

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • FEBRUARY 2001

World Winter Games are Announced in New York City

New York athletes are highlighted during SOI media blitz promoting upcoming Alaska games.

World Games athletes Alicia Zeitz and Nicholas Zmuda skated on the famous Rockefeller Center ice and fielded questions from the media as part of a whirlwind World Games promotional kick-off that included an appearance on the "Today" show.

Zeitz and Zmuda, both Sargent Shriver Global Messengers from Area 22 in western New York, were the guests of Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics president and chief executive officer, and a delegation from SOI who visited the city to begin an aggressive promotion of the World Games in Alaska, which will take place March 4 to 11 in Anchorage. Shriver was interviewed by CNN, "Entertainment Tonight" and *USA Today*, as well as the New York City media.

But he gladly shared the spotlight with Zmuda and Zeitz, who posed for

photographs at Rockefeller Center and had the chance to meet "Today" hosts Katie Couric, Matt Lauer and Al Roker, who interviewed them in the plaza outside the studio.

"It was awesome," said Zmuda, "Alicia and I had a great time. We can't wait to go to Alaska and skate against the world."

Zeitz and Zmuda will join 2,700 athletes from 80 countries at the World Games, which will be the largest sporting event ever held in Alaska.

"The theme of the 2001 Special Olympics World Games, 'Challenging New Frontiers,' highlights the spirit and determination of the Special Olympics athletes," Shriver said. "This is a reminder that they are the real leaders of the movement in this new century." ■

See more photos p. 4.



Alicia Zeitz and Nick Zmuda perform their pairs routine at Rockefeller Center. The performance was part of World Winter Games media day.

Syracuse Prepares to Welcome Special Olympics

Winter Games to visit the city for the first time ever.

Athletes from around the state are preparing to converge on Syracuse for the Special Olympics New York Winter Games Feb. 23 to 25.

More than 850 athletes and coaches will take part in the Games, joining hundreds of sponsors and volunteers for the annual competition, which is taking place in Syracuse for the first time in the history of Special Olympics New York.

"The Special Olympics athletes from



New York are truly lucky to have such a fine host city," said Director of Competition Peter Lawrence. "The venues our athletes will compete on are first rate and the entire Syracuse community has welcomed us with open arms."

The Games are the culminating competition for Special Olympics skiers, skaters and hockey players. For eight of these athletes, the Winter Games will mark their final preparation for the World Winter Games in March. The World Games athletes, along with three coaches from New York, will take off from Syracuse to Alaska on March 1. A send-off party and news conference is planned the night before at the headquarters of the New York

(Continued on p. 5)

What's

INSIDE

3 Sectional Season

5 State Winter Games

6 Around the State

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



By the time *Triumph* shows up in your mailbox, Special Olympics New York will have formally announced that the Summer Games will be in Buffalo for the next two years.

The announcement itself is great. We're very happy to be returning to Buffalo, where we haven't held Summer Games there since 1988.

However, what makes this announcement extra special is the people who will be by our side at the news conference and through the months of planning.

Danny Wegman of the Wegmans supermarket chain, and Bob and Mindy Rich from Rich Products Corporation, are teaming up in a rare partnership to help our athletes. The Wegmans and the Rich's are family people who operate outstanding family-run businesses and they have signed on to help the Special Olympics family. We could not have asked for a better or more promising partnership to help us organize these games.

There's Erie County Sheriff Pat and Mary Pat Gallivan, who will serve as co-chairs of the Local Organizing Committee. They have had a long association with Special Olympics and provide the leadership needed to keep all the parts moving in sync.

This committee is loaded with people who are able to make a tremendous impact on our effort to attract sponsors, raise awareness and provide an incredible event for the 2,200 athletes and coaches who will participate.

People from many other organizations have eagerly jumped in to help, including Carr Marketing Communications, The New York Lottery, Adelpia, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., National Fuel and many, many others. I can't name them all in this space, but you will hear from them – and about them – over the next two years, including in next month's issue of *Triumph*.

