

## Calendar of Events

- May 11 **Spring Fling**  
Academy of the Sacred Heart School, Buffalo  
5PM
- May 18 **Special Olympics Young Athletes**  
Tonawanda High School, Tonawanda  
8:30AM
- May 30 **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day**  
The Conference Center, Niagara Falls  
9AM
- May 31 **Parents Night Out**  
Santora's Pizza, Pub & Grill, Williamsville  
5PM
- July 13 **Summer Mini Golf Outing**  
Broadway Driving Range & Mini Golf, Depew  
1PM
- August 04 **A Day at the Bisons Game**  
Sahlen Field (formerly Coca Cola Field)  
1PM
- September 09 **Kick Off Meeting**  
Museum of disAbility History, Amherst  
7PM



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

*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).*



The DSPG of WNY has been invited, along with the Museum of Disability History, to display our "In Celebration of Down Syndrome" exhibit at the NDSC Convention this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! Go to the link below and register to see us there!

**The 47th Annual Convention will take place June 27 – 30, 2019.**

<https://www.ndsccenter.org/annual-convention/>



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



May 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Fling

May 11

Have fun dancing the night away as the students at Sacred Heart host a Spring Fling on May 11, 2019 from 5-8pm. There is no cost to attend. Food, dancing and other activities will be provided. The event is for ages 14 and up. Dress is semi-formal. The deadline to RSVP is May 5. Contact Barb at [bb.wakefield1@verizon.net](mailto:bb.wakefield1@verizon.net) or RSVP at the link below. <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/spring-fling-2019>.



Special Olympics  
young athletes™

May 18

Young Athletes, an early introduction to sports and Special Olympics for children ages 2 1/2 to 7, has had a great year! Cheer us on at the 2019 Spring games on Saturday, May 18th at Tonawanda High school. For more info contact, Melissa at [mgarrity76@gmail.com](mailto:mgarrity76@gmail.com).

### Developmental Disability Day

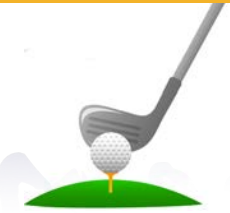
May 30th

The conference will take place Thursday, May 30th, 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.

### Parents Night Out

May 31st

Join us for another evening out for some adult conversation, delicious food and drinks. We will meet Friday, May 31 at Santora's Pizza and Pub on Transit Road in Williamsville at 5pm. Food and drinks can be purchased through the restaurant.



### Summer Mini Golf Outing

July 13

Join us for a day of family fun at Broadway Driving Range & Mini Golf. Enjoy a game of mini-golf, lunch and ice cream along with our DSPG families on Saturday, July 13, 2019 from 1-4pm. Tickets are \$12/person for immediate family only. Due to your continued generosity, the DSPG will absorb a portion of each ticket sold to keep this event fun and affordable. Register on line at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/green-acres-2019>



### A Day at the Bisons Game

August 04

Join us for a fun family outing to the Buffalo Bison's game on Sunday, August 4 at 1:05 pm when the Bisons take on the Syracuse Mets. The tickets are \$5 per family.

Please RSVP by July 28, to ensure time for mail delivery. Immediate family only due to the popularity of this event. **There are limited tickets, so only order if you plan to attend.** Register on line: <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/bisons2019> or email Janet Poreda at [janpo788@aol.com](mailto:janpo788@aol.com).

### Kick Off Meeting / Open Forum

September 9

Our Annual Meeting and Board Elections will take place Wednesday, September 9 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 provide information on the Able Act and Person Centered Services. More info to come . . .

THIS  
FALL

12th Annual Step Up for Down Syndrome - Saturday September 28  
Down Syndrome Parents Group's 40th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, October 12



## Resource Corner

**Leadership Special Education Conference**, Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 9 AM – 2 PM Daemen College Wick Hall.

