



Dwarf Giraffe News

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Major Leaguer Mike Baxter Comes Home to Visit DGAL!



DGAL would like to thank Mike Baxter of the NY Mets for coming back to his Whitestone roots and spending some time giving back to his community for the kids at DG this fall.

He shared his journey up to the big leagues and gave some hitting tips to our young baseball kids. He was great with the kids and we all wish him the best in his future in the Major Leagues!

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In Memoriam - Gene Brennan



This past year, the DG family lost a very important person, Gene Brennan. Gene was the force that helped get roller hockey started at DG back around 1992. He lead the fight to get the hockey rink down at Harvey park. Gene served as President of DG in 2005 and truly loved to watch the kids play. You would always find Gene at a hockey game, baseball game or basketball game watching the kids play with a smile on his face. It was Gene who actually coined the phrase we now use at DG *"It's for the Kids"*. He was concerned about the youth of our community. Gene also served on Community Board #7 on the Public Safety Committee because

he was an ex-police officer and detective. His goal was helping to keep kids off the street and busy so they wouldn't get in trouble. In his honor, beginning this year, DG has renamed its annual Golf Outing as the *"Gene Brennan Memorial Golf Outing"*. Thank you Gene for all you have done for this community, from everyone at DG and the Whitestone Community.

What's Happening

Whitestone May Get A New Place To Play Ball If Some Community Leaders Have Their Way.

The Board of Directors at Dwarf-Giraffe Athletic League of Whitestone, support and commend the efforts to convert six vacant acres of land in Whitestone into a community space with the possibility of adding a sports field and a clubhouse for the youth of our community.

The vacant six acres of land is located on 6th Avenue and 150th Street. The project would include a parking area that would not increase congestion and inconvenience residents.

The success of this project would create a sports complex serving the community and most importantly create a great atmosphere in an urban environment for all the children in this great community. There is a pressing need for this type of facility in the community especially today when fields are at a premium.

As more information is released, look to our Website for updates and information on how to help support this project.

www.dwarfgiraffe.com

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

Once again, DG has some great events coming up, save the date and be sure to attend them for some great fun.

Saturday January 28, 2012

Whitestone Memorial Parade

Fundraiser Dance

Sunday February 5, 2012 - Super Bowl Party

Saturday March 3, 2012 - Presidents Dinner

June 2012 - Annual Golf Outing - Date TBD

June 2012 - Annual Family Picnic - Date TBD

Tradition...what is tradition? defined, it is the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, from one generation to another, especially by word of mouth or by practice: a story that has come down to us by popular tradition. The Whitestone Memorial Day Parade is a long standing tradition that is now in jeopardy of being lost, a memory, faded into our past, nothing to hand down from generation to another. A tradition that has been part of this community for decades. Please help keep this tradition, contact DG for more information on how to help.



A Letter From The President - Dave Legaz

*"The Heart of a Volunteer
is not measured in size,
but by the depth of the commitment
to make a difference in the lives of others."
~ DeAnn Hollis*

In the spirit of the holiday season, rather than focusing on the gifts received or what has been consumed, I would like to put the spotlight on those who gave their time to serve the DG community. More often than not, the pillars of great movements, causes and organizations are the volunteers working diligently behind the scenes. Their commitment to help our community's youth has enhanced society by improving the minds and lives of countless people — including that of the volunteers themselves. Let's salute them and recognize the dedication, commitment and leadership of our board members, sport commissioners, coaches and youth leaders.

A sign of an excellent organization is when you see the youth athlete become a leader and volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, off-court official, and as a time and score keeper. With that said, it is with great pleasure that we thank Tom Tockarszewsky, Michael Strassberg, Matthew Ehrlich, Keith Baron, Michael Cholowa, Lauren Alessandro, Stephen Mirtsopoulos, Jessica Piccolino and past athletes and current college students Ben Tockarszewsky Jr. and David Legaz Jr.

DG is also approved for high school service credit and would like to thank the following for their dedication and hard work: Nick Griffin, Nicholas Xelas, Andrew Rivaf, Nick Mendez, Constantine Dakis, Keith Glynn, Kenneth Bishop, David Viteri, Konaal Kukmar, James Janetti, Will Rivas and Jonathan Jones.

As 2011 ends, so does my second and final year as President, which leaves me with a feeling of extreme pride to be a part of a tremendously talented and professional youth organization. I am particularly honored to have served at such a high level for this great league. I have been involved at DG since 1997 and started as a hockey coach when my son was four years old and never looked back. Even though my son is now away at college, I will remain actively involved with the

organization as the Grant Coordinator and as a basketball coach.