If it sounds like I'm gushing it's because, well, I am. A great committee means a great event for the athletes. That's what we're all after. ■

2001 Calendar of Events

February

- | | | | |
|--------|--|----|---|
| 3 | Sections 1, 2, 3 Winter Games, West Mountain, Glens Falls, and Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs | 23 | Executive Committee of the Board of Directors meeting, NYSUT offices, Albany |
| 3 | Sect. 2 Floor Hockey competition, Hendrick Hudson High School, Montrose | 24 | Section 5 Basketball, Seneca Falls |
| 10 | Sections 4 & 5 Floor Hockey competition, New York Chiropractic College, Seneca Falls | 28 | Section 5 Event Directors' meeting, Geneseo |
| 11 | LETR Polar Plunge, Lake Ontario | 31 | Section 3 Aquatics/Basketball competition, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs |
| 19 | Presidents Day, SONY offices closed | | |
| 22-24 | USLC/SOI business meetings, San Diego, California | | |
| 23 -25 | 2001 Winter Games, Syracuse | | |
| 25 | Board of Directors meeting Hotel Syracuse, 9:15 to noon | | |

Also scheduled during March, with dates to be confirmed:

- Section 1 meeting*
- Section 2 meeting*
- Training Schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

APRIL

- | | |
|----|---|
| 21 | Section 1 Basketball/Aquatics Fordham University, Bronx |
| 21 | Section 4 Aquatics/Basketball SUNY Oswego |

Also scheduled during April, with dates to be confirmed:

- Area Coordinators Council Meeting
- Training Schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

*** Please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office for details**

March

- | | |
|------|--|
| 4-11 | World Winter Games, Anchorage, Alaska |
| 10 | Sections 3 and 4 Bowling (under 21) competition, Clifton Park Bowl, Clifton Park |
| 10 | Office Furniture USA Golf Challenge, Golf Dome, Latham |
| 17 | LETR Polar Plunge, Fishkill |

Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Athletes and Coaches Prepare for Sectional Competition Season

Competitions set throughout state for coming months.

Athletes across the state have been training for weeks now in preparation for local, sectional and state competitions. The sectional season began Jan. 27 with the Section 1 Floor Hockey Tournament at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx.

Sectionals are held throughout the competitive year and act as a primer to athletes who wish to attend state level competitions.

Special Olympics New York organizes more than 20 sectionals every year, providing competitive opportunities for

thousands of athletes. These sectionals are just a handful of more than 400 competitions held annually across the state.

“Sectional competitions are quite important because they give more athletes a chance to participate and allow individuals the opportunity to compete against different athletes from areas in close proximity who may not be able to go to the state games,” said Sectional Sports Director Erin Griffiths.

If you would like more information about any of the sectionals on the right, or are interested in volunteering, call Griffiths at 518-388-0791. ■

Winter and Spring Sectional Competition Schedule

February	3	Sections 1,2,3 Winter Games Glens Falls & Saratoga Springs
	3	Section 2 Floor Hockey Montrose
	10	Section 4 & 5 Floor Hockey Seneca Falls
March	10	Sections 3 & 4 Bowling Clifton Park
	31	Section 3 Aquatics/ Basketball Saratoga Springs
April	21	Section 1 Aquatics/ Basketball Bronx
	21	Section 4 Aquatics/ Basketball SUNY Oswego
May	19	Section 2 Volleyball Mamaroneck
TBD		Section 5 Aquatics/ Volleyball
June	2	MetroTournament (Sections 1 & 2) Manhattan
	2	Sections 3 & 4 Summer Games University at Albany
	9	Sections 4 & 5 Equestrian TBD

You've Got Mail

New e-mail addresses keep Area programs connected.

In an effort to improve communications with Areas and between Areas, Special Olympics New York has set up an e-mail account for each Area through the Internet server Yahoo!.

