

families * self-advocates * friends

dspgwny NEWS

February 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

♥ February 7 - Valentine's Dance ♥

Come dance with us on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 6:00 to 9:00PM, at Magruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. **Please RSVP by 2/1** at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/Valentine26>, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating.

The DSPG will be charging a fee of \$5 per person and will provide food including: pizza, salad, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Dances have been so well attended that we are requiring an RSVP to ensure that we are within capacity limits of the venue. *Please do not bring additional guests.* Parents and guardians are expected to stay for the duration of the event as we do not have staff to supervise individuals who are dropped off. Thank you for your understanding. If you would like to sign up with cash or check or have any questions contact Janet at janpo788@aol.com.

March 14 - Family Bowling Event for World Down Syndrome Day

Put on your bowling shoes and crazy socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with us! Join us at Mallwitz's Island Lanes, 1887 Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island, on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 2-4PM. Members will pay \$10/person for bowlers and \$5/person for non-bowlers, which includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop. *Due to your continued generosity, the DSPG will cover the remainder of the cost.* This is not a drop off event. If parents choose not to bowl, they must remain at the bowling alley with their loved one. **Please RSVP by 3/6** at <https://pci.jotform.com/dspgwny/DSdayBowling>. Contact Bonnie at bonzon1102@aol.com or 716-632-0137 with any questions.



February 28 - UB Men's Basketball



Join us on Saturday, February 28, 2026 as we cheer on the UB Bulls Men's Basketball team when they play Central Michigan Chippewas at Alumni Arena! The game starts at 2:00pm. No paper tickets will be mailed out, they will sent electronically.

The tickets were generously donated and are free to Down Syndrome Parents Group members. Get tickets at <https://form.jotform.com/dspgwny/ub-bulls26>

There are a limited number of tickets available so please only request tickets if you intend to use them. **Please RSPV by 2/25.** For questions, contact Gretchen at gretchen.w@dspgwny.org

March 20 - Alzheimers Conference

UNDERSTANDING DOWN SYNDROME, IDD & DEMENTIA

Awareness, Diagnosis & Care

Friday, March 20
3:30-6:30pm

In honor of **World Down Syndrome Day**, families and professionals are invited to join us for an inspiring event exploring diagnosis, treatment approaches and lifelong support strategies.

Join us **via Zoom** or at
People Inc.
Rehabilitative Services
800 Hertel Ave., Buffalo

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Ted Andrews, PhD, MD
Chief Medical Officer, GLV,
Clinical Assistant Professor,
University at Buffalo
- Donna Golder, MS CCC-SLP/L
Speech Pathologist
- Dana Sciallo, MOT,OTR/L
Manager, Health & Wellness Programs
National Down Syndrome Society

Free!
Register online at
bit.ly/AlzDownMarch2026
or call 800.272.3900

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION **ndss** **PeopleInc**

Resource Corner

**FEB 19 @ 1PM The Skin is In:
Skin Conditions in Children and Adults with Down Syndrome Webinar**
Learn about skin conditions seen in people with Down syndrome.
ndscenter.org/resources/webinars/english/

**FEB 7 @ 10AM -Virtual Educators Conference:
Effective Practices & Tools for Today's Classroom**
Learn practical, research-based strategies that general, special education teachers, and all education professionals can immediately implement to support students with intellectual disabilities, including Down syndrome.
ndscenter.org/programs-events/educators-conference/

AbilityWorks Of Western New York, Inc
abilityworkswny.org

Misunderstandings Caused by Different Perceptions
Time is an abstract concept that can be confusing for some people with Down syndrome
adscresources.advocatehealth.com/resources/misunderstandings-caused-by-different-perceptions/

100 Life Skills to Intentionally Teach your Children
treehouseschoolhouse.com/blog/100-life-skills

CARE Down Syndrome
A Clinical Education Hub for Healthcare Professionals
careds.org/

GLOBAL Medical Care Guidelines for Adults with Down Syndrome
globaldownsyndrome.org/medical-care-guidelines-for-adults/

Facts, Myths and Truths About Down Syndrome
ndss.org/myths-truths

Workshop on Transitioning from Pre K to School Age Programming at Bornhava - February 12, 2026

Learn about the Transition process from Pre K to school age as well as strategies to help prepare your child, and you!

Presented by: Shannon Karcher, Ed.D., Bornhava Executive Director; Bethany Wigglesworth, MS, Bornhava Director of Programs; Ann Lindemann-Czajka, LCSW, Bornhava Licensed Clinical Social Worker and possibly a parent(s) of a recent Bornhava alumnus to share their story.

**Thursday, February 12, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

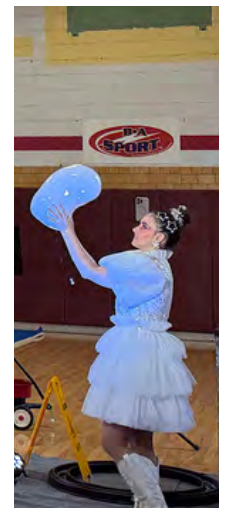
at Bornhava, 25 Chateau Terrace in Amherst

This is an adult-only event; there will be NO CHILDCARE for this event

To RSVP please email Ann Lindemann at alindemann@bornhava.org with the name of the caregiver attending and phone number.



Holiday 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.

2026 Board Elections Results

We are excited to welcome to our new Board Members: Julia Diebel and Mindy Schmidt. Welcome back to Darryl Barnes, Jason Brydges, Janet Poreda, Wendy Slisz and Bonnie Zon. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to our Donors

Donald and Ellen Crawford

William Lambert

Pay Pal Giving Fund

Jessica Perez

Howard Rosenhoch

Jamey Schagren

Donations in Memory of Barbara Wakefield

Donna Zaperal

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:

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Mindy Schmidt - 716-390-7264

Gina Schueler

Wendy Slisz - 716-465-7574

President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt - 716-832-4972

President Posthumous Emeritus:

Barbara Wakefield



Calendar of Events

- Feb 7 **Valentine's Dance**
Magraders, 4995 Broadway, Depew
6PM
- Feb 12. **Transitioning from Bornhava:
The Move to School Age Programming**
Bornhava, 25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst
5PM
- Feb 28 **UB Men's Basketball Game**
Alumni Arena, 175 Webster Rd, Amherst
2PM
- March 14 **Family Bowling /WDSO Celebration**
Malwitz's Island Lanes
1887 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island
2PM
- March 20 **Alzheimers Conference**
People Inc. Rehabilitative Services
800 Hertel Ave., Buffalo
3:30PM



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DSPG of WNY, Inc
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14223

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