

NEWS RELEASE

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Jowonio's 40th Anniversary Dinner

Hosted by the Honorable Daniel Maffei and Abby Davidson Maffei

October 16 event will honor community leaders in inclusion

Syracuse, NY – On October 16, 2009, Jowonio School will hold a joyous **40th Anniversary Dinner** for alumni, families, supporters and friends, who will gather to celebrate and share the school's remarkable achievements in the field of inclusive education. Hosted by **the Honorable Daniel Maffei**, a Jowonio graduate, and **Abby Davidson Maffei**, the dinner will honor community leaders who have provided outstanding service to children and adults with special needs. Entertainment will be provided by the inclusive **Syracuse Community Choir**, whose diverse membership includes Jowonio alumni, parents, and staff. The dinner will be held at the **Liverpool Holiday Inn** from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Registration is available at www.jowonio.org, or by calling (315) 445-4010, ext. 215.

Honorees

Jowonio is pleased to honor seven individuals who have played a key role in the school's history, and have made significant contributions to inclusion within the community. **Douglas Biklen**, Dean of the School of Education at Syracuse University, is a nationally recognized author and voice for inclusion. **Sheree Burke** and her son **Jamie Burke**, a Jowonio graduate, are in demand internationally as speakers on behalf of persons with autism. **Carroll Grant**, Director of the M.L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center at SUNY Upstate Medical University, supports public education and professional development about autism. **Linda Karmen**, Deputy Director of the Onondaga County Health Department and Special Children's Services, was the former director of Jowonio's ENRICH program. **Peter Knoblock**, Jowonio Founder, is an author and retired Professor of Special Education at Syracuse University. **Peter Rhodes**, whose son Brian is an alumnus of Jowonio's first year of inclusive programming, is Chairman of the Board of Syracuse Label Company, and a long-time supporter of Jowonio,

The Honorable Daniel Maffei, Jowonio graduate

Daniel Maffei was a pre-school student at Jowonio in 1973-1974. He then attended Ed Smith Elementary School and graduated from Nottingham High School. During his time at Nottingham, the future Congressman created software for special needs students, a project which helped

him secure a scholarship to attend Brown University. [Other members of the Maffei family have strong ties to education in Syracuse.](#) Daniel Maffei's mother and brother are both school psychologists in the Syracuse City School District, and his sister, who also attended Jowonio, is a teacher at Frazer School. The Congressman's wife, Abby Davidson Maffei, is a recent graduate of the joint graduate degree program at Syracuse University's Maxwell School and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Jowonio's Conference: Celebrating the Promise of Inclusive Communities for All Ages

Also on October 16, 2009, Jowonio School will present an educational conference featuring Keynote Speaker **Paula Kluth**, a nationally recognized author, consultant, and advocate for children with disabilities. The conference will be held at the Liverpool Holiday Inn, and will focus on inclusive education from childhood through adulthood. ***Celebrating the Promise of Inclusive Communities*** is designed to serve educators from pre-school through college, therapists, social workers, counselors, parents of children with special needs, and those who advocate for an inclusive society at the local, state, and national levels. Attendees may select from 10 different presentations that discuss the current state of inclusive practices and explore promising new models that promote optimal learning environments for everyone. [A complete conference brochure, with registration form, is available at www.jowonio.org, or by calling \(315\) 445-4010, ext. 215.](#)

Jowonio School

Currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary Year, Jowonio School is a non-profit school enrolling children with a wide range of abilities both in home and school-based programs. The school was founded in 1969 by a small group of visionary parents who wanted an individualized educational approach for their children. From the beginning, Jowonio accepted a wide range of children, operating an inclusive educational program where typical children and children with special needs learn together in the same classrooms. Jowonio embraces ethnic, social, and economic diversity, welcoming families from all backgrounds and cultures. Today, with a dedicated staff that includes certified teachers, therapists, and social workers, Jowonio serves 180 young children and their families each year, and is nationally recognized as a model for inclusive education.

For more information on Jowonio School, please visit www.jowonio.org.

Calendar Listings

October 16, 2009

Jowonio's 40th Anniversary Dinner

A joyous evening honoring Jowonio School and community leaders in inclusive education

Hosted by the Honorable Daniel Maffei and Abby Davidson Maffei

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Holiday Inn, Liverpool

Registration: \$80.00 (\$185.00 if registering for dinner and conference)

More information: (315) 445-4010, ext. 215; cb.jowonio@yahoo.com; www.jowonio.org

Also October 16, 2009

Celebrating the Promise of Inclusive Communities

An educational conference featuring Keynote Speaker Paula Kluth

8:15 am – 4:00 pm

Holiday Inn, Liverpool

Registration: \$115.00, includes lunch (\$185.00 if registering for conference and dinner)

More information: (315) 445-4010, ext. 215; cb.jowonio@yahoo.com; www.jowonio.org

Jowonio's mission is to provide model inclusive programs for young children, where diversity is celebrated and all are free to learn and grow.

JOWONIO

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