



# MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

WINTER 2014: VOLUME 9



Museum of  
disABILITY History  
A PROJECT OF PEOPLE INC.

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[www.facebook.com/museumofdisability](http://www.facebook.com/museumofdisability)

## Message from the Director



To those of us who don't enjoy frequent trips to the ski slope, the best part of winter is that it starts and it ends. We are quickly approaching the latter, which provides the psychological edge to keep pushing forward through a Western New York winter. I hope, like me, you have endured the arctic blast to date, and look forward to what will surely follow.

I am pleased to report that the Museum of disABILITY History ended the year with some very positive results in several key areas. The Museum enjoyed a "double-digit" increase in visitation and revenue for 2013. We certainly thank you for any part you have played in that success story and we look forward to continued growth in 2014.

Much of our attendance increase was a result of almost a dozen events that were held that covered some tremendous educational and entertaining topics. Since last I wrote to you in this newsletter, we have collectively enjoyed a very festive holiday event entitled, "Celebrate the Holidays with Universal Mind." On December 5, over 70 people joined with us to "get their groove on" as we listened and even danced to the beat of music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s presented by the musicians who

**“ The Museum enjoyed a ‘double-digit’ increase in visitation and revenue for 2013.”**

*continued on page 2*

## A Buffalo Institution

*By David Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President*



The campus of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center is a mysterious and eclectic mixture of the past and the present. The modern buildings, toward Elmwood Avenue,

sit in stark contrast to the nineteenth century inspired Richardson Olmsted Complex. Built with red Medina sandstone, the original hospital

buildings are cavernous and imposing. The twin towers, in front of what was once the center building, rise 185 feet above the park like grounds.

The original hospital buildings were designed by famed architect Henry H. Richardson and are known as Richardsonian Romanesque. The grounds were designed by the father of landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted.

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*"Message from the Director" continued from page 1*

are differently-abled of the band "Universal Mind." This group was formed in 2007 through Aspire of Western New York, and the eight very talented musicians enjoyed performing as much as we enjoyed listening! The holiday fare was, of course, delicious. Everyone who attended also enjoyed the great assortment of raffle baskets that went home with over 20 lucky winners. Many thanks to our members, Kathy Wood and Theresa Kolodzies, for their help in soliciting, gathering and beautifully wrapping all of the great gift baskets, too. (Kathy and Theresa have lent their image to the "I'm a Member" section in this edition, too)!

More recently, on January 31, we were pleased to welcome local author Anthony Antek, who presented in our "Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series." Anthony entitled his presentation, "The Bipolar Advantage: The Link to Creativity," sharing insight and stories of his own about being Bipolar, including humor as a coping mechanism. He also shared some of the positive aspects of being Bipolar, a topic that is not usually associated with many disabilities, but certainly helps us to focus on ability instead of disability. Anthony is the author of *Bipolar Buffalo - A Mosaic of Minds Journey*.

Our next event will be held on Friday, February 21 at 7 p.m. at the Museum. (I trust you have received this copy of "Moving Forward" in advance of this date, as it is very close to our production deadline for this newsletter. So for now, I will write in the future tense). Our International Advisory Board member, Dr. Kim Nielsen, will travel in from Toledo to present information from her latest book, *A Disability History of the United States*. Dr. Nielsen explains, "Disability is not just the story of someone we love or the story of who we may become; rather it is undoubtedly the story of our nation...covering the entirety of U.S. History. (This is) the first book to place the experiences of people with disabilities at the center of the American Narrative."

Michael Rembis, director, Center for Disability Studies, University of Buffalo cited Nielsen's work as, "A wonderful, beautifully written, remarkable achievement that will certainly become a classic within the field and should become standard reading."

Other happenings around the Museum will include a new element for our disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series. This annual event, traditionally held in October, will include a spring event, too. Coming up in April, we will host a screening of several short films that have been presented to the Festival Committee on topics related to disability history and awareness. We will seek your assistance to help us select a winner in this new Spring Film Festival Competition. We hope this will provide some well-deserved recognition for some budding film production teams around the nation.