Be assured that DG's incoming President Jay Vigorito and Vice President Jose Rodriguez will continue with the same devotion, enthusiasm and leadership. There is no bigger sign of loyalty as they both return to these positions that they once held. These gentlemen should be commended as their children have aged out of the program many years ago. They are true leaders who are fueled by dedication, teamwork and people who take ownership in their volunteer work and, in turn, inspire others to attain higher levels of success for DG.

Dave Legaz



Dave Legaz with Ron Yudin, 2011 recipient of the Joe DeMarinis Award for a decade of service at DG and his dedication to the children of our community.

Visit us online at:
WWW.DwarfGiraffe.Com



Girl's Athletics

Letter from the Girls' Athletic Commissioner - George Mirtsoopoulos

To our Parents, Coaches, Players and Sponsors,

As I write this report, our 2011-2012 Girls Basketball season is in full swing. This year we have two divisions, the Girl's Major and the Girl's High School. Both division have 4 teams in each and the level of competition has been very good. I would like to take a moment and thank all the coaches and volunteers for their time to help make this a great league to play in.

But that's not where it ends.. Our Softball season is right around the corner and we are looking to rebuild our Girl's program.

Last year we moved to a fast pitch softball league for our girls, while we had a good year last season we need to improve. And that's where we need your help to make it better this year.

As of this writing registration has started at DGAL, so first thing you can do is please spread the word about our Girl's softball program to your friends and family. Come on down and register early—we have no hidden fees and our prices can't be beat. Without your help, our Girl's program may fold and go away so don't let that happen! Remember, this is your community, and your league, we are here for the children of our community!

George Mirtsoopoulos

Acting Girl's Athletic Commissioner



“ You can go from zero to hero and back again really fast. You have to stay persistent. “

Danica Patrick



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioner - Joseph Alessandro

To Our Players, Coaches and Parents,

Now that Christmas, Chanukah and New Years has passed, **"Are You Ready For Some Baseball?"** Things are certainly changing with DG baseball this year. We have created the **"Mini-Mites"** baseball division, a Coach Pitch division for 6 year olds. This Division will bridge the gap between T-Ball and the Mites Division which is regular baseball. DG also has its first clinic planned for our ball players to help improve the players pitching, hitting and throwing mechanics. The clinic will run for five Saturdays in January and February and the players will be trained by Coach Jamie Loeb. Coach Loeb is an Instructor at the New York Baseball Academy and was also a Scout for the Chicago White Sox.

This year DG would like to build upon the success we achieved last season. Last season DG outlasted Little Neck Douglaston to capture the Northeast Queens Baseball Alliance Championship in the Minor Division (9-10 yrs old) managed by Hector Bourren. The DG – Anchor Astoria Lodge #729 team finished the regular season with a 10-1 record. The DG Renegades (12U Travel Team) won two (2) Championships this past season. The 12U Travel Team captured the Cal Ripken District "3" Championship and then captured the Little League District "26" Gorman Tournament Division "B" Championship by beating Ozone Howard in the finale. The 12U Summer Team finished the regular tournament season with a 9-1-2 record beating Ozone Howard, Jamaica Estates, DAC and College Point Little League and was managed by Frank Mezzanotte. And lastly, the DG Renegades (14U Fall Team) captured the 1st Annual College Point Little League Invitational Tournament by beating Asopec Little League from Corona as the 4th seeded team in the tournament, managed by Dino Cinquemani. Congratulations to all the coaches, players and parents who competed this past season.

I would like to welcome and introduce Frank Mezzanotte and Steve Wilson as my Assistant Commissioners for the upcoming season. Steve will be running the T-Ball Division and Frank will be running the Mini-Mites and Mites Division. Their baseball knowledge and tireless efforts on and off the field will help build this program for years to come. Thank you both for coming on board.

I am pleased to report that registration is open online for our 2012 Spring Baseball season until January 31, 2012. Registration is open to all boys ages 4 to 18 and girls ages 4 to 6. Girls 7 to 18 will have the ability to register and compete in our Babe Ruth Softball League. DG will be closing registration early this year in an effort to player evaluations completed and teams formed by Mid February 2012. This will allow the coaches to get more practices in with their teams prior to the beginning of the season and make DG teams better prepared to compete with other teams. Once the teams are formed, DG will have a uniform fitting day to help avoid any uniform sizing problems. I thank all the parents who registered early this year.

