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## Aspirations Newsletter

### March 2010

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### **IMPORTANT Message from Jeff :**

**Gathering | Listening | Shaping**  
*Services for Ohioans with disabilities*

Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Administrator Michael Rench is embarking on a 12-city road trip to engage you and fellow community members in collaborative dialogue during café-style conversations. The Columbus meeting is Next Tuesday March 2 4-6 pm at the Columbus Main Library 96 S. Grant Ave. You and other guests will gather in small groups to share thoughts on questions that are genuinely important to your lives, work experiences and communities. Ideas, patterns and themes from the discussions will be compiled and used to shape future state services such as employment, vocational rehabilitation, transition youth and independent living. Don't miss this chance to shape the future! Everyone's voice will be heard!

Visit [www.rsc.ohio.gov](http://www.rsc.ohio.gov) for more information and updates from each regional conversation. Call 800-282-4536 ext. 1470 or email [brenda.rhodes@rsc.state.oh.us](mailto:brenda.rhodes@rsc.state.oh.us) to RSVP and if you will bring guests. Sign language interpreters will be at the meetings. Let us know if you need other accommodations.

All are welcome!

**Join the conversation!**  
*Tell us what matters most to you.*

**RECAP: Save the date!** Our next Recap is coming up...

**Games night Wednesday, March 3**  
Nisonger Center Room 243 (parents room 235)  
6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Bring your own games or crafts along to share with others**

For the first 15 minutes Aspirations will hear from Kelly Stephenson director of "Project Mainstream" will be speaking to us about COTA'S ADA Para-transit service. Kelly will spend the rest of meeting time with parents. Please RSVP to Jeff at [siegel.45@osu.edu](mailto:siegel.45@osu.edu) or [JKRAMER0007@columbus.rr.com](mailto:JKRAMER0007@columbus.rr.com).

**Thanks:** To Orion Burn's mom, Sue Schaefergen, for arranging Mr. Segelken's presentation at the February presentation.

**April 7 Recap 6:30 to 8pm:** Aspirations members Dave and Busters 1554 Polaris Pkwy. Parent site to be Determined

## Events for everyone over 17 years old

### Aspirations Guys

Sunday March 21 from 5-6:30 pm

Graeter's Ice Cream 2282 E. Broad Street 43209

### Women of Aspirations - Upcoming WoA events

**Saturday, February 27th** 2:30pm at Special Olympics Basketball tournament Eastmoor Academy. Come and cheer on Elizabeth Beu's team to the Gold!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14th** at Noodles & Co. from 5-6:30

**SUNDAY, APRIL 11th** at Noodles & Co. from 5-6:30

Check your email for more updates from WoA. For more information, please write WoA Coordinator Whitney Brooks at [WomenOfAspirations@gmail.com](mailto:WomenOfAspirations@gmail.com).

### Aspirations Book Club

Thursdays from 7-8pm

Barnes & Noble, Second Floor 1598 N. High Street (SE Corner of High & 11th AVE)

“The Rapture of Canaan” by Sherri Reynolds

Now is a good time to join up or rejoin the group. Thursdays 7-8 pm

For more information, please contact Renee Devlin at [devlinre@yahoo.com](mailto:devlinre@yahoo.com)

## Are you interested in learning about relationships?!

JOIN US FOR OUR NEW PROGRAM

### Relate to Me!



**Cost: 9weeks for \$175**

Mondays 8:00 -9:00  
235 Mc Campbell Hall  
RSVP to Megan Feeney  
[meganm.feeney@gmail.com](mailto:meganm.feeney@gmail.com)  
or Jeff [siegel.45@osu.edu](mailto:siegel.45@osu.edu)  
292-4185

#### Topics Include:

Family, Internet safety, Abuse & Advocacy  
Intimate Relationships, Friends  
Professionalism, Sexual Health

**LAST CALL!!**



## Young Aspirations 13-17

Earlier this month Young Aspirations started a book club for the teenagers to meet up on a weekly basis to both read and hang-out. The group is facilitated by Tessa and Mike Perryman at the Borders book store 6670 Sawmill Road from 11am-noon on Saturdays. While the teens are at book club the parents are welcome to walk across the parking lot to Einstein Bagels for an informal parent support group led by Hillary Spears. *Iain Gilley* is one of the ten members of the new book club and so far he has nothing but praise for the group! Here's what Iain had to say:

"So far I enjoy book club and I'm excited about sci-fi, like the book we're reading, *The Time Traveler*. I'm enjoying being with the other teens, which is surprising to me. It's not boring and dull like school tends to be for me. I look forward to both drinking coffee and listening to other people read. I find this very peaceful. I personally don't like reading, but I do like listening. Even though I don't like reading I have been participating to set a good example for everyone else since I am the oldest member. My advice for anyone wanting to join Young Aspirations or book club is to 'just be yourself'. This isn't always who you are at school since you don't have to try to fit in here.

Hillary Spears, LSW

## FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS!

### “Aspie Society” by Kamaria Copeland

Often misunderstood we are  
Often underestimated we are  
We were born this way  
We will die this way  
The ones meant to be in our lives....will be my friend  
And the ones that were not meant to share our glorious....and victorious world will vanish  
Just like dust  
We are special....We are irreplaceable  
We are the ones you my not know...Are among you  
We can go beyond anyone's wildest imagination  
Even the fears themselves must fear us  
We can achieve our dreams  
We are smarter than people give us credit for  
We are stronger then people will ever admit we are

We Are the “Aspies”  
We are family  
A special society  
We hurt  
We cry  
We bleed  
Just like everyone else  
The only difference is somehow  
We rise above our pain  
Being shunned from birth families and communities  
No more  
Graceful like an angel  
Fearless like a biker  
Is how I feel today my friend  
Welcome To the Aspie Society!

### **Circle Wars: Reshaping the Typical Autism Essay Melanie Yergeau**

Disability Studies Quarterly, Vol 30, No 1 (2010)

**Abstract** : This piece investigates "typical autism essays" and their rhetorical commonplaces, their largely neurotypical discourse conventions. In the field of rhetoric and composition, circular metaphors in discourse community theory resemble popular representations of autism as a low-functioning/high-functioning binary. Each field-specific conversation attempts to define groups of people (student writers, autistics) as though there are hard and fast boundaries to one's identity. I posit that typical autism essays obscure issues of power as well as their neurotypically-defined genre conventions, effectively denying autistic self-advocates a place in the conversations that concern them. <http://www.dsqsds.org/article/view/1063/1222>

**Newsletter contributions** This is *your* group and **your** newsletter. We need more people to write about past and upcoming events or what you are currently doing. Did you win an award, or get accepted to a new program? Let us know! Thanks to Kamaria for her poem, to Iain for writing about the young Aspirations book club, and congratulations to Melanie for her article in Disability Quarterly. I have so far one poem for next month;

**HOW ABOUT IT FOLKS??!**