Happening in May, we will be taking part in a collaboration event with other local museums to present, "History in Your Backyard." Seven local sites are teaming up to offer a joint admission event that will provide an incredible opportunity to visit some great museums in Erie and Niagara Counties, including: Herschell Carrousel Museum, Buffalo-Niagara Heritage Village (formerly the Amherst Museum), Niagara County History Center, Niagara Aerospace Museum, Col. William Bond-Jesse Hawley House, Erie Canal Discovery Center (my old stomping grounds) and the Museum of disABILITY History (my current assignment). The actual dates for this week-long event and other information will be shared soon.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of "Moving Forward, Looking Back." It's our pleasure to continue to serve such a great group of members and friends. We look forward to your next visit!

Think Spring!



Doug Farley, *Museum Director*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014



Dialogues on disABILITY  
**SPEAKER  
SERIES**  
Hosted by the Museum of disABILITY History

### Museum of disABILITY History's February Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series

The Museum of disABILITY History's Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series for the month of February will feature Dr. Kim E. Nielsen, professor of Disability Studies, History and Women's and Gender Studies from The University of Toledo. She is also a member of

the International Advisory Board for the Museum of disABILITY History. The presentation will be held on **Friday, February 21, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m.** Dr. Nielsen will review her book, *A Disability History of the United States*. **For more information or to register, call 716.629.3626.**



*Dr. Kim E. Nielsen*



# Monument for the Forgotten: Institutional Cemetery Restorations

By Sarah Jerge, Research Assistant



The Museum of disABILITY History is in the final stages of work for an upcoming exhibit, “Monument for the Forgotten: Institutional Cemetery

Restorations.” I’m excited to be part of the team that created this exhibit, which includes Doug Farley, Rachel Gottorff, Dave Mack-Hardiman, Doug Platt and Thomas Stearns. While researching cemetery restorations, I learned a lot about the idea of self-advocacy and how recent consumer/survivor groups have called attention to abandoned institutional cemeteries and demanded that the former patients buried in such cemeteries be properly memorialized.

Some people may wonder why cemetery restoration is so important. This work is important because it helps consumer/

survivor groups to form alliances and dispel the stigma of institutionalization. By restoring grave sites of former institutions, there is an acknowledgment that the patients who lived there were people, too, and deserve to be remembered. Forgotten and neglected graves convey a message of devaluing people with disabilities and contribute to the stigma that these people still face today. It shows that society has learned from the past and no longer condones the way people were treated in institutions. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the progress that has been made since the time of institutions.

I learned about self-advocacy groups from all over the country. They had similar feelings about cemetery restoration and why this work is so important and personal. Many feel “that could be me; if I was born 20 or 30 years earlier; I could be buried there and

no one would know.” This awareness is a driving force for consumer/survivor groups in the movement to restore cemeteries. It also demonstrates the importance and therapeutic value of this work.

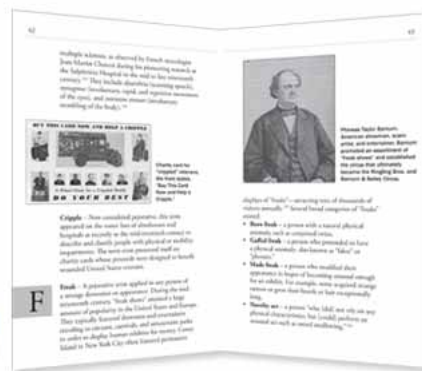
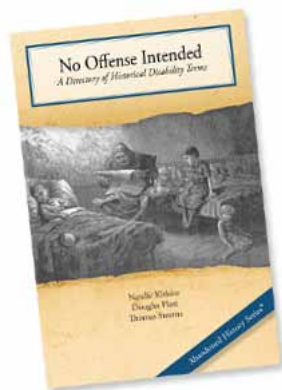
Maria Bell, self-advocate and one of the Museum of disABILITY History’s docents, gave some insight while discussing the upcoming exhibit. **“I know a lot of people who have passed away,” Maria said. “This is a way to do something positive with a negative situation. Everyone deserves to be remembered in a positive way.”**

The upcoming exhibit, “Monument for the Forgotten: Institutional Cemetery Restorations” represents a great opportunity to learn about some restorations that have taken place and honor people who were neglected in the past.



