



Aspirations Newsletter

June 2009

News:

- We still have plenty of space available for participants interested in the Relationships Discussion Group. See flier below for more information.

Aspirations Events:

June Recap

June 3rd – Mall Madness at Tuttle Mall. 6:30-8:00pm. Meet near the entrance between JC Penny and Macy's. 5043 Tuttle Crossing Blvd. Dublin, Oh. 43016.

Book Club

Every Thursday 7-8pm

Gateway Barnes and Noble (upstairs). 1598 N. High St. (on the corner of E. 11th and High). The book club is currently discussing *Replay* by Ken Grimwood.

Women of Aspirations

June 19th – Jewelry making at the Nisonger Center, 1581 Dodd Dr. Columbus, Oh. 43210. 7:00-8:30pm. Nancy Beu (Elizabeth's mom) is going to bring her beads and equipment so that we can make jewelry or even fix older pieces. If any moms are interested in coming to the event as well Nancy will also have an area set up for them too!

For more information or to RSVP please email Hillary at spears.96@osu.edu.

Aspirations Guys

June 7th – Denise's Ice Cream, Let's start the summer our right with some yummy, cold treats! 2-3pm. 2899 N. High St. Columbus.

June 21st – *The Three Musketeers* performed by the Actors' Theatre at Schiller Park (outdoors). Meet at Schiller Park at 7:40pm. The play will begin at 8:00pm and end at 10:00pm. Bring blankets to sit on. The play is free but donations are encouraged during intermission. You are welcome to bring snacks and refreshments. ***This event will be cancelled if it is raining.*** 1000 City Park Ave. Columbus, Oh. 43206. <http://www.theactorstheatre.org/index.php>.

To RSVP for Guys events please call Alison at (614) 292-9894 or email alisone@yatcoho.org.

Autistic Self-Advocacy Network: Central Ohio Chapter

The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network has recently formed a Central Ohio/Ohio State University chapter, co-chaired by Aspirations members Melanie Yergeau and Benzion Chinn, both of whom are on the autism spectrum. In part a response to other campus autism groups adhering to a medicalized, cure-and-prevention model of autism, ASAN-Central Ohio emerged to provide supports for autistic self-representation and a space in which autistic individuals are not viewed as "devastating" or "diseased."

The group held its first official meeting on April 30, and 23 people were in attendance. Attendees included several individuals on the autism spectrum as well as off. Among the group members are college students, faculty, staff, relatives, and other friends and community members.

The group continues to meet regularly, two to three times each month, both in-person at Barnes & Noble (right before Aspirations book club) as well as online for those individuals who prefer technologically mediated communication. Recent discussion points have included potential guest speakers for the upcoming academic year, a social event for Autistic Pride Day in June, educating people in the community about the autism spectrum, and supporting one other as we self-advocate.

We are continually seeking new members, both on and off the spectrum, and the current age of our members has ranged from mid-teens to, as another person put it, "older than dirt." We hope that our group will be of service to the broader Columbus community.

About ASAN:

ASAN is a non-profit organization run by and for autistic people. ASAN's supporters include autistic adults and youth, those with other distinct neurological types, and neurotypical family members, professionals, educators, and friends. ASAN also works to change public perception and to combat misinformation by educating communities about persons on the autism spectrum. ASAN's activities include public policy advocacy, community engagement to encourage inclusion and respect for neurodiversity, quality of life oriented research, and the development of autistic cultural activities and other opportunities for autistic people. The Central Ohio chapter of ASAN seeks to provide opportunities for social and community involvement in and around the Columbus area.

Contact Information:

Email: asan.ohiostate@gmail.com

ASAN-Central Ohio blog: <http://asacentralohio.blogspot.com/>

Aspirations: Relationships Discussion Group

Aspirations participants are invited to join Young Adult Transition Corps Members for a series of open, laid-back discussions on healthy relationships.

We will discuss topics such as:

- **Dating Etiquette**
- **Communication**
- **Maturity**
- **Self-Esteem**
- **Body Language**
- **Respect and Consent**
- **Decision Making**
- **Setting Boundaries**

Sessions for men:

Wednesday 6/10

Wednesday 6/17

From 6:00-7:30pm

Sessions for women:

Wednesday 7/1

Wednesday 7/8

From 6:00-7:30pm

If you would like to attend these discussions please contact Alison E. to register. Because of the discussion based format, we are only able to accept a limited amount of participants. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Session for everyone: On Wednesday, June 24th we will be joined by guest speaker Katy Miller from the OSU Student Wellness Center for a discussion on healthy relationships. Anyone is welcome to join us for this discussion (even if you are not registered for the discussion groups) but please RSVP so we know how many to expect. This discussion will take place in room 235 at the Nisonger Center from 6:00-7:00pm.

To RSVP or Register please email Alison E. at alisone@yatcohoio.org or call (614) 292-9894

Have your work featured in the Aspirations Newsletter!

If you would like to submit your artwork, poetry, prose, fiction, nonfiction, essay, book review, event review etc. to be considered for publication in the newsletter please email it to Alison at alisone@yatcoho.org.