Each Area has a separate account name. For example, Area 1's name is sonyarea1 and its address is sonyarea1@yahoo.com. Passwords to access your accounts can be obtained through your director of field services or by calling Erin Griffiths at 518-388-0791.

Please be advised that at this time, information is being e-mailed regarding

reminders, important dates, deadlines, updates, etc. Any important information that requires a response will also be forwarded through regular mail.

Special Olympics New York urges coaches, key volunteers and Area committee members to utilize this service to communicate with Special Olympics staff so they may become aware of deadlines and important information.

This free service will become a larger part of the effort to improve communication within the organization. ■

PPPPolar PPPlunges PPPlanned

Cops at different ends of the state host frigid dips to support the LETR.



Participants from last year's Polar Plunge in Fishkill enjoy a much warmer post-plunge dip in a hot tub. More than 100 are expected to participate this year.

Hundreds of obviously nerve-hending-deprived people will dip into frigid waters in Rochester and Fishkill during the next two months to raise money for Special Olympics.

Two Polar Plunges are planned by members of the Special Olympics New York Law Enforcement Torch Run committee.

Town of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Chris Hamel is organizing a Polar Plunge at Lake Mariah on the Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on March 17. More than 100 people are expected to participate.

In Rochester, Sgt. Sal Gerbino of the

Gates Police Department is coordinating a plunge into Lake Ontario Feb. 11 as part of Charlotte's Annual Winter Fest. Gerbino said this inaugural plunge will likely draw more than 100 hundred people, who must pay a \$10 registration fee and collect at least \$50 in pledges.

“We are hoping to make it one of the most exciting fund-raising events in the Rochester area,” Gerbino told the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*.

Hamel's event raised \$17,000 last year.

To register for the Rochester plunge, call 716-454-8256. To participate in the Fishkill plunge, call 845-485-3695. ■



Skaters perform On Rockefeller Center Ice to National Audience



Alicia Zeitz poses for the Associated Press with Tim Shriver, Nadia Comaneci, Bart Connor and World Games Organizing Committee Chairman Ben Stevens.



Nick Zmuda is interviewed by Al Roker outside the "Today" show set.



Zmuda and Zeitz skate to the theme from "Chicken Run."



See story, p.1



Zeitz chats with some other gold medalists, Connor and Comaneci.

WeMedia Magazine Offers Free Subscription

Glossy publication aimed at providing total access to people with disabilities.

WeMedia, Inc., a company devoted to revolutionizing access for people with disabilities, is offering its flagship magazine for free.

People who subscribe to WeMedia.com are being offered the glossy, high-end bimonthly publication, *WeMedia* magazine, for one year, or six issues.

WeMedia is an innovative service provider, enabling its Web site visitors the options of using such assistive devices as voice browsers, blow tubes and adaptive keyboards to navigate the site.

For the past year, Special Olympics New York has partnered with WeMedia in its effort

to educate the world that people with disabilities should be recognized for their abilities.

WeMedia hosts the Special Olympics New York Web site and offers a link to specialolympicsnewyork.org to visitors of wemedia.com. Thousands of nonprofit organizations around the world are part of the WeMedia network.



WeMedia magazine was founded in 1997 by entrepreneurs Jerome Belson and Cary Fields, who have worked for more than 40 years with organizations that serve the disabled. Both founders share a common

goal of developing strategies to improve the lives of people with disabilities through a

variety of media offerings, including print, interactive, broadcast and wireless communications. Belson and his wife, Maxine, are members of the Special Olympics New York family. Maxine served on the Board of Directors until last year.

WeMedia magazine is a consumer lifestyles publication that covers news, sports, technology and feature-length articles. The magazine is aggressive in its advocacy and employs a refreshing approach to its design and content, often using amputees to model clothes, which is unique in the world of advertising.

WeMedia magazine has won accolades for its impressive editorial content and innovative approach to cross-disability issues. Formerly *We* magazine, the publication was renamed in September.