## New Book from Museum of disABILITY History Geared Towards Students

Geared towards students, the *No Offense Intended: The Directory of Historical Disability Terms* book is the result of research conducted by the Museum of disABILITY staff into the history of early New York State almshouses, hospitals, institutions and schools. Additionally, notes of frequently asked questions from visitors to the Museum of disABILITY History are included. Most of the terms were early practitioners’ attempts to clarify and identify the nature and causes of diseases and deviations in human behavior. As you read the directory, it is easily seen that, historically, yesterday’s diagnosis can, a few generations later, become negative and enter everyday language.



dictionary of terms, the book was created in response to the need to provide students, educators, Museum visitors and researchers with historic references that are connected to and associated with disabilities. Although the focus should be towards high school students as they approach graduation, it is beneficial and insightful to anyone who is interested in reading about how people with disabilities were perceived and treated in the past.

The book may be purchased in the Museum of disABILITY History Store,

3826 Main Street in Buffalo or online, [store.museumofdisability.org](http://store.museumofdisability.org), for \$12.95. **For more information, call 716.629.3626.**

The book was written with the intention of showing how attitudes toward people with disabilities have changed over the past couple of centuries. Instead of focusing on creating a comprehensive

The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. established People Ink Press in 2010, which is dedicated to publishing books related to disability history.

## A Perspective about the ADA

By B.J. Stasio, Self-Advocacy Liaison, Western Region One State Operations, Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

When I was younger, I was aware of civil rights. I was taught what it was about and why it was important. Little did I know the impact that it would have on my life when I finally moved out on my own. It was then that I realized the importance of the civil rights movement. I had no idea, nor did I make the connection, that there were disability rights.

My first experience with the disability rights movement, and coincidentally the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), was when I organized a protest against the lack of access to a neighborhood restaurant. When I asked why it was inaccessible, the restaurant owners explained that they weren't required to make it accessible under the ADA because it was a financial hardship. I organized a few other neighbors that I knew with disabilities and explained to them the situation with the restaurant. We set out front and just let people know why we were outside when they asked. I was just learning about the ADA at that time and I didn't know enough to explain my position. We were not successful in convincing them to make the restaurant accessible.

Later on, when I went to college, I had to fight for a larger bathroom. By that time, I knew enough about the ADA to make a persuasive argument. Therefore, the bathroom was modified. Soon after, during a public speaking class, I was assigned to write an essay about something that really had an impact on my life. The light came on and when I started writing the essay, I did more research on the ADA. What I understood from reading further was that even though the ADA was a federal law, the states could interpret it as they saw fit. My conclusion in the essay was that, as I like to say even in this day and age, "The goal of the law that was designed to help all those with disabilities to have more access and more opportunities, to live a more inclusive and "normal" life, became a little harder than was expected. In my view, in today's society, the ADA has no teeth to support those who really need accessibility. Issues the ADA, under its federal guidelines, should be addressing either get held up in litigation or businesses or organizations simply state



*BJ Stasio (center) participating in the freedom walk on the ADA birthday, protesting lack of transportation out to the Developmental Disabilities Services Offices (DDSO). Assemblyman Michael P. Kearns (left) also participated in the freedom walk.*

that they can't afford it. Therefore, under the ADA they are not obligated to do anything to make their businesses and organizations accessible.

In conclusion, I feel that the civil rights movements still continues in this day and time for people with many varying disabilities. They are fighting for what they believe is right and what they are entitled to as citizens and human beings. Our struggle, in my view, has many similarities with the civil rights. My hope is that, in the near future, we develop leaders who will state, "This is wrong! We are all equal! What can we do to work together in times of struggle?"

## Networking with the Amherst Chamber of Commerce

The Museum of disABILITY History hosted the Amherst Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event on January 21, 2014. About 60 Western New York business professionals enjoyed an evening of networking, refreshments and wine! Lots of business cards were shared, friends were reacquainted and guests had the chance to learn about one of the hidden gems in our area! Special thanks to the Amherst Chamber of Commerce team for their support and spreading awareness about the educational programs and services offered at the Museum of disABILITY History! We look forward to welcoming back members of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce throughout the year!





## Singing and Dancing!

Western New York band Universal Mind performed a holiday concert at the Museum of disABILITY History on December 5, 2013. Sponsored by Aspire of WNY, Universal Mind is comprised of musicians who are all differently-abled. Formed in 2007, they play all over the state, inspiring people to overcome their limitations. The event included delicious refreshments, a basket raffle and tours of the Museum. Guests even pushed tables aside and made their own dance floor!



