

The Spina Bifida
Association of
Western New York

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SBAWNY

Spring 2008

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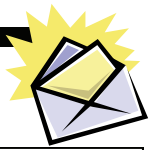
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If you have any suggestions for events you may want to us to sponsor please contact one of the board members.

President's Message



Greetings from the president:

We are well into 2008 and I hope your new year has been productive. We have some exciting upcoming events. On February 17 there will be a game dinner fundraiser for SBAWNY hosted by John Hutchins. His sister Carol had spina bifida and passed away several years ago but the dinner has been a very successful fundraiser for us. It is great food and entertainment in the middle of winter. If you are interested there is more information in this newsletter. Our young adult group is going to the dinner as a social activity so any young adults interested in going please contact Karen Savanyu.

Activities we hope to host this year include: a summer picnic at the zoo, a fishing trip on lake Erie, the traditional annual Dinner Dance and Christmas party at Dave and Busters. We have already reserved Classics V for November 8, 2008 for the dinner dance and Dave and Busters for the first Sunday in December. Both of these events were a great time for everyone who attended. Last year was probably the first year there were more young adults than adults at the dinner dance, but everyone had a great time. The Christmas party at Dave and Busters provided something for everyone; time to catch up with old friends, make new, enjoy good food and try arcade games. Since it was at the Eastern Hills Mall everyone did a little Christmas shopping as well, so mark your calendars now as we expect this year to be even better.

We are very excited to introduce two new funds to promote wellness and improve quality of life for families and individuals with spina bifida. The first is the Physical Fitness Fund, which promotes physical activity in individuals with spina bifida by reimbursing the cost of gym memberships, or classes that provide some kind of physical activity. The other fund is the Respite Fund, which will reimburse families for respite services they have paid for and are not reimbursable to the family from other source. The complete guidelines are on line at our web site at www.sbawny.org or by contacting Janet Slack or Pam Morris.

I would like to remind members that memberships are due. You can download the application from our website. As always we are looking for fresh faces on our board. We have about six face-to-face meetings and six on line meetings. This allows individuals with busy schedules the opportunity to participate. Please let any of the board members know if you are interested. We'd love to have you. Our next meeting will be February 17 before the game dinner.

Hope to see you then.

Cindy Carlson

Spring Fundraiser Raffle: We will be having our annual fundraiser to help support activities for our growing adult group. There will be some great prizes. Tickets will be \$2 ea or 3 tickets for \$5. Tickets will be distributed to members. Contact Karen at 585-457-9867 if you need tickets.

SB Adult Bowling Event: On Sunday, March 30th we will have an adult get-together (18 and over) for bowling and pizza at the Transit Lanes on Transit Road in Williamsville. Cost will be free to all SB adults. Hope you can join us. Please RSVP to Karen or Cory at 585-457-9867. We will also draw the raffle winners this day as well.

Family Day at The Buffalo Zoo: On Saturday, June 28th we will be hosting a family outing at The Buffalo Zoo. We will meet in the main parking lot at 10am. Entry fee will be paid by SBAWNY for SB person and their immediate family members. Please bring a picnic lunch (or you can buy lunch at the zoo). We will enjoy a day with family and friends while looking at the animals.

Brunch & Jazz at Albright Knox: We will be sponsoring a trip to the Albright Knox for Adults with SB. The event will take place this summer. More details to follow.

INVITATION

To A Wild Game Dinner



When: Sunday, Feb 17th, 2008
From 12:00 Noon On

Where: Buffalo Launch Club
Grand Island, New York

*"There's room for all God's creatures,
right next to the mashed potatoes"*

Anonymous

If you're "game", you are cordially invited to the 19th Annual Wild Game Dinner hosted by John Hutchins, Joey Alberico, Alfio Pitruzzella, Tony Martino, Billy Swiercz, Earl Schultz and many other friends in memory of Carol Hutchins and the Spina Bifida Association of Western New York.

The bill of fare for this year will include duck, pheasant, venison, mountain lion, antelope, smoked trout, elk, wild boar, mule deer, smoked salmon, wild turkey, venison sausage, goose sausage, buffalo and any other road kill donated between now and February 18th. (Just kidding!)

The location will be at the Buffalo Launch Club with directions from Interstate 190 as Follows:



: Merge onto I-190 N / NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY. Take EXIT 18B toward BEAVER ISLAND STATE PARK. Merge onto SOUTH PKWY / BEAVER ISLAND PKWY. Turn LEFT onto BUSH RD / CR-577. Turn RIGHT onto E RIVER RD. End at Buffalo Launch Club: 503 E River Rd, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Dress is very casual. Wild game is best served hot, so please come early (any time after 12:00 Noon) so that you're ready when the meat is done. If you live locally, we would appreciate a dish to pass and we do have warming facilities available if you bring food which has to be heated. Disposable dishes appreciated. A cash bar will be provided by the club with beer, wine and premium mixed drinks available.

Our entertainment immediately following the dinner this year is simply amazing. First we have Nick Prefontaine who will speak to us about overcoming adversity in surviving a near death experience to lead a full productive life. Nick will be followed by blind singer Jack Civileto who sounds more like Frank Sinatra than Frank himself. It will be an awesome afternoon and kids are encouraged to come.

PLEASE RSVP (Email works best) and if you are able to bring a dish to share, please let me know what your specialty is when you RSVP so that we can make appropriate menu plans. I have reserved a block of discounted rooms (\$49.00) at the Best Western Inn On The River at 7001 Buffalo Ave. in Niagara Falls, NY. Call Linda at 716 283 7612 and ask for a room under Hutch Enterprises. Please email me at hutchent1@aol.com or call John Hutchins at 716-773-6114 at your earliest convenience and tell me how many from your tribe will be attending so that we can make seating arrangements.

Again this year, we will be asking for a \$25.00 per person donation. All proceeds will go to the Spina Bifida Association in memory of my sister, Carol Hutchins. Thanks for your friendship and support and we look forward to seeing you on February 17th.

The Independence Foundation Social Group Information:

For Mom's Only: For mothers of children and you adults with physical disabilities, and also for young adult & adult women with physical disabilities. All are informal gatherings where we share ideas, concerns, and life! All events are pay your own way.

Guardianships & Special Needs Trusts: Event takes place on Monday, February 25th at the Walden Galleria Mall Food Court and Community Room. Food court dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 (pay your own way). At 6:30pm Lisa Allen, Special Needs Attorney will speak to us about Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts. This will be held in the Community Room by the food court.

Dessert at Butterwoods: Come and have a cup of coffee and some amazing desserts at Butterwoods on Main Street in Williamsville at 7pm on Tuesday, March 28th.

Spa Night: Book a facial, manicure, pedicure, massage, and/or hair treatment while we catch up and enjoy Free wine & cheese! Pay your own way. This event takes place on Wednesday, April 30th from 6pm to 9pm at The Spa at Falling Waters, 3385 Orchard Park Rd, Orchard Park, NY.

For information and **RSVP** on any of these events contact Chris Muller at 685-3976

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, February 17th—Hutchins Dinner

Sunday, March 30th—Adult Bowling Event

Saturday, June 28th—Family Day at The Buffalo Zoo