Subscribe to *WeMedia* magazine by logging on to www.wemedia.com and following the instructions on the home page. ■

Syracuse Businesses Come Through Again

Athletes will enjoy a premier event thanks to corporate generosity.

The Special Olympics New York Winter Games has been made possible by the contribution of volunteers and corporate sponsorship. More than two dozen businesses surrounding Syracuse have supported this year's Winter Games.

Official sponsors for this year's games include Cingular Wireless, P&C Foods, Time Warner Cable - Syracuse, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and Clear Channel Communications.

I am very pleased that the community recognizes the importance of Special Olympics to the athletes, their families and to the community at large.

--George Lee

Sen. John DeFrancisco, R-Syracuse, was instrumental in securing a \$10,000 New York state tourism grant for these Games. The Gold Medal sponsors are Carrier Corp., Agway Energy Products, Eagle Newspapers, Onondaga County Teachers Association and The Dental Society of the State of New York.

The Silver Medal sponsors include PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, Sensis Corp., Syracuse China, Schaap Moving Systems, Lockheed Martin Employees Federated

Fund, KeyBank and Ogden Martin Systems of Onondaga.

"I am very pleased that the community recognizes the importance of Special Olympics to the athletes, their families and to the community at large," said George Lee, honorary chairman of the Local Organizing Committee. "I encourage others to follow the existing positive examples and become fans, friends and sponsors next year."

Sara Daggett, first vice chair of the Special Olympics New York Board of Directors and a 25-year volunteer from Onondaga County, said that the generosity of the sponsors has a direct impact on the athletes.

"We are extremely grateful for the support and contribution that the sponsors give to Special Olympics," said Daggett. "The sponsorships allow the athletes to demonstrate their extraordinary skills in competition. That's what we're all about." ■

Gold Medal Sponsors

Carrier Corporation
Eagle Newspapers
Onondaga County Teachers Assoc.
Agway Energy Products
The Dental Society of the State of New York

2001 Winter Games Official Sponsors



2001 Winter Games Schedule of Events

Friday, February 23

1 p.m. -- 4 p.m.	Registration Hotel Syracuse
6 -- 7:30 p.m.	Sponsor Reception Hotel Syracuse Families Tailgate Party Oncenter
8 -- 9 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies Oncenter

Saturday, February 24

9 a.m. -- 6 p.m.	Competition
10 a.m.	Alpine Toggenburg Ski Center
1:45 p.m.	Figure Skating Sunnycrest Rink
9 a.m.	Floor Hockey Team/Skills Oncenter
9:00 a.m.	Nordic Skiing Toggenburg Ski Center
1:45 p.m.	Speed Skating Sunnycrest Rink
10 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.	Olympic Village Oncenter
6:30 -- 9:30 p.m.	Victory Dance

Winter Games

(Continued from p. 1)

State United Teachers.
The state

Winter Games will begin at the Oncenter in downtown Syracuse with the Opening Ceremonies, featuring the Liverpool High School Marching

Band and the traditional Parade of Athletes. Time Warner Cable – Syracuse will show a live broadcast of the ceremonies and offer it to cable outlets around the state.

Competitions will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24, and the day will conclude with Closing Ceremonies and the Victory Dance at the storied Hotel Syracuse.

It's no secret that the work of our volunteers and the support of our sponsors is at the core of our mission

-- Neal J. Johnson

Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York, thanked the sponsors and volunteers, including members of the Local Organizing Committee, who have worked behind the scenes for the past eight months to plan the Games.

"It's no secret that the work of our volunteers and the support of our sponsors is at the core of our mission. Nowhere is that more evident than at competitions," Johnson said. "When you see the athletes competing later this month, and when you see their jubilation, you'll know that a sponsor and volunteer helped make that moment happen." ■

Planned Giving is for the Living

SONY revs up program by joining Olympus Society.

Special Olympics New York has joined a national effort by Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) to educate donors about the many facets of planned giving, including the myth that planned gifts are only made in wills.