*Universal Mind performs.*



*Dancing to the music!*



*Erie County Clerk Christopher Jacobs attended the Universal Mind holiday concert event and toured the Museum of disABILITY History with Penny and Barry Zeplowitz, supporters of the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc.*

## Top 10 Reasons to Visit the Museum of disABILITY History

Recently, an education class from Canisius College toured the Museum of disABILITY History. The students provided their own "top 10" list on why people should visit as well.

- 1 Meet Charlie, Izzy and Janet
- 2 Learning the timeline/ history
- 3 Lots of local history
- 4 Amazing artifacts
- 5 Interactive collections
- 6 See examples of pop culture
- 7 Information (startling!) on Eugenics
- 8 The impact of the Willowbrook event
- 9 Progression of laws
- 10 The final message - Invacar

# Actress with Down syndrome shows off her ‘Glee’ side

By Nicole Forgiore, Public Affairs Manager, People Inc.



I’m not ashamed to admit it, while visiting New York City in September of 2011, I stood close to a poster promoting Fox’s *Glee* television show and did the “Gleeek” symbol.

I’m a fan of the show for many reasons: routing for the underdogs – that being the New Directions Glee Club members – the dramas and admiring that the show focuses on being different – and that it is certainly alright. In between the singing and dancing, the show has focused on relationships, sexuality, family, bullying, social issues, school violence, death, inclusion and consequences of actions.

Being different is something the show has focused on since it started in 2009. One character of the show is Cheerio’s cheerleader Becky Jackson, who is played by Lauren Potter, an actress with Down syndrome. Though not one of the main cast members, her character has transformed over the years with more air time and punchy first liners that are sassy and funny!

Becky has been the sidekick of Sue Sylvester, played by Jane Lynch. Although the show

has steered in other directions, Sue has shown her tender side with Becky as she has a connection with her. Sue’s sister Jean had Down syndrome and passed away during an episode. Sue also has a baby, Robin, who has Down syndrome, even though that storyline has not been played to its entirety. Becky has had the chance to interact with some of the main characters on the show over the years, including Artie who uses a wheelchair because he is paralyzed, Tina who faked a stutter and graduate Puck, with whom she attended the prom. Additionally, Becky had a pivotal role in *Glee*’s “Shooting Star” in Season 4. In its current season, she learned about a college that she could attend – something she did not think she could do – that has an inclusive program, which assists people with developmental disabilities.



Lauren Potter; photo from Lauren Potter Facebook’s page.

While off camera, Potter advocates for people with developmental disabilities by working with organizations such as Best Buddies and the Down Syndrome Association; spreads anti-bullying messages and appeared in a Public Service Announcement, alongside actress Jane Lynch for the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign, which aims to end the use of the “R word.”



Fox 29 WUTV Buffalo recently donated an autographed and framed poster of cast members on *Glee* to the Museum of disABILITY History.

While the focus of certain characters may have changed on *Glee*, the show still promotes that being different – no matter what your ability is – and that following your dreams should always be a focus. To quote a line from Sue Sylvester from season one, when referring to Becky, Sue said: “she just wants to be treated like everyone else.”

## We are Members!



Colleen DiPirro, president and CEO, Amherst Chamber of Commerce



Christopher Jacob, Erie County Clerk



Dani Terranova, Account Executive, WTVB-TV Channel 4



NYS Senator Patrick M. Gallivan



## Support the Museum, Become a Member!

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With five different levels available, you can choose the one that is right for you. All supporting membership levels are good for one year.

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at [www.museumofdisability.org](http://www.museumofdisability.org). Click on the "Support Us" tab, click on "Membership," and then "Click Here to Become a Member." Thank you for your support!

Don't forget that as a member you receive free admission to the museum and events, and a 10% discount in the Museum Store!

[store.museumofdisability.org](http://store.museumofdisability.org)

“ We would like to thank you for our tour at the Museum of disABILITY History. We really enjoyed this visit and all the information we were able to hear and learn about. The cleanliness of the facilities and the building was excellent and inviting. Our tour guide was great, with much information and very pleasant to listen to.”

- Park Place Day Treatment, People Inc.

