

Calendar of Events

- May 14 **Special Olympics Spring Games**
- May 15th **The Peanuts Movie**
East Aurora Theater
673 Main St, East Aurora 14052
11:00AM
- May 26th **28th Annual DD Day**
The Conference Center Niagara Falls
101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls 14303
8:00AM
- July 10 **Buffalo Bisons Game**
Coca Cola Field
275 Washington St, Buffalo 14203
1:05PM
- Aug 7 **Fantasy Island Picnic**
Fantasy Island
2400 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island 14072
11:30AM

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



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



Fun at the UB Bulls Game!



DSPG News

May 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Comforting Hugs Foundation Providing Free Showing of The Peanuts Movie May 15th

Thanks to the generosity of the Comforting Hugs Foundation, a private, free showing of The Peanuts Movie will take place Sunday May 15th at 11am at the East Aurora Theater, 673 Main St, East Aurora 14052.



COMFORTING HUGS FOUNDATION was created to provide comfort and support to children (and their families) living with cancer, long-term illness or a disability. We visit them in the hospital or home and bring a care bag, hand sewn pillowcase, toys, snacks and much more. Recently we started providing an evening out where the entire family can enjoy themselves and possibly forget for a few hours (if possible) their every day battle.

Each child will receive a complementary drink, popcorn and candy treat. Adults can also receive a complementary drink and popcorn.

If you are interested please reply to dspg@dspgwny.org to let us know how many will be attending.

Young Athletes May 14th

Our season will conclude with an exhibition race at the Special Olympics Western Region Spring Games on Saturday May 14th. Contact Melissa Garrity at 534-6121 or mgarrity76@gmail.com.

DSPG Day at the Bisons Game July 10th

Join us for a family outing to the Buffalo Bison's game on Sunday, July 12 at 1:05 pm. where the Bisons will take on the Durham Bulls. **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 for tickets by July 3. Tickets will be mailed to you so please include your mailing address.

Fantasy Island Picnic August 7th

Join us for a day of family fun at Martin's Fantasy Island. Tickets include all day admission to the park and lunch. Park opens at 11:30am. Lunch will be served from 1-3:00pm 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 throughout the year, the DSPG will again be offering discounted tickets to our group's immediate family members and grandparents for \$15. The cost to families who have season passes is only \$8 per person for lunch. We ask that extended family members and friends pay \$23.40 per ticket. This is still a discounted price for our group through Fantasy Island.



Mail checks made out to DSPG to Bonnie Zon, 222 Culpepper Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, by Friday, July 29th, to allow time for tickets to be mailed back. No tickets will be sold at the park. Contact Bonnie at bonzon1102@aol.com or 632-0137 with questions.

28th Annual Developmental Disability Day May 26th

The conference will take place Thursday, May 26th, 2016 at The Conference Center Niagara Falls, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls NY 14303. Doors open at 8:00 am. Visit www.ddday.org to register online.

See keynote speaker Megan Bomgaars, Star of A&E's "Born This Way" spreading her message of inclusion and inspiration. Other 2016 Features include Innovative Workshops - Concession Service - Agency and Vendor Fair Art Gallery - Live Performance/Interactive Area - Parents Corner Awards Luncheon - Open Reception.

Thank You To Our Donors

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

Camille Gilligan for her generous donation of circus tickets

United Way

Erica Melton

National Fuel Charitable Giving
Employee Contribution Program

Welcome to the following new families:

The Lequeux Family
The Polizzi Family



You are cordially invited to attend

"In Celebration of Down Syndrome"

Exhibit Grand Opening

**Saturday, May 7, 2016
2 to 4 p.m.**

Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14226

"In Celebration of Down Syndrome," an addition to the Museum of disABILITY History, recognizes individuals who have Down syndrome in a fascinating new exhibit. The exhibit explores medical history, myths and facts, as well as success stories and popular culture.