As a new season begins, it begins with you, the parents, who support the DGAL as volunteers and coaches. DG needs all your efforts for our plan to work. Please register your child early, so that we can get a jump start on the new season and make the DGAL better than we were last season.

Joseph Alessandro

I thank you all for your continued support of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League.

Baseball Commissioner



"Just keep going. Everybody gets better if they keep going at it."

Ted Williams



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

“FASTBREAKING OUR WAY THROUGH THE SEASON”

As I write my report this year during the Christmas break I am finalizing our registration numbers. We have over 400 boys in the program. Wow! That's a big number for a neighborhood league. I am pleased to report the breakdowns are as follows:

- We have 54 boys in our High School division. Some of these young men have been with our program since they were 5 years old. If you look at some of the rosters of the local high school basketball teams, you will see current and former DG players sprinkled throughout Queens and Manhattan. We have DG members playing on teams at St. Francis Prep, Holy Cross, Xavier, Molloy, Francis Lewis and St. Mary's. Come down on Sunday nights to see them play.
- Our Majors, Minors and Bantam Divisions are full. Our Minors (Grades 6 & 7) Division actually expanded to 10 teams!.
- We have over 120 boys under the age of 8 in our Saturday program.

Thanks to Rob Downward we were able to secure PS 79 to handle the overflow for team practice times.

John Hempel and Jay Strassberg joined our Board this year as Assistant Commissioners. Both men have been involved in our program for many years as coaches. I am glad they are aboard and look forward to their many contributions. Jay Gorga continues to coordinate our Saturday morning instructional program. Jay Ehrlich continues to be a mainstay in our program with his countless contributions.

We have two fundraisers coming up. A 50/50 raffle will be run in February and we will have two DG pizza nights at Mike & Maggie Pizzeria. Please support us during these fund raisers. We are hoping to get new scoreboard with the funds.

A special thanks to outgoing President Dave Legaz and new President Jay Vigorito for their support and guidance.

And as always, thanks to our sponsors, coaches and parents for their cooperation and support.

See you at the gym!



Ben Tockarszewsky
Basketball Commissioner

“One man can be a crucial ingredient to a team, but one man cannot make a team.”

Kareem Abdul—Jabbar



The Kids



**“I’m not a child anymore, I’m tall enough to reach for the stars,
and I’m not a child anymore.” Stevie Nicks**



The Kids



“I can hardly wait, to see you come of age, but I guess we’ll both have to patient, yes it’s a long way to go.” John Lennon



News on Zumba and Lacrosse

Letter from Zumba by Mary Lou Rodriguez

When thinking about Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League, a variety of sports programs may come to mind. However in mid-summer, something quite different appeared at DG. On July 14th, during one of the hottest summers in years, ZUMBA @DG made its debut led by ZUMBA Marsha (Jetter). Marsha was as excited as we were at the prospect of this new addition to DG and her energy is almost unstoppable.

After a mini Master class given at the DG picnic, a class schedule was set. By early fall our numbers were growing and each week saw new faces joining the classes. Classes were held on Thursday evening and Saturday morning and cost \$5.00 per class. In addition to the weekly classes, special ZUMBA events have also debuted at DG. We have had two Master Classes, a GLOW Party and our very successful fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Organization, a Party in Pink. DG was able to donate \$1,200.00 to breast cancer research. ZUMBA proceeds have also purchased new round tables for the DG building.

With the start of Basketball season, the ZUMBA schedule has been re-worked. Classes are now on Sunday and Tuesday mornings @10:00AM and the Thursday classes are held at the American Legion Hall at 1020 Clintonville Street@7:00PM. DG has earmarked the proceeds from this class to go to the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade Fund. Once Basketball season is over in March, classes will return to DG and again be on Saturday morning and Thursday evening.

So what is next? A special ZUMBathon on Sunday, February 26th from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM to raise money for the Memorial Day Parade Fund. Admission is \$20.00. Finally, we would like to thank Jay Vigorito for getting the ball rolling, Marsha for her energy and expertise, Jose Rodriguez for all his help and all the participants for showing up each week and spreading the word about ZUMBA @DG. For more information contact DGZumba@gmail.com.