## New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members:

### Individual/Student

Jack Bienko  
Colleen DiPirro  
Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs  
Assemblyman Michael P. Kearns  
Patricia Kibler-Fries  
Karen Koch  
Dani Terranova  
Maureen Wiedeman

### Family/Dual

April Kimball and Brian Rose  
Joan Murray  
Char Szabo-Perricelli and Marcangelo Perricelli

### Friend

Art Beyond Sight  
Senator Patrick M. Gallivan  
Terese M. Scofidio  
Assemblyman Raymond Walter



*Volunteers Kathy Wood and Theresa Kolodziej*



*NYS Assemblyman Michael P. Kearns*



*Assemblyman Raymond Walter*



## Welcome to our New Research Assistant

Hello, my name is Sarah Jerge and I just started working as a research assistant at the Museum of disABILITY History this past November. I have been with People Inc. for more than three years and previously worked at one of People Inc.'s residences.

Since working at the Museum, I have assisted with research for the upcoming exhibit, "Monument for the Forgotten: Institutional Cemetery Restorations" – contributing information to the National Perspectives portion of that exhibit. I recently began research on the Buffalo Psychiatric Center for an upcoming publication. I have also been researching sites for the upcoming Trolley Tour. Another topic that I have spent some time on is alternative medicine in Niagara Falls and Lockport. This research is part of an ongoing project with Dr. James M. Boles, EdD, president and chief executive officer of People Inc., and will be published in two separate books.

I am very happy to have joined the Museum of disABILITY History and cannot wait until the exhibits and publications that I have been a part of are available for everyone to see!

Hope to see you at the Museum of disABILITY History,  
Sarah Jerge

“ I am very happy to have joined the Museum of disABILITY History.”

## New to the Store

By Pamela Formoso, Museum Store Manager



One of the most pivotal moments in disABILITY History occurred in 1990, when President George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act. On the day of the signing, people celebrated across the United States. One of these celebrations

occurred in New York City, where people marched through the streets of Herald Square, holding signs and waving flags. Days like these represent life-changing events in disABILITY History and are what the Museum tries to highlight.

The Museum also focuses on the various accomplishments of people with disabilities. Without a doubt, Helen Keller is one of these people. Being a woman with not just one life hindering disability, but two, she decided to overcome it and be the best she could be with the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan.

You are probably on the edge of your seat wondering what could be new in the store emulating the above inspiring points in disABILITY History. It is exciting to announce the arrival of our brand new line of t-shirts in the Museum store. Bearing the Museum name and original establishment date, these great souvenirs will certainly spark conversation. With a vibrant new look, we have successfully portrayed the first Disability Independence Day in 1990, as well as a historical portrait of a young Helen Keller with her teacher Anne Sullivan and guide dog. Sizes from small to 2X are available in the colors kiwi green, savanna brown, honey yellow, burnt orange and gravel gray.

Stop in and get yours today or find them online at [store.museumofdisability.org!](http://store.museumofdisability.org!)





*“A Buffalo Institution” from page 1*

Patients were divided by sex, with the women living in the western wards and the men residing on the eastern side. First called The Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, the complex was designed according to the Kirkbride plan. All of the connected buildings were arranged in echelon formation to allow the patients to receive maximum sunlight and fresh air. Three of the wards on the eastern side were demolished to make way for modern

buildings in the 1960s. Buffalo State Hospital, as it was known secondly, became Buffalo Psychiatric Center. The interior of the main building features exquisite hardwoods and will be converted to a multi-use facility, including a hotel, in the next few years.

People Ink Press and the Museum of disABILITY History are planning an ambitious publication to chronicle the

history of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. We are actively seeking former patients, their families and former employees to provide their perspectives in regard to the facility. We will maintain confidentiality. **If you are interested in participating in this publication, contact Doug Platt at [dplatt@people-inc.org](mailto:dplatt@people-inc.org) or call 716.629.3608.**



## Grant and Donation News



The Museum of disABILITY History was pleased to receive a donation of \$860 from the Western District New York State Physical Therapy Association. The funds represent the proceeds of the Association’s Holiday Party. Presenting the check to Museum director, Doug Farley, are Jacob (Jake) McPherson, Alanna Pokorsla and Theresa Kolodzies.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Are you a former employee, patient or family member of a patient of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center? People Ink Press is working on a publication detailing the history of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center and we want to hear from you! We are committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Contact Doug at [dplatt@people-inc.org](mailto:dplatt@people-inc.org) or 716.629.3608.

