



Aspirations Newsletter

October 2008

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FALL ASPIRATIONS EVENTS:



Walk Now for Autism

October 12th 9:00am-12:00pm

Schottenstein Center, 555 Borror Dr. Columbus, Oh. 43201

Open to all Aspirations members, families and friends.

Sign up for our walking team "Aspirations" at

www.walknowforautism.org/Columbus

We will meet at 9am at the corner of Lane Ave & Olentangy River Rd (outside of the southeast corner of the Schottenstein Center). The expo and booths open at 8:30am and the walk begins at 10am. It is a mile loop, however you do not have to walk if you choose not to. We are encouraging our team to wear black shirts, tops, jackets, etc to be more uniformed as a team. Please e-mail or call Hillary Spears for more information: Spears.96@osu.edu or 614-354-7388. Donations are accepted.

NOVEMBER RECAP MEETING

Wednesday November 5th 6:30pm-8:30pm.

On Wednesday, November 5th we are having the Reunion at the Nisonger Center in room 235 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. We will have board games and discuss updates as usual. In addition to these regular activities the

discussion of the month will be relationships. Do not miss this exciting recap and the chance to meet new Young Adult Transition Corps Members! Hope to see you there!

Pre OSU-Michigan Party

November 16th 2:00pm-4:00pm

WoA and Aspirations Guys will meet together at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café. 1421 Olentangy River Rd. We will have a table to mingle and eat at, but we can also play the games at the café. Wear your OSU clothes... or Michigan clothes. Bring around \$20 for food and games.

Aspirations Book Club

The book club meets every Thursday at 8:00 pm at the Gateway Barnes and Noble.

WOA EVENTS

Jewelry Making

October 26th, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Elizabeth Beau's House. 3530 Bremen St. Columbus, Ohio 43224.

Elizabeth and her mom, Nancy, are going to show us how to create jewelry of our own! This event is free.

Movie Event

November 30th, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Marcus Cinema. 200 Hutchinson Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43235. We will choose a movie closer to this date for the exact time. This will be a great way to relax and catch up with friends after Thanksgiving. The cost will be \$6.50 for a movie ticket. Bring extra money (around \$5) if you'd like any snacks or drinks.

Study Break

December 7th, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Meet at the McDonalds at 2865 Olentangy River Rd. (near the corner of Ackerman and Olentangy). Finals for OSU and CSCC start on Monday of that week so this is a chance for everyone to relax and de-stress before finals. This is also a chance for everyone not in school to come hangout and help with the de-stressing process!

Zoo Lights and Ice Skating

December 20th, 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Celebrate the holiday season with your WoA friends at the Columbus Zoo. We're going to go to the zoo lights and if you choose to you can ice skate at their rink. If you are interested in carpooling, details will be sent out

closer to this event's date. Bring \$10 for admission to the zoo and \$5 for parking. There will be additional costs for ice skating.

Karaoke at MoMo2

January 4th. 2:00pm-4:00pm

MoMo2 is located at 2885 Olentangy River Rd. Bring in the New Year singing... or at least listening. We will be in one of MoMo2's private group karaoke rooms that only WoA members can use to sing or listen. Bring between \$5 and \$10 depending on how many people come.

ASPIRATIONS GUYS EVENTS

Bonfire at the Harwood's House

November 1st, 7:30 pm

Bonfire at Joel Harwood's house. 4070 Jackson Pike Grove City, Ohio 43123. Phone number: 875-8767. Directions from OSU Campus area: Take 315 South to 71 South to the Stringtown Rd. exit. Turn left. Stringtown Rd. dead ends into 104. Turn right and then almost immediately turn left into the Harwood's driveway, just past the white fencing.

Please bring snacks and beverages to share with the group.

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

November 9th 1:30pm-4:00pm

The Columbus Zoo is located at 4850 Powell Rd. Powell, Oh. 43065. We will meet at the zoo entrance at 1:30 sharp. Dress warmly! Cost is \$10 for admission into the zoo and \$5 for parking. Bring additional money if you want to purchase food, beverages and/or gifts.

Planning Party at Hounddog's Pizza

December 7th, 1:00pm-3:00pm.

Meet at Hounddog's Pizza to enjoy some pizza or a sub and plan out events for the next few months. Hounddog's is located at 2657 N. High St. just north of the OSU campus. Bring around \$10 if you want to order food.

