

Are you a parent/caregiver of a child with special needs?

Then look inside and check out...

What's happening in WNY...

Upcoming and
Ongoing Events

News from the Community...



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| What: | 30th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle |
| When: | April 24 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. |
| Where: | Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 South Ellicott Creek Rd., Amherst NY |
| Why: | To benefit Autistic Services, Inc. |
| Who: | (716) 631-5777 to purchase tickets |
| What: | Building Bridges-Sensory Strategies for Individuals with ASD |
| When: | April 26 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. |
| Where: | Classics V Banquet Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY |
| Why: | Paula Aquilla, co-author of “Building Bridges Through Sensory Integration” will focus on the selection of practical sensory techniques to use with individuals with ASD. Learn how sensory processing differences & needs can impact learning and behavior in both home and school settings. Leave the workshop with practical strategies to assist in improving learning, behaviors and communication. |
| *Cost: | Professionals \$10; Parents/Family \$5; Day of conference registration \$15. |
| Who: | Autistic Services (716) 633-2275 |
| What: | Understanding Suicide & Depression |
| When: | April 29 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. |
| Where: | Charles D'Amico High School-L.G. I. Room, 302 E. Avenue, Albion, NY |
| Why: | Learn the signs of depression and or suicidal thoughts; myths/facts & do's/don'ts of suicide prevention; how to help someone who is suicidal; gain insight into the struggles of those who attempt and those who are left behind. |
| Who: | (716) 343-1212 to register. |
| What: | Genesee Valley Epilepsy Education Conference |
| When: | May 1 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| Who: | www.epilepsy-uny.org for more information |
| What: | D D Day! |
| When: | May 22 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. |
| Where: | Buffalo Convention Center, 153 Franklin St., Buffalo NY |
| Who: | 716-805-1555 to register |
| What: | Celebrate the Success of our Families |
| When: | May 9 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. |
| Where: | Buffalo Convention Center, |
| Why: | To honor the individuals or organizations that have done the most to increase attention to the needs of children with serious emotional, behavioral or social challenges; and youth who have made significant progress in their behavior or social challenges in the past year. |
| Who: | (716) 886-1242 to register |
| What: | Summer Reading Clinic |
| When: | July 7 – August 1 mornings |
| Where: | Enterprise Charter School, 275 Oak Street, Buffalo NY |
| Why: | A four week reading program for students who need help with literacy skills. |
| *Cost: | \$150 per child – registration deadline June 15th |
| Who: | (716) 878-5917 |
| What: | Ready, Set, Parent! Series |
| When: | Call for a schedule of times, dates and locations |
| Why: | A series of 8 sessions for parents of infants and toddlers (birth to age 3). Get support & solutions to parenting concerns. |
| Who: | (716) 332-4153 to register |

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News from the Community...



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| What: | A Study for Fathers of Children with ADHD Ages 6-12 |
| Where: | UB's Center for Children and Families |
| Why: | The goal of this study is to determine whether a parenting program for fathers will help improve the functioning of children with ADHD. If you qualify you will be assigned to receive additional psychological treatment or to continue with treatment and parenting strategies you are currently using. |
| Who: | To learn more or apply (716) 829-2244 ext. 124 <i>Currently recruiting for summer session</i> |
| What: | 1-2-3 Magic |
| Where: | Elmwood-Crane Library, 633 Elmwood Ave. (on bus line), Buffalo, NY |
| When: | Call for schedule of dates and times |
| Why: | A simple, precise, and easy to learn method of four sessions that works effectively in disciplining children 2-5 years old. Parents should attend all four sessions to receive the full benefit of the program. |
| *Cost: | \$35 per four-week session. Call to learn when new session begins. |
| Who: | Terri Good, LMSW at (716) 871-9883 ext. 603 for more information. |
| What: | ADDRESS Adult Support Group |
| Where: | Ascension Lutheran Church, 4640 Main Street, Snyder, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 2 nd Wednesday of each month |
| Why: | These meetings are for adults with ADHD or those living with an adult with ADHD. |
| Who: | (716) 829-2244, ext. 135 or www.addresswny.org for more information |
| What: | ADHD Parents Support Group |
| Where: | Denny's, 4610 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 2 nd Tuesday of each month |
| Why: | Parents and guardians come ask questions and share information about raising children with ADHD. |
| Who: | (716) 829-7142 or www.addresswny.org for more information |
| What: | ADDRESS Parents Support Group |
| Where: | Ascension Lutheran Church, 4640 Main Street, Snyder, NY |
| When: | 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 4 th Tuesday of each month (during school year) |
| Why: | Parents, come ask questions and share information about raising children with ADHD. |
| Who: | (716) 829-2244, ext. 135 or www.addresswny.org for more information |
| What: | WNY Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Family Support Group |
| Where: | 1625 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. the 3 rd Wednesday of each month |
| Why: | Meet with other families, share experiences, ideas and information. |
| Who: | Helen Weinstein at 831-2298, ext. 19 |
| What: | Support Groups for Adoptive Parents – Erie County |
| Where: | Hillside Children's Center, 131 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca, NY |
| When: | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. the 4 th Thursday of every month |
| Why: | Meet others who share the daily challenges and rewards of parenting adopted children and teens. Pre- and post-adoptive parents welcome. |
| Who: | Robin Smith at (716) 848-6412 to register or for more information |
| What: | Support Groups for Adoptive Parents – Niagara County |
| Where: | Niagara Community Center Association, 66 Stevens St., Lockport, NY |
| When: | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. the 2 nd Thursday of every month |
| Why: | Meet others who share the daily challenges and rewards of parenting adopted children and teens. Pre- and post-adoptive parents welcome. |
| Who: | Robin Smith at (716) 848-6412 to register or for more information |

