



Special Needs Law January 14

Join us on Wednesday evening, January 14, at 7pm, in the Alumni Room at Medaille College for a presentation on special needs law by an attorney from the office of Jeffrey Marcus, P.C. Special Needs Attorneys. The attorneys and parent advocates at Jeffrey Marcus, P.C. work with CPSE and CSE, so they can address parents' questions for all school age children.

This 45 minute presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. The evening will cover parents' rights, district responsibilities, and options when your child's needs are not being met by the school district.

March 1 - Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction

Enjoy a good meal and the fun of a large basket auction on Sunday, March 1, from 4-6:30pm at West Seneca East Middle School, 1445 Center Road, West Seneca.

We will be serving the always delicious Rosina's spaghetti with 2 meatballs, a side salad, a roll, a drink and a homemade dessert. Dinner for adults will be \$7; a smaller child's portion with 1 meatball will be available for \$4 those under 10. Children under 2 are free. Contact Janet (695-1299) or Trish (648-8984) for tickets by February 23, 2009; a limited number of tickets may be available at the door.

The basket auction will begin at 6pm. There will be a range of baskets for the young and not so young. Contact Trish (648-8984) or Heidi (983-0133) to donate baskets or auction items.

We hope to see you for some first-rate food, fun and raffle prizes.



Summer Recreation Programs on February 11

Hard to imagine summer camp while it's still snowing? Warm yourself up with an informative evening about three local summer recreation opportunities on Wednesday evening, February 11, at 7 pm in the Alumni Room at Medaille College.

Casey Lanigan, Outreach Coordinator at Cradle Beach (<http://www.cradlebeach.org>) will do a short presentation with a video about the summer camp programs available for individuals with disabilities ages 8 to 16 at their camp on the shore of Lake Erie in Angola.

Loth Lorien Therapeutic Riding Center, will be represented by Kathryn Tyrrell, Program Director. She will answer questions about the therapeutic horseback riding program in East Aurora for individuals of any age. You can learn more about the riding program at www.lothlorientrc.org.

A presentation about Challenger Athletic Tonawanda will also be made. There are a number of sports and social programs available for individuals of many ages. Visit their website: www.capswny.com.

Spring Dance on March 21

Come dance the afternoon away at our spring dance on Saturday, March 21, at Magruder's Restaurant and Banquet House, 4995 Broadway in Depew. We will munch and dance from 6-9pm.

As usual you won't be able to resist DJ Hank dance music. It's great to see everyone forget themselves and do a little chicken dancing on a Spring day. It's just what we all need for the winter blahs. Pizza and beverages will be provided; please bring snacks. RSVP to Bonnie (632-0137) by March 18.

First Annual Wheels Around The Park A Huge Success



Wow! What a fantastic day! We were so excited and proud that so many people came to our First Annual Wheels Around the Park on October 4. The weather was perfect for the over 800 participants and volunteers gathered to celebrate the strengths and potential of our family members with Down syndrome.

A sea of yellow and blue t-shirts walked and wheeled a mile around Ring Road in Delaware Park to raise awareness and enjoy people with Down syndrome. The music set the fun mood for the picnic lunch and activities for kids. Buffalo Mayor

Byron Brown, Buster Bison, and Perrywinkle made generous appearances to everyone's enjoyment.

In the spirit of the event, the extra food was donated to Saint Luke's Mission in Buffalo. Some of the money raised will be used for several upcoming education projects. We are also sharing our photographs of the event on iprintfromhome.com. If you are interested in viewing them, please e-mail dspgwny@hotmail.com for the username and password.

We want to thank everyone who came to the event, the volunteers, the sponsors and donors who made the event possible and the incredibly hardworking volunteers who organized the event. You can find links to our Gold Sponsors on our website, www.dspgwny.org. Anyone interested in helping with next year's event, please call Amy (874-4753).

We look forward to seeing everyone next year for the Second Annual Wheels Around the Park on Saturday, October 3 in Delaware Park.

DSPG BOARD NEWS

The DSPG board wishes everyone in our immediate and extended families a happy, peaceful and healthy holiday season. We are looking forward to a busy 2009.