The term “planned giving” refers to charitable gifts that require some planning before they are made. Planned gifts are popular because they can provide valuable tax benefits and/or income for life.

“With a little planning, your personal philanthropy can become more meaningful for you and your family and may enable you to make more substantial contributions than you ever thought possible,” said Beth Costello, director of development for Special Olympics New York. “Through a comprehen-

sive planned giving program you can provide long range financial support for Special Olympics New York and the athletes we serve while improving your personal and family tax outlook.”

In November, Special Olympics New York joined a nationwide campaign by SOI to provide information to donors about the various types of planned giving and how they can provide immediate tax relief. The Olympus Society recognizes and honors those individuals who have provided planned gifts, including bequests, trusts and contracts between a donor and Special Olympics New York.

For more information, please call Costello at 800-836-6976 or write her at bcostell@nyso.org. ■

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12.5 percent of each paid subscription is donated to Special Olympics New York.

Around the State

Rockland County, Area 4

Area 4 will hold a Floor Hockey championship at St. Agatha's in Nanuet at 6:15 p.m. Feb. 14. For more information, call Nancy Hogan, 854-267-2543.



Ulster County, Area 6

Gina Wayman organized the First Annual SnowBall. The fund-raising dance was a success with 100 people in attendance and an additional \$1,100 collected through raffles and auctions.

Dutchess County, Area 7

The ARC Recreation Club Tigers and Devereaux basketball teams conducted a demonstration at halftime of a Marist College women's basketball game. Dutchess County will host a basketball invitational at Marist College on March 24. For more information, call 845-868-7707.

Sullivan County, Area 32

Buddy Goldsmith, a former gymnastics volunteer, who was involved in Special Olympics for 30 years, has rejoined the Area Executive Committee.

Capital District, Area 10

In Albany, the 5th Annual Special Olympics New York – Capital District Volleyball and Unified Volleyball Tournament will be held April 21 at the Marcelle Athletics Center at Siena College. This tournament will include teams of all ability levels promoting the aspect of sportsmanship, fair play, and competition.

Manhattan, Area 33

Special Olympics New York – Manhattan hosted a fund-raiser at the Gotham Comedy Club. The event was a tremendous success, garnering \$1,600 for the Area program.

Broome-Tioga Counties, Area 14

Area 14 has completed its annual sale of luminaria kits. One kit consists of 10 bags and 10 candles. Luminarias are candles that are placed in a paper bag with the candle set in a mound of sand. People light them at night to bring attention to a particular cause. The Area 14 luminaria bags achieved that goal with the Special Olympics logo branded on the side. The sales generated \$5,000 over the holiday season.

Onondaga County, Area 16

An athlete dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m., Feb. 10, at the Northminster Church, 7444 Buckley Road, North Syracuse. There is no admission fee. Bring a guest.

Jefferson/Lewis Counties, Area 18

Jean M. Queal, a multisport coach and long-time volunteer, recently attended a check-passing ceremony hosted by the Watertown Wal-Mart store. Queal accepted a check for \$500 on behalf of Area 18.

Monroe County, Area 20

On Jan. 22, 2001, the Rochester Press-Radio Club held its 52nd Annual Day of Champions Dinner at the Riverside Convention Center. Special Olympics New York – Monroe County was honored for more than two decades of service to the community. The Area program serves more than 1,600 athletes in 23 sports.

Please call, fax or e-mail your area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

Special Olympics to Benefit From New Giving Option

OppenheimerFunds Legacy Program provides an alternative to traditional philanthropy.

Special Olympics New York may soon see the benefits of an increasingly popular charitable giving alternative, thanks to the new Legacy Program created by OppenheimerFunds, Inc.

OppenheimerFunds, Inc. (OFI) recently announced the launch of the OppenheimerFunds Legacy Program, a donor-advised fund intended to provide tax relief and other benefits to the donor.