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| What: | Sensory Processing Disorder Support Group |
| When: | Call for meeting dates, times and location |
| Why: | Created for parents to provide information, resources and understanding to parents, friends, teachers, relatives, community members, professionals and any one touched by the impact of Sensory Processing Disorder. Meetings feature group discussions, education and guest speakers. <i>Meetings are for adults only.</i> |
| Who: | Kirsten Seebald (716) 982-1770 or marilynballard@gmail.com |
| What: | Adoptive Parents & Kids Support Groups |
| Where: | New Directions Youth & Family Services, 1445 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, NY |
| When: | 4 th Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Adoptive parents come together and share common stories while supporting one another; while their adoptive children meet with other adoptive kids to help promote their social skills |
| Who: | Sylvia Inman at (716) 834-9413 ext. 212 |
| What: | Bornhava's Men's Forum |
| Where: | Bornhava, 25 Chateau Terrace, Amherst, NY |
| When: | 7:30 p.m. one evening per month during school year. Call for dates. |
| Why: | This forum is open to fathers and male caregivers of children with developmental delays. It is a chance to meet others in a similar situation and share ideas. |
| Who: | (716) 839-1655 for more information |
| What: | Connections Parent Support Group for Families of Children with Asperger's Disorder |
| Where: | Summit Educational Resources, 150 Stahl Rd., Getzville, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on the 1 st Monday of each month |
| Why: | Share ideas, information, treatment options, educational options and advocacy strategies. |
| Who: | Marlene Mancuso at (716) 629-3400 |
| What: | Down Syndrome Parent Group-Share a Cup of Coffee and Talk about Down Syndrome |
| Where: | Wegmans Market Café, Alberta Drive, Amherst NY |
| When: | Third Saturday of the month |
| Why: | For new moms or not so new moms of children with Down syndrome who want to chat or lend a hand giving information to families with babies born with Down syndrome |
| Who: | Amy at (716) 874-4753 or Heidi at (716) 566-2720. |
| What: | Autism Society of WNY Support /Informational Meetings & Workshops |
| Where: | St. John Lutheran Church, 3512 Clinton Street, West Seneca, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; check website for meeting date & topic |
| Why: | To provide information to families & professionals who work with our children. Parents should call/email for a free book on ASD, and to be added to mailing list. Website lists upcoming workshops of interest in WNY area. www.autismwny.org |
| Who: | (716) 633-2275 or email info@autismwny.org |
| What: | Child & Family Support Program – Saturday Support |
| Where: | BryLin Support Group, 1263 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY |
| When: | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 1 st and 3 rd Saturday of the month |
| Why: | Offering support for families raising a child with emotional and/or behavioral problems. Meetings present an opportunity to talk, listen and learn about issues and feelings involved. |
| Who: | Child & Family Support Program at (716) 886-1242. <i>*Childcare is available. Please call ahead with number and ages of children you will be bringing.</i> |
| What: | Child & Family Support Program – ECMC Support Group |
| Where: | ECMC, Room 444, 462 Grider St., Buffalo, NY |
| When: | 12:30 p.m. -2:00 p.m. 2 nd and 4 th Saturday of the month |
| Why: | Offering support for families raising a child with emotional and/or behavioral problems. Meetings present an opportunity to talk, listen and learn about issues and feelings involved. |
| Who: | Child & Family Support Program at 886-1242. |