*The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. established People Ink Press in 2010, which is dedicated to publishing books related to disability history.*



PEOPLE INK PRESS



Museum of  
disABILITY History  
A PROJECT OF PEOPLE INC.



## Classic Reprint Series

By Thomas Stearns, Research Assistant



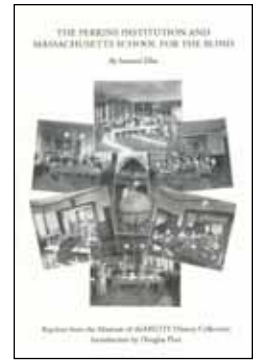
In an effort to highlight our ever expanding collection of archival materials, the Museum of disABILITY History recently launched

the “Classic Reprint Series.” This new series features reprints of notable articles from the annals of disABILITY History. Each article is introduced by Douglas Platt, Museum curator, who provides historical context and contemporary insights – making these unique publications that will engage and educate students and the public alike.

“The Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind,” the series’ first title, was published in *New England Magazine* in February 1897. Written by Samuel Eliot – a historian, educator and long-time trustee of both the Perkins School for the Blind and the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded – the article provides an in-depth reflection on the first 66 years of the oldest school for the blind in the United States. Eliot discusses the school’s formation, the educational methods that were used,

important donors and supporters and he offers an account of one of the most famous students to graduate from the school: Laura Bridgman, the first deaf and blind person that learned to communicate through language. The article features many interesting images that show the school’s original buildings, people and methods of instruction. This reprint is a very informative read about the United States’ earliest attempt to educate people who were blind.

“The Education of the Feeble-Minded,” the second title in the series, was published in *New England Magazine* in 1900. Written by Kate Gannett Wells – a philanthropist, reformer, writer and member of the Massachusetts State Board of Education for more than 20 years – the article examines the development of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded at Waltham, Massachusetts. Originally established by Dr.



Samuel G. Howe in 1848 as an experimental school “for teaching and training idiotic children,” it was the first public school of its kind in the United States. In addition to examining the school’s history and the people who were most influential during its formative years, Wells explores the successes of individual students, the school’s educational methods and what the future may hold for the school and feeble-minded people in general. This reprint is a fascinating glimpse into the field of special education at a time when eugenic principles were becoming more prominent.

These reprints are now available for only \$4.95 at our Museum store and online at [store.museumofdisability.org/books-cards](http://store.museumofdisability.org/books-cards).



**SAVE THE DATE!**

disabilityfilmfest.org

Spring 2014

**disABILITIES**

Film Festival and Speaker Series

Friday, April 25, 2014

Dipson Amherst Theatre

## Publications Now Available

The list of books published under People Ink Press and the Museum of disABILITY History continues to grow. These publications are part of our efforts and mission to create a more accepting society. Books can be purchased in person at the Museum of disABILITY History Store, located inside the Museum at 3826 Main Street, Buffalo, NY. Questions? **Give us a call at 716.629.3626.** Can’t make it in to the store? Check out the Museum Store online at [store.museumofdisability.org](http://store.museumofdisability.org). Most books are available to purchase online as E-books through Amazon (Kindle) and Barnes and Noble (Nook).







## Here and there with the Museum of disABILITY History: In the Area and Around the World

By Doug Platt, Curator

It is gratifying when guests give positive feedback on their Museum experience and then share it with the staff. Sometimes the guest is moved to offer a donation. Here are some recent testimonials from visitors:

“ Following my visit to the Museum of disABILITY History two weeks ago, and our conversation at the end of our tour, I approached our administration here at St. Mary’s School for the Deaf about the possibility of donating a used TDD device to the Museum for you to use for your display on deaf culture and history. I have secured a TDD for you, and would like to drop it off at the Museum.”

When visitors realize that they are a part of the history, and can play a part in telling the story, it is very gratifying.

Our Traveling exhibits also are a vehicle for extending the Museum of disABILITY History experience (especially in New Jersey):

“ We have so enjoyed having the Reel Life Display here at Ramapo. It was such a wonderful addition to our week of programming this week and so many stopped by to view it and read it.”

- Ramapo College of New Jersey

The exhibits on Self Advocacy: A History of People Speaking Up for Themselves and In the Game: Sports and Disability went to Ocean County College, New Jersey and The Kennedy Connection was a month long guest at Scotch Plains Public Library (also New Jersey).

