



## New York Parent Association for Deaf-Blind

### *NYPADB e-news*

#### **NYPADB is Seeking Board Members**

Board members meet on the second Monday of each month (except December) at 8:00pm for an hour or so. We discuss the activities & events planned for the year to achieve our goals, fundraising and expenditures, and issues in Deaf-Blindness. Visit [www.nypadb.org](http://www.nypadb.org) to review our Mission Statement and Goals. If you are interested, please contact Barbara [loughran.barbara@gmail.com](mailto:loughran.barbara@gmail.com) or Clara [nfadb.clara@gmail.com](mailto:nfadb.clara@gmail.com)

#### **LAST CHANCE! Register ASAP! Deaf-Blind Family Learning Retreat July 22-24, 2016**

**At Visions VCB – See Flyer Attached**

Learn more about deaf-blindness and issues affecting your child, meet and socialize with other families who share your concerns, the children experience camp activities, while families enjoy time together! All Free this year! Travel stipends are available.

**REGISTER:** [nydbc@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:nydbc@qc.cuny.edu) or 718-997-4856

#### **Autism Friendly Day at the Farm**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 9:00–11:00 am**

Tickets: \$7.00/person; *Pre-registration required to attend*

Queens County Farm Museum

73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park, New York 11004

#### **The program includes:**

- Interactive tours of our historic grounds, planting fields, and sensory gardens led by experienced farm educators. Structure breaks are included.
- Opportunities to see and learn about our heritage breed livestock, including goats, sheep, alpaca, hens, pigs, and steer.
- Optional tractor-drawn hayride.
- Families are invited to bring their own sack lunches to enjoy a picnic after the tour. *Please note that snacks, water, and juice are available for purchase in our Gift Shop, though lunches are not available for sale on the farm.*

This program is appropriate for families with children ages 6–18 years, where

at least one child is on the Autism spectrum. Families must stay with their children at all times. A site-specific "Social Story" and a trip preparation sheet will be made available to all families to assist in preparing for their visit.

Queens Farm is fully accessible, offers indoor restrooms, and has an on-site Gift Shop open at 10:00 am. Free on-site parking will be available. We are also accessible by the MTA Q46 bus.

*Questions? Please contact Ali Abate, Director of Education, at [ali@queensfarm.org](mailto:ali@queensfarm.org).*

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autism-friendly-day-tickets-25862995917>

## **Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation**

Come meet members of DSAF and obtain information to help you access important resources. The decisions families make early on in their child's development impact them for the rest of their lives

When: Thursday, July 21, 2016 - 7pm to 9pm

Where: DSAF's Office 77 Arkay Drive (Microcad Office), Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

Please RSVP to [dsaf03@gmail.com](mailto:dsaf03@gmail.com) or call 516-983-7889 and leave a message to register to attend.

## **Paths to Literacy Newsletter**

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/newsletter>

## **Accessing the Dream: Preparing Deaf-Blind Youth for a Self-Determined Life**

*June 2016 - National Transition Initiative, NCDB*

All young adults who are deaf-blind need *extensive* transition planning and services in order to experience success in adult life. Transition Institutes have historically sought to bring together young adults and their families to build skills and provide training in the pursuit of better personal transition outcomes. These institutes are a collaborative effort across 21 State Deaf-Blind Projects over a span of 10 years. The energy of the 2012 and 2015 Transition Institutes provided opportunities to capture interviews with youth, families, and service providers to share their perspectives on the experience of transition.

This video product is based on the *Taxonomy for Transition*

*Programming* developed by Paula D. Kohler, Ph.D. The video chapters offer insight and understanding based on foundational best practices in transition planning: Student-Focused Planning, Student Development, Interagency Collaboration, Program Structure, and Family Involvement.

<https://nationaldb.org/pages/show/accessing-the-dream-preparing-deaf-blind-youth-for-a-self-determined-life>

## Parent to Parent NYS Links Digest

Parent to Parent of NYS, in its role as New York's Family to Family Health Information Center, is pleased to announce the return of our monthly Links Digest publication. Links Digest is a collection of helpful links relevant to the issues surrounding effective health care systems for children with special health care needs. We hope you find this information useful and we welcome your feedback.

View the June issue on our

website: <http://parenttoparentnys.org/healthcare/health-care-resources/C160/>

## Calling All Family Leaders - NFADB Symposium

This summer, NFADB will be hosting their parent leadership conference in Austin, TX, **July 16 – 18**, at St. Edwards University. The day prior, on July 15, NCDB will be holding a family specialist training for individuals who serve in the role of Family Specialist for their state deaf-blind project. The agenda for the family specialist day includes:

- Taking a strategic approach to engaging and connecting families, and
- Mentoring and supporting families.

We hope that all family specialists working for state deaf-blind projects will be able to attend both events. Formal registration for the symposium will begin soon via the [NFADB website](#). As we all know, the cornerstone of a successful life for a learner who experiences deaf-blindness is a strong support system. This training will be a major step forward in advancing parent leadership skills and building family networks. Questions? Contact [Clara Berg](#) or [Megan Cote](#).

## 2016 Usher Syndrome Family Conference

**Saturday, July 9, 2016 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Pacific Time**

This annual gathering, a place for individuals with Usher syndrome, family members, friends and professionals to learn about the latest advances in Usher syndrome research. The event's science sessions, family panel, research Q&A, lengthy breaks and evening social allow for the opportunity to connect with others impacted by Usher syndrome and engage with researchers who are working tirelessly towards a cure.

Washington Athletic Club

1325 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98111, USA

<http://www.cvent.com/events/ush2016-usher-syndrome-family-conference/event-summary-62b3eda082ab4f73ac06e0663cb367ab.aspx>

## Summertime Activities to Advance Orientation and Mobility

## **Skills** (Family Connect Article)

<http://www.familyconnect.org/blog/familyconnect-a-parents-voice/summertime-activities-to-advance-orientation-and-mobility-skills/12>

## **Literacy Skills Checklist**

<http://literacy.nationaldb.org>

## **Resources on ABLE Accounts**

<http://parenttoparentnys.org/education/library-detail/C168/>

## **Calling All Advocates for Described TV and Web Accessibility! A Joint Teleconference of the American Foundation for the Blind and American Council of the Blind**

On Wednesday afternoon, **July 13, beginning at 3pm Eastern**, you are invited to join a national teleconference jointly hosted by AFB and ACB to learn how you can let policy makers know exactly how you feel about these two vital issues. While there are important legal and other substantive questions that both AFB and ACB will be providing written comment on for both the FCC and the DOJ, we cannot do this work alone. A strong showing by our community will be decisive in making any progress toward expanded described TV and web accessibility.

### **To Join the Call**

A few minutes prior to the 3pm Eastern start time on Wednesday afternoon, July 13, please dial: **1-866-901-2585**

and when prompted, enter the code: **42757945**

There is no cost to you to participate in this interactive discussion. Please join us to learn how best to shape your own comments and how to submit them.

### **Described TV**

In an exciting development, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing to expand the number of hours of described television that will be required of the nation's top networks. It is critical that the FCC hear from as many of us as possible. Both AFB and ACB will be preparing formal comments to respond to this proposal, but we cannot do this work alone. Our community needs to make it clear to the FCC, and broadcast & cable/satellite industries, that we are committed to seeing described TV become the rule and not the exception.