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| What: | Child & Family Support Program – Wednesday Support |
| Where: | Church of the Latter Day Saints, 1424 Maple Rd., Williamsville, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of the month |
| Why: | Offering support for families raising a child with emotional and/or behavioral problems. Meetings present an opportunity to talk, listen and learn about issues and feelings involved. |
| Who: | Child & Family Support Program at (716) 886-1242. <i>*Childcare is available. Please call ahead with number and ages of children you will be bringing.</i> |
| What: | Families CAN Monthly Roundtable Discussion Group |
| Where: | 135 Delaware Avenue Suite 210, Buffalo NY 14202 |
| When: | 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 2 nd Monday of each month |
| Why: | Families CAN is family run and family driven for all parents, grandparents, foster parents and caregivers raising a child with social, emotional and/or behavioral disabilities. |
| Who: | (716) 884-2599 or www.familiescanwny.org for more information. |
| What: | The Parent Child Connection |
| Why: | The purposes of this group is to provide parenting enrichment opportunities by offering educational programs for the families of Hamburg and surrounding communities. |
| Who: | The Family Support Center of Hamburg, (716) 646-9593 |
| What: | Short Term Respite Care |
| Why: | Respite may be provided for eligible families raising a child with mental health and serious emotional/behavior issues. |
| Who: | Child & Family Support Program (716) 886-1242 ext. 327 |
| What: | GLOW Family Support Program |
| Where: | Hillside Children's Center, Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming Counties |
| When: | Ongoing support groups and respite care |
| Why: | GLOW offers support, respite, advocacy, information and referral, newsletters, a library, etc. for families of children birth to age 21 with an emotional and/or behavioral challenge. |
| Who: | Integration Center at (585) 256-7500 for more information. |
| What: | Support Group/Bible Study for Parents and Caregivers of Children with Special Needs |
| Where: | Wesleyan Church of Hamburg, 4999 McKinley Pkwy., Hamburg, NY |
| When: | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 1 st and 3 rd Monday each month |
| Why: | Meetings offer biblically based support for those involved in the life of a child with special needs. Come meet with other parents/caregivers to talk, listen and learn about issues and feelings. |
| Who: | Wesleyan Church of Hamburg at (716) 649-6335 |
| What: | WNY Chapter Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) |
| Where: | Airport Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY |
| When: | Monthly |
| Why: | Goals of the group include helping families cope with SMA through information and support, to fund research and to raise awareness about Spinal Muscular Atrophy. |
| Who: | (716) 622-0804 or www.wnyfsma.org for more information. |
| What: | SMILE Support Groups in Niagara County |
| Where: | Wheatfield Community Senior Center, 2790 Church Rd., North Tonawanda, NY |
| When: | 2 nd and 4 th Friday each month |
| Where: | Henrietta G. Lewis Campus School, 6395 Old Niagara Rd., Lockport, NY |
| When: | 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday each month |
| Why: | To provide support, education and information on topics selected by group members & parent facilitators. |
| Who: | Marge Wright at (716) 433-4487 to register. |

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| What: | Southtowns Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group |
| Where: | Chapel Park Villa Head Start, 7008 Erie Rd., Derby, NY |
| When: | 6:30 p.m. the 3 rd Wednesday of each month. |
| Why: | The group offers families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder a chance to meet, share ideas and find support in the Southtowns area. |
| Who: | Gayle Duffy at (716) 947-0085 for more information |
| What: | Precious Jewels Day Care Center, Inc. |
| Where: | 390 Emslie Street, Buffalo, NY 14206 |
| When: | Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. |
| Why: | A not-for-profit child care center licensed by the NY State Department of Social Services. They offer activities designed to promote the physical, emotional and intellectual needs of each child. |
| Who: | (716) 604-1514 for more information |
| What: | After School Enrichment for School Aged Children with Developmental Disabilities |
| Where: | Enterprise Charter School, 275 Oak St., Buffalo, NY |
| When: | Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. |
| Why: | To provide academic enrichment and a range of cultural and recreational opportunities for children with Developmental Disabilities. |
| Who: | (716) 874-7200 |
| What: | Teen Pals Program |
| Where: | Yad B'Yad, 2640 North Forest Dr., Getzville, NY |
| When: | Twice per month, once on the weekend, once during the week. Times vary. |
| Why: | Open to teenagers 13-18 who need help with social skills. Currently accepting names for a waiting list. |
| Who: | (716) 204-3583 for more information * Cost: \$200 for the year |
| What: | Heritage Christian Services Club House Adventure |
| Where: | Day Habilitation Site, 1000 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda, NY |
| When: | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. two Saturdays per month |
| Why: | A respite program for children and young adults with disabilities ages 3-25 who are eligible for services through the Western New York DDSO. Participants must reside in Erie, Orleans, Genesee or Niagara counties. Capacity is limited. |
| Who: | (716) 743-2020 or scardinal@heritagechristianservices.org for more information |
| What: | Friends Program |
| Where: | Yad B'Yad, 2640 North Forest Dr., Getzville, NY |
| When: | 20 outings per year, each approximately 2 hours long |
| Why: | Open to young adults age 18-30 with developmental disabilities living at home with family. Participate in age appropriate life activities that address life skill areas. Each participant will be matched with a volunteer. |
| *Cost: | <i>Need to have Medicaid waiver for funding.</i> |
| Who: | (716) 204-3583 for more information |
| | ** Note: Seeking college age volunteers to work with participants |
| What: | www.buffalodiocese.org/disabilities |
| Why: | To discover the spiritual resources provided to persons with disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo |
| What: | Youth Peer Support Groups |
| Where: | Various locations, days & times |
| Why: | A youth-run support group for adolescents 12-18 years old. Help plan a monthly activity and meet other youth. Sponsored by Erie County Family Voices Network in collaboration with the Mental Health Association of Erie County, Inc. |
| Who: | (716) 886-1242 x 327 for more information |

