

WHAT'S NEW

Salinas Circle for Children

Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015

6:30pm to 8:00pm

Location: 1368 S. Main St.
Set A (JG Parker Office,
located behind
Portobellos)

A Chalk in the Park Working Meeting

Save the Date!

Next Working Meeting Date:

Tuesday, March 24th
Begins at 5:30pm,
but arrive when you can

Location TBD

Light snacks will be provided

Can You Help??

*Know anyone who is interested in adopting a square?

*Know anyone artistic that would love to draw chalk art?

Contact salinascircle@aol.com

President's Message

They say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb and I'm sure the people that have been hit hardest by the winter storms are hoping that is the case, but I hope that as members of Salinas Circle for Children we are just the opposite and roar like lions working on our Chalk in the Park event. The first work meeting was a huge success and I heard the next one may involve our creative sides, which should be fun. If you can give a couple of hours to help sell sponsor squares or help find artists please let Kathy and Kelli know. Diana Lee has already started going to the schools looking for chalk artists and I'm sure she would love to take a member with her to show them how it is done.

The California Rodeo has again requested our help volunteering in the Bull Crossing during the rodeo in July. They are also asking if we can help during the Aerosmith Concert Friday, July 10. I know I will be helping that night, getting to hear Aerosmith for free and making money for Salinas Circle is a win, win for me! Everyone needs to have an ABC LEAD card. The ABC is holding several free classes in the next few months, but you need to sign up in advance. The classes at the Rodeo grounds are being held on Tuesdays from 12pm to 4 pm on March 24, April 28, May 12 and June 2. If these dates don't work for you check their website for additional classes. Definitely bring your friends to the class so they will also be able to help us at the concert or the rodeo. They are encouraging as many men as possible to help with security. Information is included in the email, so please let us know if you have any questions and think of joining us this year for the Rodeo!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting March 3rd at Alethea's office and I would love for each of us to bring a couple of friends.

Vickie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

6th: Carolyn Sanders





Recipe of the Month

This recipe is in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday this month and one of his more popular books, *Green Eggs and Ham*. An easy snack that can be modified for many different occasions and loved by all!

Ingredients:

- * Square Bite Size Pretzel
- * White Wilton Candy Melts
- * Green M&Ms

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 200
2. Spread your pretzels on the cookie sheet
3. Place one candy melt onto of each pretzel square
4. Bake until candy melts are a little melted (about 5 minutes)
5. Remove them from the oven and immediately press the M&Ms down into the center of the candy melt
6. Let cool & enjoy!

I Never Knew I Wanted a Child with Down Syndrome

By Meriah Nichols,
Published by Scary Mommy Blog

What feels like a million years ago, I was on the Baby Center Down Syndrome Board. I was immersing myself in the questions, the comments, the endless threads. The talk, the chatter, the crying, the heartache. One signature struck me in particular, "I never knew I wanted a child with Down Syndrome until I got one." I still don't know who originally came up with that– but I clearly remember the pang in me that I felt when I first read it.

I never knew I wanted a child with Down syndrome until I got one.

At the time, I wondered over it. Wondered at the love behind it, wondered if I would ever feel the same. Wondered if I would lay claim to those words – not for stringing them first, but rather, lay claim to their meaning. Lay claim not just to my daughter, but to her extra chromosome. Because cognitive disability was hard for me. Very, very hard.

Hard to accept, hard to appreciate, hard to wrap my mind around its presence in my life through my child.

Moxie is three years old now and I can say it with all of my heart, ever fiber that makes me who I am: **I never knew I wanted a child with Down Syndrome until I got one.** Oh! How we love her.

It's partly just who she is but it's also partly the something that the little extra carries with it. Because some of the things that she does and some of the things that we love adore so completely about her are things that we hear from others who are also connected to this tribe.

Like: she can see into my soul. She doesn't normally cover me in hugs or kisses; she's usually pretty hands off. But there are moments when I am crippled with sadness – and out of everyone around, *with* everyone around – she senses

it. She comes over, cups my face in her tiny hands, kisses my cheek with matchless tenderness. My child, my heart.

I was terribly cynical for a long time.

Pregnant with Moxie, I'd read things about how much mothers loved their little ones with Down syndrome and I thought things along the lines of, "that's great, that's wonderful, silver linings and all, good for them but I'd rather have a kid **without** Down syndrome, thanks." I think in my heart of hearts, I didn't believe it was possible for someone to truly be accepting of an intellectual disability, or to honestly see ~~something~~ anything desirable about it.

And even now, typing these words, I think of the person I was, I think of old friends of mine and wonder if they are reading this, how they are likely to be thinking I've either changed a lot or I'm pulling this out of my ass.

I'll make it easy for you, my friend, by telling you straight up: **I've changed.**

People might say, 'oh yeah, you can accept and love Moxie and all because it's easy with her, she's 'high functioning' or whatever.'

Besides the fact that I hate words like "high functioning" or "low functioning" and I hate how we seem to assign merit to people based on how alike mainstream they are, guess what? Moxie isn't really "high functioning." I don't know what's what in all the "functioning" stuff but I do know this: she's over three years old and *maaaayyyyyyyyyybe* says 5 words. Sure, she understands just about everything *we* say to *her*, but she doesn't talk much.

She's not some "high functioning" child with Down syndrome. She's just a little girl. Who has Down syndrome. That extra chromosome contributes to who she is – undeniably so. As I get to know her and by extension, *it*, I grow to love the whole package so deeply, so completely and... *words escape me.*

Find this article and more at www.scarymommy.com

