



Aspirations Newsletter

November 2009

News:

- Welcome to our newest members of Aspirations. Group 20 is off to a great start as is our second Teen Aspirations group! We hope to see all of the new members at our events. Feel free to send the new members of our new Adult group an email welcoming them!

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- Another warm welcome goes out to our new volunteers, Stephanie, Julie, Jenny and Whitney!

Events for Everyone over 17 years old:

10/7/09: November Recap

6:30pm- 8:00pm, [Nisonger Center](#) Games Night and discussion

Every Thursday: Aspirations Book Club

The book club meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm at the Gateway Barnes and Noble (upstairs). The book club is currently reading [The Best of H.P. Lovecraft](#).

Women of Aspirations Events:

11/08/09: WoA's monthly Meeting

Dinner at Noodles and Company, 5:00-7:00pm

5032 N. High St. across from Graceland Shopping Center.
We'll be planning some events in addition to our monthly meeting so please come and share some ideas with everyone. In addition, *WoA parents* are welcome to meet next door at Wendy's for a chance to catch up.
For questions or to RSVP e-mail WomenOfAspirations@gmail.com

Remember same time, same place every month ☺

Guys' Aspirations Group:

11/15/09: Graeter's Ice Cream in Bexley, from 5-7pm

We had our first meeting this season on October 25. All current, upcoming, and potential guys in Aspirations are welcome to meet up at Graeter's Ice Cream in Bexley 2282 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43209. Come hangout with everyone and share ideas for upcoming meetings. Please RSVP to Jeff Siegel so he can reserve space for everyone to sit: Siegel.45@osu.edu

Young Aspirations News:

10/5/09: Group #2 of Young Aspirations has Begun...

The second Young Aspirations group has begun! We are now recruiting for our January group. If you know anyone between the ages of 13-17 years old that is interested in being a part of this group please have them contact HillarySpears@gmail.com. A special thank you goes to Hillary for organizing and facilitating the Adolescent group with Tom, and to Mike Perryman and Sue Schaeffgen who facilitate our Parent young aspirations group. Joel Harwood is our mentor facilitator for Group #2.
Young Aspirations hopes to have a reunion for the teens and parents in December, so please e-mail Hillary Spears if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Community News:

11/17-19/09: 2009 OCALI Conference and Exposition

The OCALI Conference and Exposition is now accepting volunteers and registration for the conference in November. If you are interested in finding out more about the conference and opportunities available check out their website: www.conference.ocali.org

10/1/09: Autistic Self-Advocacy Network Meeting

This group meets at Barnes & Noble (1598 N. High St.). They will meet in the coffee shop area on the first floor. OSU students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to attend! [If you'd like more information about the group e-mail: asan.ohiostate@gmail.com](mailto:asan.ohiostate@gmail.com)

From Jeff

It is with a lot of sadness that we must reluctantly say good bye with Hillary Spears who will be leaving Aspirations to focus on her studies in Policy. Hillary has been a dynamic part of our group for close to 18 months and a great to person to work with. Her dedication and love for Aspirations and our members is unsurpassed. We wish you much success and happiness as you carve out a career for yourself in Policy. I know that you will keep in touch with us, thank you! Stephanie Stuttler who has been a part of Young Aspirations will be taking over Hillary's responsibilities with Young Aspirations. Stephanie also co-facilitates our Aspirations book club on Thursday's. We all wish you good luck and know that you will do a great job!

Help Needed -I am in need of parents or members to take responsibility for keeping up our website. The IT person for Aspirations Steve Rosenzweig will be happy to input new information or make update changes as needed, but I need people to keep track of needed changes such as event updates and pictures. I can not do this myself and it is really important to keep our Website up to date since this is our window to the larger DD community.

Newsletter – Do you like to write poetry? Are you a budding Journalist? We need your help to enhance our Newsletter. It would be great to have this newsletter written and created by you the members not me, or any other staff person what a great thing that would be!

Phone tree – Did you know that our young adult group is currently in it's 20th group? We are now approx 180 members strong! It would be so great if we could create a phone tree to keep everyone updated on upcoming events. A phone tree means volunteers take responsibility to call a specific group of participants to keep them updated. I know this is challenging for many of you, but I think there are enough of you who could do this. This is a great way to demonstrate independence and leadership, something all of you desire in some way or another.

We all have the potential for greatness, what will you do to make Aspirations great?

Jeff