Letter from Lacrosse by Jason Pallen

For the past few seasons, DG has been working on establishing a Lacrosse program for the kids in our community. We did have a few successful seasons with a little over 40 kids registering in different age groups. DG solicited the help of a few College Lacrosse players and coaches to help form a developmental and training program with the hope of having enough growing participation to get into a full fledged Lacrosse program.

What we are asking you, as parents is to help us determine the future of the Lacrosse program at DG. We would love to see it grow, but without your help we can not succeed. If your children have an interest in playing and learning Lacrosse - please contact me at: DGlax@ymail.com.

The Board of Directors and Athletic Commissioners are always looking for new ideas and suggestions that can help us make DGAL a better place with various opportunities for the children of our community. So please, if you have any ideas, suggestions, questions or concerns - contact either myself or speak to any board member while you are at the building. You can also visit our website and send a note to Ask Jay or e-mail Jay at: DGtalk@ymail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you... and remember "It's For The Kids".

"My child arrived just the other day, he came to the world in the usual way, and as he grew he said you know I'm gonna be like you.." Harry Chapin



BOARDROOM

President	<i>Jay Vigorito</i>	Baseball Commissioner	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i>
Vice President	<i>Jose Rodriguez</i>	Basketball Commissioner	<i>Ben Tockarshewsky</i>
Treasurer	<i>Robert Downward</i>	Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>	Lacrosse Commissioner	<i>Jason Pallen</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>John Hempel</i>	Sponsor Coordinator	<i>Tom Nazario</i>
		Web Site Coordinator	<i>Anthony Castellano</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Dave Legaz</i>	Equipment Coordinator	<i>John Nicoletti</i>

2011 Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League Sponsors

IT IS THEIR GENEROSITY THAT HELPS DEFRAY THE COSTS FOR ALL OUR DG FAMILIES. THEY ARE A KEY ELEMENT OF DG AND DESERVE OUR THANKS AND PATRONAGE.

3 Nick's Auto Repair

American Legion

Edward McKee Post 131

Anchor Astoria Lodge # 729

Arthur DiBiase Mason Contractor

Axon Electrical Corp.

B&M Auto Repair Inc.

Baschnagel Bros. Inc.

Benateri's Italian Deli

Bowles Corporate Services

Braunstein's Bridge Builders

C Johann & Sons Funeral Home

Cherry Valley

CKC Maintenance

Delgado Travel

Empress Travel

Freddy's Pizzeria

Harpell Chemists

JD Opticians

Keller Williams - Legaz Team

Larry's Auto Collision

Laz Parking

Lee's Jewel Box

LockDoctor Security Solutions

Mike & Maggie's Pizzeria

New York Paving

NuBreed Martial Arts

Pizza Chef

R&R Restorations

Ral-Bar Electric

Ranshaw Oil and Gas Heating Service

Regency Signs

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Ridgewood Savings Bank

Ringside Bar and Grill

Stitches

Tasty Grill

Temco Building Maintenance, Inc.

The Caldwell Connection

The Clinton Restaurant

The Mulholland Group

Van Brunt Construction

Verdi's Restaurant

Vito Clarizio, DMD

Whitestone Hardware

Whitestone Pet Groom

We invite you to become part of the process. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact us at Info@DwarfGiraffe.com or attend one of our weekly Thursday night meetings.



DWARF-GIRAFFE
ATHLETIC LEAGUE
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Whitestone, NY 11357

Building Address

149-50 15th Road
Tel (718) 746-1539
Fax (718) 746-0363



ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Please feel free to avail yourself to this convenient option. Credit Card processing is done by highly secure VeriSign company and will accept MasterCard and Visa. The sport registration prices are posted on the site. The multiple child same sport discounts still apply. You can also register in person at the DG Building located

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Dwarf Giraffe would not be the successful league we are today without having the continued support of our local politicians.

NY State Senator Tony Avella

NY State Senator Toby Stavisky

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall

NY City Councilman Dan Halloran

District Manager Community Board 7 Marilyn Bitterman

**Register On-Line By Visiting
us on the Web at:
www.dwarfgiraffe.com**

BUILDING RENTALS

*Need a place to hold your event?
Please Call 718 746-1539 for info
on renting our DG Building.*

2012 REGISTRATION

Boys Baseball, Girls Softball and Lacrosse

REGISTRATION TIMES

EVERY THURSDAY from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

and EVERY SATURDAY from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Thursday Dates January 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16, 23

Saturday Dates January 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18, 25

*Hurry and Register
Don't be Shut Out!*

DGAL Your Community League...It's About The Kids