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| What: | Socialization & Recreation Group Program |
| Where: | Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center, 936 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY; various community locations. |
| When: | Every other Friday evening for 2 hours. |
| Why: | Teenagers aged 12-15 or 16-19 who have a developmental or medical disability may be eligible. Spaces are limited and are filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. |
| Who: | Program Coordinator at 878-1260 for an application packet. |
| What: | Free Adult Tutoring |
| Where: | Boys & Girls Beecher Clubhouse, 180 10 th Street, Buffalo NY |
| When: | Mondays & Wednesdays Noon – 2:00 p.m. |
| Why: | To help you get a job; speak better English, improve your reading and writing, get a GED, or read to your children. |
| Who: | Literacy Volunteers (716) 876-8991 |
| What: | Summit Educational Resources Classes |
| Where: | Summit Educational Academy, 150 Stahl Rd., Getzville, NY |
| When: | Call for more information |
| Why: | Classes are open to any parent of a child with developmental disabilities. |
| Who: | Mary Pat Sperrazza at (716) 629-3400 |
| What: | Aspire Mental Health Clinic |
| Where: | Aspire, 7 Community Drive, Cheektowaga, NY |
| Why: | An acute care, crisis prevention and intervention clinic that will provide short-term stabilization and therapy for dually diagnosed individuals with BOTH mental health & developmental disability diagnosis. |
| Who: | Mary Carol Roberson at (716) 505-5630 |
| What: | Common Sense Parenting Series |
| Where: | 115 Ash Street, Buffalo, NY |
| When: | Call for current dates and times. |
| Why: | Common sense parenting bringing parents together to address parenting issues |
| Who: | Jan Krull at (716) 677-7087 William Preston at (716) 563-5646 |
| What: | Continuing Education Classes and Parenting Classes |
| Where: | Various locations throughout Buffalo |
| When: | Call for class schedule |
| Why: | To help individuals with developmental disabilities further their education and achieve their highest level of independent living. |
| Who: | Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, (716) 824-5555 ext. 125 for info |
| What: | Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Family Series |
| Where: | Kleinhan's Music Hall, Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY |
| When: | Various dates through June 1 st at 2:30 p.m. Call for schedule of dates and fees. |
| Who: | George Thomas (716) 885-0331 ext. 417 |
| What: | Program Openings at Community Services |
| Where: | Various locations for various programs-call for schedule |
| Why: | The following programs have openings: At-Home Residential Habilitation, Just Chillin', Believe to Achieve, Vocational Day Habilitation, and Enhanced Services Program. All of these programs are designed to provide or obtain services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. |
| Who: | (716) 896-2180 |