[parentnetworkwny.org/event/leadership-in-special-education-conference-6-1/](http://parentnetworkwny.org/event/leadership-in-special-education-conference-6-1/)

Free Leadership Conference on Special Education with guest speaker Chris Suriano, Assistant Commissioner on Special Education for New York State Department of Education. Roundtable discussions on Autism, mental health, special education, learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and more!

**What's the Difference between IEP Accommodations and Modifications?**

[adayinourshoes.com/iep-accommodations-modifications](http://adayinourshoes.com/iep-accommodations-modifications)

**Down Syndrome Brain Train video series**

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/downsyndromebraintrain>

Dr. Brian Skotko, an international expert on Down syndrome, will offer practical tips on how you might boost cognition and prevent Alzheimer's disease in your loved one with Down syndrome.

**60 LIFE SKILLS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

[suchatimeasthis.com/2015/10/30/life-skills-to-teach-your-special-needs-child](http://suchatimeasthis.com/2015/10/30/life-skills-to-teach-your-special-needs-child)

**Cradle Beach Camp**

[cradlebeach.org/content/pages/camp](http://cradlebeach.org/content/pages/camp)

Cradle Beach's Residential Summer Enrichment Program, serves the needs of children with special needs and children from low-income families from Western New York and beyond. We provide a healthy environment and organized activities to promote socialization, independence, and decision making in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

**iCan Bike Camp**

[wnyicanbike.weebly.com/](http://wnyicanbike.weebly.com/)

iCan Shine Bike Camp uses adapted bicycles, a specialized instructional program, and trained staff to enable individuals with disabilities to learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle. Riders, ages 8 and up, attend one 75 minute session each day for five consecutive days where they learn to ride while accompanied and encouraged by volunteer "spotters". This year camp is July 8-June 12, 2019. Register now to secure your spot.

**NYS Parks Access Pass -**

[parks.ny.gov/admission/access-pass/](http://parks.ny.gov/admission/access-pass/)

The Access Pass permits residents of New York State with disabilities, as defined in the application, free or discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Recreation and Leisure Services Directory**

[parentnetworkwny.org/recdirectory/](http://parentnetworkwny.org/recdirectory/) A resource of recreation options for individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

**SibShops - sibshopwny.com** 4-hour workshops that provide support and guidance to siblings of children with special needs. Siblings are encouraged to share the challenges and celebrate the joys with brothers and sisters in similar situations. 716-888-2895

**Snap fit at Rolly Pollies - rpwny.com/special-needs-play.htm**

SN@P FIT Gym, Special Needs @ Play, an open play time a relaxed and supportive environment dedicated to children with special needs, ages 12 and under, and their families. We lower the music, limit participants and work with each family to create the best environment possible.

**Thanks to Everyone  
who Supported Our  
Spaghetti Dinner!**

## Board News

### College Scholarships

The DSPG is providing college scholarships to deserving high schoolers who have volunteered with us for at least 4 years. Please email [dspg@dspgwny.org](mailto:dspg@dspgwny.org) with questions or to receive a copy of the qualifications for the 2019-2020 school year. Applications for the fall of 2019 are due on May 30.

### NDSC Convention Scholarships

We are offering \$250 scholarships via the lottery system for the National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 27-30. Send us a copy of your paid registration and you will be entered into the drawing. One qualification-**you must present at the kickoff meeting in September.**

### Board Elections

At our Annual Meeting on September 9, we will elect four Board Members for a term of three years. 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 9th where we will hold elections.

As always, if you have anything you'd like to share, contact any of the board members below or send an email to [dspg@dspgwny.org](mailto:dspg@dspgwny.org).



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

## World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations



## Thank You To Our Donors

Donations through United Way

Erica Melton and Graciella Royal through the National Fuel Employee Charitable Giving Program

West Elementary donated the proceeds from a Rock Your Socks Dollar Day

Danielle Vinette for her donation of World Down Syndrome Day shirts for our raffle

### 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  
Marc Kotarski - 716-912-7797  
David Rosenhoch  
Wendy Slisz - 716-465-7574  
**President Emeritus:**  
Carol Hetzelt - 716-832-4972