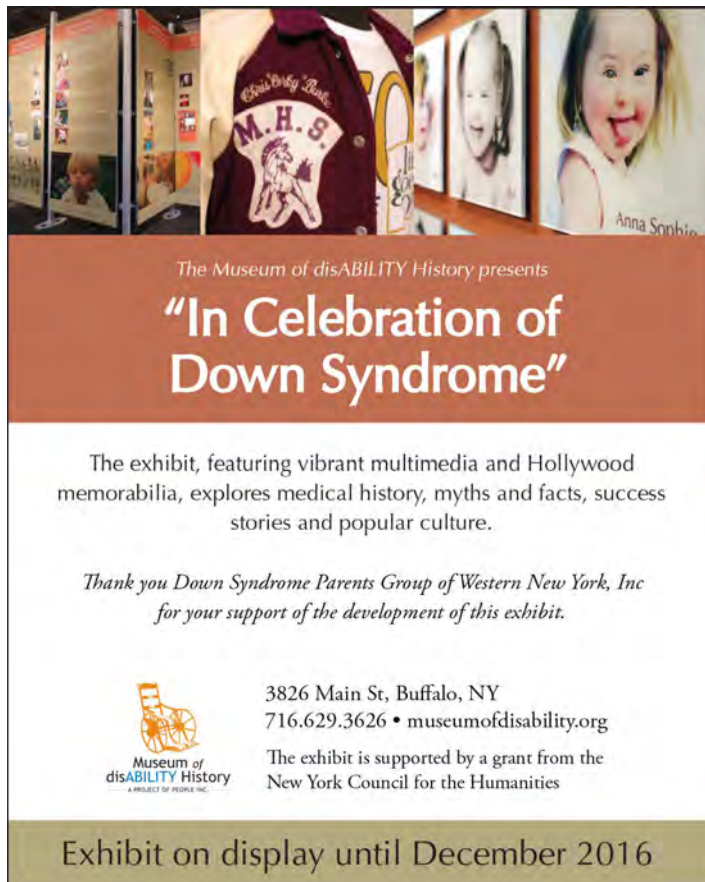
DSPG Saturday Workshops
November 5, 2016, 7:45am-1pm
St. Mary's High School., Lancaster
Cost: \$20 in advance / \$25 day of
Some of the tentative workshops topics will include: Educational Pathways – Diploma Options & Assessments, Person-Centered Outcomes/Front Door, iPads Apps & More, Advocacy discussions and other topics.

DSPG Fall Dance November 12th

Come get your groove on, Saturday, Nov 12, 2016 at MaGruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. 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. Please RSVP to Lynette at ljph@roadrunner.com. **Please RSVP by November 6, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating.**

Young Athletes

Upcoming dates for the 2016-17 year include Sundays September 18 and October 2 from 3-4pm. Please check our website for more dates....



The Museum of disABILITY History presents

"In Celebration of Down Syndrome"

The exhibit, featuring vibrant multimedia and Hollywood memorabilia, explores medical history, myths and facts, success stories and popular culture.

Thank you Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York, Inc for your support of the development of this exhibit.

3826 Main St, Buffalo, NY
716.629.3626 • museumofdisability.org

The exhibit is supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities

Exhibit on display until December 2016

Born This Way at DDDay 2016 and the Museum of Disability History!

Megan Bomgaars was the keynote speaker for Developmental Disability Awareness Day on May 26, 2016. Megan is a well known self-advocate with Down syndrome, an artist and a rising entrepreneur, with a business called Megology. She has developed her skills as a public speaker and travels across the country sharing her experiences and presentations on a variety of topics. Megan composed the video "Don't Limit Me," which went viral. Her mother, Kris, is known as her "Dream Maker," and the two are strong advocates and an inseparable pair. Amy Monson, Barb Wakefield and Trisha Winnicki from the DSPG were honored to have Megan and her mom Kris stop by our table at the event!

Megan and her mom also visited the Museum of disABILITY History during their stay in Buffalo. Megan and Kris star in Born This Way on A&E, a reality show that follows seven young adults who have Down syndrome. The museum was so happy to have them visit and see their "In Celebration of Down Syndrome" exhibit, which includes a cast photo from Born This Way.



Thanks to Megan and her mom Kris from Born This Way for stopping by our table!

Thank You To Our Donors

All the wonderful people still making donations in memory of Eric Hetzelt.

United Way



Want to Lead the Step Up Walk Or Help Sing the National Anthem?

We are looking for individuals, groups or families who would like to hold our Step Up for Down Syndrome banner and lead our walkers on October 1st at our 9th annual walk. If you are interested, please send an email to dspg@dspgwny.org with your name and contact information. We will draw one name at our annual kickoff meeting on September 14.

Also, we are looking for any individuals with Down syndrome to help us sing the national anthem this year. Please send your name and contact information to dspg@dspgwny.org so we can have an idea of how many singers we'll have.

Welcome to Our New Family:

The Altman Family

DSPG Day at the Bisons Game

The DSPG had a great time on July 10 at the Bison's game with over 100 members in attendance. We were fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day, and the seats in the shade were helpful. The Bison's made it exciting as they needed to score a run in the last inning to win and were victorious over the Iron Pigs!!



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



DSPG NEWS Has Gone Green

As this issue was getting ready for print, we realized the large number of families that receive this newsletter electronically as well as by mail. In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, starting in August, we will only be mailing printed versions to anyone not currently on our email list. You can receive a printed copy by mail by sending a request to dspg@dspgwny.org. Thank you!

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
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Secretary:

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716-830-8636
Tracey Flick
716-228-5002
Leah Marchewka
716-631-7505
Wendy Slisz
716-465-7574

President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt
716-832-4972

Board News

At our Annual Meeting on September 14, we will elect five Board Members for a term of three years. The positions are 1 President, 1 Vice President, 1 Communications Coordinator and 2 member 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 14th where we will hold elections.

We are always looking for new people to help out at our many functions throughout the year....

If you are interested in helping out with any activities contact Amy Monson at amonson23@gmail.com.