Keynote Speaker

Meet and Greet, Bpple A tgraph Session

David Wright is a professor of history and chairperson of the History and Classical Studies Department at McGill University, in Montreal, Canada. He is an economic and social historian by training, and author and co-editor of eight books, including, *Down: The History of a Disability*.

Exhibit and Program Highlights

Vibrant multimedia and Hollywood memorabilia will be displayed.

Stunning photography of Eva Stojink from the Netherlands. Select photos from her book, *Down's Upside: A Positive View of Down's Syndrome*, will be on display in the centerpiece of the exhibit.

Stories of local individuals who have Down syndrome.

Kelly's Hollywood, an inspirational documentary about a young woman who has Down syndrome and her brother's quest to fulfill her dream of becoming a Hollywood diva, will be available to view as part of the exhibit.

The "Unspoken Voice" artwork exhibition will showcase Bailey Bastine, a local artist who has Down syndrome. She reveals a living history of a young woman's expose' of truth.

Kindly RSVP by May 5, to Doug Farley,
dfarley@people-inc.org or 716.629.3626.

The exhibit is supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities and a donation from the Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York, Inc.



04.12.16

SABAH Summer Skate

SABAH is offering a Summer Skate program which will take place at Northtown Center, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., Williamsville on Thursdays from 6:00 - 6:50pm. Dates are July 21, 28, August 4, 11 and 18.

This program is available for pre-registration only. It is important to register with SABAH so that we are prepared with your skates and proper equipment. You can register on-line @ sabahinc.org or call us at 362-9600 for a form or with any questions. Thanks! Can't wait to see you at summer skate! \$50.00 for five weeks or \$10.00 per week.

THE DOWN RIVER 5K RUN

A 1 Mile WALK n' ROLL, sponsored by The Family & Friends Down Syndrome Association of Niagara, Inc., will take place on June 25, 2016. Proceeds will benefit their new 'Miles of Care' Initiative for Children born with Down Syndrome requiring life saving surgery. For more information visit <http://www.dsaniagara.org>.

iCan Shine Bike Camp

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, hosted by Developmental Disability Alliance of WNY, will be held June 27-July 1, 2016 at Buffalo Niagara Court Center (BNCC), 425 Meyer Road, West Seneca for 75 minutes per day. The cost is \$150 before June 1 or \$175 after June 1. For info or questions about for this bike camp please e-mail Sarajane at wnylttw@yahoo.com or call 716-817-7204. See more at: <http://dspgwny.org/event/i-can-shine-bike-camp-june-29-july-3-2015/#sthash.XDH3RGU4.dpuf>

2016 Spaghetti Dinner

This year's dinner was another very successful fund raiser for our group. The dinner sold out quickly and was a great mix of family, food and fun!

Thank you for your generosity!



Barb Wakefield, Mike Lim and Amy Monson accept donation from Blue Cross Blue Shield

Board News

On Wednesday March 23 several members from the DSPG spoke to a group of about 50 University of Buffalo OB/GYN medical students and doctors about giving the diagnosis of Down syndrome. The presentation lasted about an hour and included tips about giving the diagnosis, resources available to parents and professional as well as our own personal stories. We are hopeful that in the future someone receiving the diagnosis will be positively affected by our talk.

A check presentation ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 13th at Blue Cross Blue Shield. The BlueCrew raises money for their Red Stocking Fund and employees were asked to nominate 501(c)(3) charities to distribute these funds. The top 20 agencies that received the most votes received \$3,600.00 each. DSPG was one of the top 20! Thank you BCBS!

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

Our first planning meeting for Step Up for Down Syndrome 2016 will take place on Sunday, May 15 at 6:30pm, upstairs at the Wegmans on Alberta Street in Amherst. If you would like to help out with our most popular event please contact Gretchen White at gretchen.w@dspgwny.org.

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



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

DSPG NEWS Is Going 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 if you send a request to dspg@dspgwny.org. Thank you!



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