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| What: | Girl Scout Leaders & Volunteers |
| Where: | Various locations in Erie County, Headquartered at 70 Jewett Pkwy, Buffalo NY |
| When: | Call for times & locations |
| Why: | For anyone who would like to be influential in creating women of courage, confidence and character. |
| Who: | Jessica Pollinger, (716) 837-6400 ext. 234, Girl Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County |
| What: | Power Wheelchair Soccer |
| Where: | Northtowns – Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns, 325 Franklin St., Tonawanda Southtowns – Elma Boys & Girls Club, 2080 Girdle Rd, Elma |
| When: | Various dates – Call for schedule. |
| Why: | Power Wheelchair Soccer - players must be in a power wheelchair and be able to understand the game and safely maneuver the power wheelchair. |
| *Cost: | <i>\$25 registration fee includes all equipment (can be waived based on ability to pay)</i> |
| Who: | Chris at (716) 685-3976 or www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org |
| What: | Danceability, Inc. |
| Where: | In the Tops/George Urban Plaza, 3859 Union Rd. Ste. 400, Cheektowaga, NY |
| When: | Call for schedule |
| Why: | A dance and creative movement program for children and adults with special needs. |
| Who: | (716) 651-0094 for schedule and fee structure |
| What: | SABAH |
| Where: | Amherst Pepsi Center, Niagara U Rink, Hamburg Town Arena and N. Buffalo Community Rink |
| When: | Evening and weekend programs |
| Why: | To provide you and your family with a positive fulfilling and enjoyable skating season |
| Who: | (716) 362-9600 |
| What: | Graceful & Gifted Dance Program |
| Where: | St. John de LaSalle School, 8477 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls NY |
| When: | Call for schedule of days, times and fee |
| Why: | A ballet oriented program for students with special needs, briefly touches on other forms of dance. |
| Who: | Susan Akin (716) 946-7909 |
| What: | Adapted Recreation Program of Cheektowaga |
| Where: | 275 Alexander Avenue, Cheektowaga NY |
| When: | October 2007 – May 2008 |
| Why: | A variety of adapted recreational activities and Special Olympic training. It is through these activities that participants can work on improving motor control, boost self-esteem, and increase social skills. |
| Who: | Call Amy at (716) 897-7205 |
| What: | Buffalo EXCELS Saturday Superstars Bowling League |
| Where: | Kenmore Bowling Lanes |
| When: | Saturday mornings January 12 – April 2008 |
| Why: | Have fun and make friends. The program is geared for ages 6-21 yrs.; 22 & older eligibility on case by case basis |
| *Cost: | <i>\$6 for shoes & bowling</i> |
| Who: | (716) 510-0317 for more information |
| What: | Touching Bases Adult Softball League |
| Where: | Lancaster NY |
| Why: | They are trying to build a daytime adult softball league in Lancaster, NY. Games would begin at 10:00 a.m. during the summer of 2008, practicing in July, playing games in August/September. |
| *Cost: | <i>\$35 per player-includes jersey, hat, insurance, banquet/luncheon & trophy.</i> |
| Who: | Laura Malkowski (716) 505-5532 for more information |

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| What: | Resource Lending Library |
| Where: | Autistic Services Inc., 4444 Bryant Stratton Way, Williamsville, NY |
| Why: | A place for the WNY community to turn for information about autism spectrum disorders. |
| Who: | Call Veronica Federiconi at 716-631-5777 for more information. |
| What: | Getting There Transportation Program |
| Where: | The Western New York Independent Living Project, Inc., Erie County |
| Why: | Provides transportation assistance to and from recreational activities. There are three levels of service, depending upon needs of the individual. Documentation of disability must be provided. |
| Who: | Ann Palmer at (716) 836-0822, ext. 18 |
| <i>*NOTE: Need volunteer drivers to transport people of all ages with developmental disabilities to various social activities. Must use your own vehicle. For more information, call Cathy at 836-0822, ext.150</i> | |
| What: | Paratransit Access Line (PAL) |
| Where: | Several stops located throughout WNY. |
| When: | Operates the same hours as Metro Bus & Rail service. |
| Why: | An accessible bus and rail system for individuals with disabilities. PAL provides curb-to-curb transportation service for various purposes, including social, medical and recreational activities. |
| Who: | (716) 855-7268 (voice), (716) 855-7377 (TDD), www.NFTA.com for application information. |
| What: | Community Education Classes for Adults with Special Needs |
| Where: | Frontier Community Learning Center, 4540 Southwestern Boulevard, Hamburg NY |
| When: | Call for schedule of dates, times & fees |
| Why: | Have fun and meet new people. Three classes are being offered: Blast Into Sound: Karaoke, Dancing & Group Singing; Drawing Class and Greeting Cards. |
| Who: | For more information or to register (716) 646-9412 |
| What: | Angel Food Ministries |
| Where: | Cazenovia Park Church |
| When: | Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. |
| Why: | Quality food at a great price. No income guidelines; no memberships; no obligation to purchase every month. |
| Who: | (716) 822-7925) for more information |

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