

families * self-advocates * friends

dspgwny NEWS

November 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 13 - Art of Advocacy

Join us Thursday, November 13 from 6:30-7:30pm at Bornhava, 25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst NY 14226. This presentation will provide an overview of the *Art of Advocacy: Assuring the Rights of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Participants will share how advocates with disabilities, family members, and allies can gradually build on their skills and become more effective in advocating for themselves; and for some help change larger systems by their efforts.



Our speakers will be Max Donatelli and BJ Stasio. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/ArtofAdvocacy>

November 23 -All Ages Holiday Party



Come connect with old and new friends at our all ages Holiday Party. Give thanks, dance and celebrate the holidays with our friends from the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart. Enjoy games, crafts, music, an amazing bubble show from Wow Party and a visit from Santa to kick off the holiday season!

RSVP at: <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/holiday25>

2026 Virtual Elections

Our Board elections will take place virtually this year and we would love to see some new faces getting involved! **If you are interested in running for a position, please e-mail dspgwny@gmail.com by December 1st.**

We will e-mail the slate of candidates along with a link to vote in early January.



January - Annual Meeting

Stay tuned for more details about our annual meeting where we will hear the president and treasurer reports as well as a guest speaker.

February 7 - Valentines Dance

Join us Saturday February 7, 2026 at Magruders, 4995 Broadway in Depew. The cost will \$5 per person and please bring a dish if you would like. More information to come...



March 14 - Family Bowling Event

Enjoy an early celebration of World Down Syndrome Day at Malwitz's Island Lanes, 1887 Whitehaven Rd. Grand Island, on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 2-4pm. More details to come...



Resource Corner

Care Down Syndrome A Clinical Education Hub for Healthcare Professionals which features resources on everything from women's health and weight management to Alzheimer's disease as they relate to individuals with Down syndrome.

<https://careds.org/>

The Champion Project - High Five Sports Programs For Athletes With Disabilities.

<https://www.thechampionprojectwny.com/high-five>

Diagnostic Overshadowing: "All Is Not Down Syndrome"

<https://adscresources.advocatehealth.com/diagnostic-overshadowing-all-is-not-down-syndrome/>

Visual Schedule Apps Create a schedule that works for your loved one.

<https://adscresources.advocatehealth.com/resources/visual-schedule-apps/>

Emergency Services Functional Needs Registry Form

<https://www3.erie.gov/dhses/form/functional-needs-registry-form>

IEP Accommodations VS. IEP Modifications

<https://www.theintentionaliep.com/iep-accommodations-vs-iep-modifications/>

The Down Syndrome Transition Handbook

<https://downsyndrometransition.com/>

Halloween Party 2025



Board News

We would love more fresh faces to help plan and run our many events. Any assistance would be appreciated to keep our group going. If you can help out, please contact Amy at amy.m@dspgwny.org.

Board Elections

We will elect new Board Members for a term of three years. If you are interested in running for a position, please e-mail dspgwny@gmail.com by December 1st. If you would like more information about being a Board Member, e-mail us or call any board member listed on page 4. We would love to see some new faces getting involved! We will e-mail the slate of candidates and have them available in print at our January meeting. 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.

Step Up for Down Syndrome 2025



DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Amy Monson - 716-997-2843

Vice President:

Gretchen White - 716-465-0128

Treasurer:

Janet Poreda - 716-695-1299

Communications Coordinator:

Melissa Garrity - 716-534-6121

Secretary:

Bonnie Zon - 716-632-0137

Members at Large:

Darryl Barnes - 716-867-0072

Jason Brydges - 716-830-8636

Craig Donatelli

Maria Klee - 716-440-3862

Kyle Lappin

Emma Monson - 716-861-7807

Dana Oliver

David Rosenhoch

Gina Schueler

Wendy Slisz - 716-465-7574

President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt - 716-832-4972

President Posthumous Emeritus:

Barbara Wakefield

Thank You

Donations from Step Up for
Down Syndrome Walk

Pay Pal Giving Fund

Donation from Say Cheese Pizza Co.
Golf Fundraiser

John & Cindy Santora

Donations in Memory of
Barbara Wakefield

Donna Zaperal

Calendar of Events

Nov 13 **Art of Advocacy**
Bornhava
25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst 14226
6:30PM - 7:30PM

Nov 23 **All Ages Holiday Party**
Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart
3860 Main Street, Buffalo 14226
11AM-2PM

TBD **Annual Board Meeting**

Feb 7 **Valentine's Dance**
Magruders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
6PM - 9PM

March 14 **Family Bowling /WDSD Celebration**
Malwitz's Island Lanes
1887 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island
2:00PM

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



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



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