Volunteers: We really need your help! We have several ambitious ideas for projects during the upcoming year that will continue the education and awareness work started at Wheels Around the Park. These projects will require some extra heads and hands since we also plan to continue our regularly scheduled events. We are looking for a few people who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time to help; you can do as little or as much as you wish. Please e-mail us at dspgwny@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Dues: We are happy to announce that dues will be suspended for 2009 because of the great success of all this year's fundraising efforts. Good work everyone!

Treasurer: Our longtime treasurer, Mike Brown, is stepping down this month. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Mike for all his years of diligent


service to DSPG. Thanks, Mike. Janet Poreda will fulfill the treasurer position starting in January.

Calendars: Thanks are also owed to Janell Hallgren for directing the 2009 DSPG Calendar project. The calendar is terrific. There are still a few left and they make great holiday gifts. Call Janell (674-0898) to grab one of the last ones.

Library books: Anita is updating the library inventory so that it can be uploaded to our website. Please e-mail Anita (hadbax@aol.com) if you have one of DSPG's books or DVDs so that she can accurately catalogue our collection. We will also be updating the library, so if there is a new book or DVD that you think we should have, let Anita know.

Thanks: Thanks to Amy Downing and Maggie Stephens for organizing the Holiday party. Anyone interested in helping to organize an event, please let us know.

Remember, if you have an idea or concern that you would like DSPG to address, please let one of the Board members know. Thanks, happy holidays, and we hope to see you soon.

OTHER  NEWS

Free Skiing Instruction at Kissing Bridge

Special Olympics NY Western Regions is proud to announce a new opportunity for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This winter Kissing Bridge Ski Resort will offer an Alpine Skiing training club. As part of the foundation of the training club, (or "team") lessons will be provided by Kissing Bridge certified instructors. No experience is necessary. Athletes will only need to provide outdoor gear (snow pants, warm layers, jackets, hats, gloves...), as lessons will be provided which will include a ski lift ticket and rentals if needed.

Kissing Bridge is extremely excited to be part of this new program and has been exceptionally generous in helping it get off the ground. Lessons will begin in January and will continue through the month with the possibility of continuing into February based on interest.

Please contact Shelby Baker at Special Olympics Western Regions (508-3346) for further information. There is no cost for lift tickets or rentals, up to 3 adults who choose to assist can be included.

Lose the Training Wheels

We are still pursuing the possibility of hosting the *Lose the Training Wheels* program this summer in our area. This is a 5-day long program which has a minimum age of 8 years old. The camp has had wonderful success teaching children with disabilities to ride bikes; nearly 75% of participants learned to ride a two-wheeled bike by the end of the week.

This program uses a team approach, which means we will need the help of many eager volunteers. The children being instructed work in groups of five to seven for approximately 75 minutes each day. The program can accommodate about 30 children. The biggest hurdle to bringing the program here at the moment is that we need a facility with a minimum of 10,000 square feet/or the size of a basketball court indoors with access to an outdoor riding area like a parking lot

If anyone has any ideas or contacts regarding space or volunteers, please contact Anita (hadbax@aol.com). For more information about this program, you can check out their website at www.losethetrainingwheels.org.

Social Group for Teens

A group of local parents of teens ages approximately 13 to 18 are interested in starting a social group. The group is still in the formative stage so the type and frequency of the activities will depend on the needs of the individuals who ultimately make up the group. For more information, please contact Charmaine Uebelhoer (930-1548), cuebelhoer0106@aol.com or Danielle Buncy (823-4290), d_buncy@yahoo.com.

DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

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874-4753

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Janet Poreda
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Special Thanks to Our Donors

~ Thank you to all those who generously donated in memory of Jeanne Cambria.
~Thanks to Adella Kirchmeyer for her donation of the profits from her hand-painted pumpkin sales.
~Thank you to all the individuals who donated to DSPG through the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Calendar of Events



January 14 - Special Needs Law,
Medaille College, Alumni
Room, 7pm

February 11 - Summer Recreation Program,
Medaille College, Alumni
Room, 7pm

March 1 - Spaghetti Dinner and Basket
Auction, West Seneca East
Middle School, 4-6:30pm

March 21 - Spring Dance,
Magruder's Restaurant and
Banquet House, 4-7pm

April 22 - Pathfinder Village, and
Bornhava, Medaille College,
Alumni Room, 7pm

**DSPG of WNY Inc.
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