The Museum’s website and archives are attracting attention as well:

“ My colleague and I are working on the project titled Disability and Inclusion Curricula for Museum Studies Students and we would very much like to use some of the incredible resources on your site for this project, as well as feature your museum as a short case study. Art Beyond Sight Museum Education Institute 589 Broadway, 3rd floor New York, NY 10012” and “I came across the Museum of disABILITY History website during research for a book I am writing about disability and popular culture....Being based in Western Australia it is difficult to visit the museum, although I’d love to. It looks fantastic.”

- Dr. Katie Ellis, Senior Research Fellow, Curtin University

The reach and influence that our traveling exhibits, website and archives offer the public are a source of pride for the Museum staff and a reason for repeat customers:

“ After the success and interest we had with your displays from last year, we were wondering if the two displays we rented last year would be available for us to rent again this year?”

- Suzanne Johnson LCSW-R, Buffalo State Counseling Center

The Museum of disABILITY History is are equally proud of being part of the Western New York cultural scene:

“ Once again, I would like to applaud you and your staff for ALL of your work in making the Museum of disABILITY History such an interesting and informative place to visit here in WNY.”

- Director of Professional Experiences Canisius College/ St. Mary’s Cooperative Program

### Disability History comes to you!



Disability themed exhibits available to rent for businesses, schools, colleges, conferences and events.

The Museum of disABILITY History proves that everything’s possible. It is a trusted, go-to resource for anyone that is looking to learn about the history, challenges and achievements of individuals with disabilities over the past few centuries. Here, the history of people with disabilities becomes alive.

**Enhance your event. Educate your community. Reserve an exhibit today! 716.629.3626**

## New Docent Joins the Team

The Museum of disABILITY History Docents would like to welcome a new member to the team. Isaac Cote started as a docent in February. We are pleased to have him join us and to learn from him and his experiences with different types of adaptive equipment.

Here is some more information from Isaac about himself.

“ My name is Isaac Cote. I am outgoing, funny and like to have fun. I am currently a senior at the People Inc. Young Adult Life Transitions (YALT) Program at Daemen College. Some of the things I value are working on increasing my math and career skills. I have participated in numerous internships. My favorite places to intern have been St. Joe’s hospitality cart and Baker Victory culinary classes. I recently moved into a house with some of my peers from YALT. I especially love to cook with my housemates and staff! I am also working on obtaining my driver’s permit and have dreams to open up my own Italian/Mexican restaurant in Buffalo in the next few years!”

## Museum of disABILITY History’s January Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series



As part of its Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series, the Museum of disABILITY History hosted author Anthony Antek on January 31. He presented “The Bipolar Advantage: The Link to Creativity.” He shared insight and stories of his own about being Bipolar, including humor as a coping mechanism. He also shared some of the positive aspects of being Bipolar, a topic that is not usually associated with many disabilities, but helps people to focus on ability instead of disability. Antek is author of *Bipolar Buffalo – A Mosaic of Minds Journey*.



### MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14226  
716.629.3626  
info@museumofdisability.org  
www.museumofdisability.org  
store.museumofdisability.org

### MUSEUM HOURS

**Monday-Saturday:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Closed

### ADMISSION

#### General Admission:

Museum Members.....FREE  
People Inc. employees.....FREE  
Adults.....\$5.00  
Students, Seniors, and Human Service Employees.....\$2.50  
Children ages 6-17.....\$2.00  
Children ages 5 and under.....FREE

#### Group Tour Rates:

**All groups** (greater than or equal to 10 people): \$4 per person  
**Rental of the KeyBank Room** (1st Floor, up to 20 people): \$50 fee added to the total amount per person  
**Rental of the Main Training Room** (2nd Floor w/ elevator access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount per person

www.facebook.com/Museumofdisability  
 www.twitter.com/Musedisability  
 www.youtube.com/Museumofdisability

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History advances the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. The Museum’s exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.

### STAFF

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David Mack-Hardiman - *Associate Vice President*  
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Pamela Formoso - *Museum Store Manager*  
Sarah Jerge - *Research Assistant*  
Thomas Stearns - *Research Assistant*

### DOCENT STAFF

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Maria Bell - *Docent*  
Isaac Cote - *Docent*  
Israel Cruz - *Docent*  
Charles Degraffenried - *Docent*