WoA at Kelsey's

Written by Kelsey O'Connor

On August 24, WoA went to Kelsey O'Connor's house for video games, pizza and just some general hanging out. The people who showed up were Andrea, Elizabeth and Krystal, as well as Hilary Jones from YATC.

The original plan was to start off by playing some sports mini-games on the Wii, but that fell through when my Wii started getting a bunch of disc-read errors on a bunch of games, which was getting quite

annoying, so instead we played Krystal's copy of Mario Party 7 (with frequent breaks for pizza, cookies, soda and Andrea's homemade coffee cake) on the Gamecube and talked about a pretty large variety of stuff while doing so. We (that would be Krystal and I) weren't able to finish the first round of the Mario Party because her parents came to pick her up about twenty minutes early.

After Krystal left and took the game with her, play shifted to Soul Calibur II between Elizabeth and myself. I chose a few different characters, Elizabeth chose Yunsung and stomped me into the ground even when I was using my best, which is Raphael. We all got a good laugh out of Yoshimitsu, who uses his sword like a pogo stick and has various other moves along those lines, and we were all a little creeped out by Voldo, what with his unnatural stances and disturbing moves...

After Elizabeth and Hilary left, because we didn't start playing Soul Calibur until toward the end of the scheduled time, Andrea (who had driven over there on her own and didn't really have anything else to do that night) and I started up a new file of The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time Master Quest. In the end we got REALLY stuck at one part in the first dungeon, so we put Master Quest down and loaded up the original Zelda: Ocarina of Time. That kept us occupied for about an hour, before she realized she had to feed the dogs. Then the party was finally over.

The Lion King

Written by Benzion Chinn

Recently Aspirations attended the Broadway musical Lion King, which was playing in Columbus. Lion King is best known through the original Disney cartoon. While Lion King plays to its kid friendly origins, the show plays to the adults in the audience as well. The costumes are absolutely breathtaking and the choreography is a sight to behold. The show takes the story of Lion King, with its animals on the planes of Africa and transforms it into an abstract display of color, song and dance, a live tapestry to delight children of all ages. Much thanks to Connie Franklin for organizing tickets for the show and the potluck dinner on the statehouse lawn beforehand.

A Book Review of "Pretending to be Normal"

By Andrea Scurlock

In the initial weeks after my diagnosis with Asperger's Syndrome, I devoured any information I could find on the subject: websites,

articles, books, etc. The most helpful source I found was a book entitled “Pretending to be Normal: Living with Asperger’s Syndrome”, written by Liane Holliday Willey, a doctor of education specializing in the fields of psycholinguistics and learning style differences.

Liane begins the book with her childhood recollections and continues on through college, marriage, and parenthood. She suffered through much of her life not knowing anything about Asperger’s Syndrome, not receiving a diagnosis until her youngest daughter was diagnosed at age seven. Everyone with AS will be able to relate to her story: personally I found an echo of my own frustration before diagnosis.

“Pretending to be Normal” not only tells Liane’s own story; but it also contains several helpful appendices. These include topics such as:

- How to explain Asperger’s Syndrome to others
- Ways of dealing with living with Asperger’s Syndrome
- Survival skills for college, work, and life
- Lists of support groups and further reading

This is a must read for not only those with Asperger’s Syndrome, but their families as well. The book is written in story format for easy—and entertaining—reading. “Pretending to be Normal” definitely deserves a five star rating.

A message from Jeff...

As I chanted the prayers for my congregation last Tuesday and Wednesday, I also had time to reflect. Jewish people around the world just celebrated the Jewish New Year which ushers in a period known as the 10 days of repentance. This period climaxes with the Day of Atonement where many Jews fast and spend the day in Synagogue in prayer. What makes this time so special? Religious leaders tell us that God is listening to our prayers more than any other time of the year. We should not think that we are beyond help or change, or that no one cares what happens to us. God listens to us and hopes that we take advantage of this special opportunity. Everyone can apply this message in our daily lives. If we look around, each one of us has someone waiting to help us improve our lives in some way. They want to help us, they want us to succeed, but we need to reach out and ask for their help. Everyone wants to be totally self sufficient; wouldn't it be great if we could! My wish to each of you is to open your eyes and ears, and find that person who is waiting....for you to ask.