While donor-advised – also known as donor-directed – funds have existed for many years, they have increased in popularity in the past five years as

people seek to increase tax deductions on their charitable gifts, donate to multiple charities or are interested in establishing private foundations but do not want the burden of self-administration.

Special Olympics has had a long-standing relationship with OppenheimerFunds Inc. They have sponsored events in New York City in the past, including the Metro Tournament. The company looks to increase its commitment to Special Olympics in the future.

“We are excited about being one of the nonprofits to potentially benefit from a

program such as the OppenheimerFunds Legacy Program,” said Timothy Shriver, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics, Inc. “The Legacy Program will bring more charitable dollars into the

philanthropic community, which can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with mental retardation who benefit from possible contributions to Special Olympics.”



Here's how it works:

Donors make an initial irrevocable contribution of \$10,000 and make subsequent contributions of at least \$1,000. Donors can recommend grants to

qualified charities, including Special Olympics, and may establish an account without any purchase or redemption fee. Donors may also personalize their accounts to honor a loved one or their family, e.g. The John Doe Fund.

The Legacy Program is a registered tax-exempt public charity. A contribution of appreciated publicly traded securities to the program will not result in capital gains taxes for the donor. The Legacy Program Board of Directors must approve all grant recommendations. Participants are eligible for a tax deduction for the full amount of their contribution.

For more information, call 877-OFI-GIVE or visit www.opplegacy.org.

The Legacy Program will bring more charitable dollars into the philanthropic community, which can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with mental retardation.

-- Timothy Shriver

Letters

Dear Special Olympics New York:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I want you to know how thrilled I am to be given the opportunity and great honor of representing New York law enforcement and Special Olympics New York by running in the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Alaska. I have always been proud to be associated with such a fantastic organization as Special Olympics and such an opportunity is one that I accept with great pride.

I have always believed that individuals should be given every chance to show what they can do, not what they can't do. This is one reason that I have

dedicated my time and efforts to the athletes of Special Olympics. Every time I get to see a competition, I am humbled by the grace and skills of these incredible athletes. As I run through Alaska with the Flame Of Hope, I will be remembering each of them and looking forward to the opportunity to do even more to help the athletes of Special Olympics New York.

Sincerely,
Officer Chris Hamel
Town of Poughkeepsie Police

Hamel was the 1999 Special Olympics New York Volunteer of the Year.

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York., 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.

In The Next Issue of Triumph

Buffalo Summer Game are Announced

What the Athletes can Expect at the World Games

The State of Sportmanship in Special Olympics



Special Olympics

New York

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or by e-mail to dhand@nyso.org.



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Good-bye and Hello

We say good-bye to some long-time staffers and hello to newcomers.

Special Olympics New York has said good-bye to some long-time staff members. There have also been some other staff changes and new faces.

Kristine Burton, director of program, ran the very successful Metro Tournament and various other sectional competitions downstate during her six years with Special Olympics. She has accepted a community relations position with the Madison Square Garden Network.

Another long-time staff member who has left is Elizabeth Rossi, administrative assistant for public relations. During her six years, Rossi used her graphic talents to design this newsletter and many of the

logos, advertisements and program journals you have seen throughout the years. Rossi accepted the position of development assistant with Equinox, a nonprofit that serves the homeless in the Capital Region.

Enrique Rivera, who served as our bookkeeper for the last two years, has also left to take a job at a Capital District insurance company.

Former Director of Field Services Shelly Nangle was promoted to Assistant to the President. Her new duties include managing high-priority projects for the executive office.

Filling Nangle's post as director of field services for Section 3 is Gwen Berardi.

Berardi, who was the accountant, has been on staff for five years.

The Finance Department has two new employees. Loris Brown is the new accountant while Sheryl Andersen has become the new bookkeeper.

Laurie Kennedy is working out of the Rochester office as the new Director of Field Services for Section 4.

We wish all departing staff good luck with their new endeavors and welcome new members to the team. ■

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.