

Monarch News



Articles by Monarch
staff and clients

Spring 2016



Monarch ILS, Inc., 1414 Soquel Ave., St. 226, Santa Cruz, Ca 95062

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Saying Goodbye...



*All it takes is one picture to bring back a
thousand treasured memories.*

*Wayne and Jean, you will always be in
our thoughts and forever in our hearts.*

Hello from the Director

We are so pleased to be celebrating our 7th anniversary! Thanks to an amazing staff, wonderful community support, and the trust and enthusiasm of our clients, we have grown in every way. Not only has our client base expanded, along with a growing staff, but additional and varied programs and services have been created to serve our clients. We have revamped our website and are also reaching out to further strengthen our community by helping to form a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation called *Wings of Success, Inc.*

Moneys donated by the community to *Wings of Success, Inc.* will be used to enhance the lives of not only our clients but other people in the community with developmental or intellectual disabilities through classes and activities, adaptive technology and equipment, food and clothing and other services and products eligible individuals need and cannot afford.

We thank everyone who has contributed to Monarch's success, including our clients, their families, our staff, community partners, and SARC.

Take Care,
Sarah Macy

What's Happening?



Monarch Peer Group

By Brianne Holeman and Marnie Alban

Monarch's Peer Group has been active in the community by organizing accessible, social events for the past three years. On the last Tuesday of each month, the Peer Group hosts a fun event in the afternoon that is open to all. In the past the Peer Group has hosted beach gatherings, beach clean ups, dance parties, music activities, bowling, bocce ball, nature walks, arts and crafts activities, board and card game activities, and many more.

The mission of the Peer Group is to provide a welcoming, accessible environment where people of all backgrounds can come together to connect with others in the community, make friends, and have fun! Our goal is to provide low to no-cost events that foster community and friendship building among people who may not otherwise meet each other.

The Peer Group is currently trying to grow its membership base, so if you

haven't attended an activity yet, now is the time to check it out! For details about upcoming Peer Group activities, see the Monarch ILS monthly activity calendar.



Invincibles Club

By Diana Chavez



I started the Invincibles club last year because I was inspired by two songs about being invincible, one by Kelly Clarkson and the other by Cassidy Pope. I am encouraging others to feel the empowering spirit that nothing can break us and we shouldn't have to run away from things that scare us sometimes.

The activities I've done so far are making superhero capes, Homemade tambourines, and Drawing our own leaves, making our own lightsabers, and crafting Our own bunny ears. The upcoming events we are planning are making Spring time flowers and in the future a star trek themed activity coming soon.

Work Matters!

By Larissa Hunter

My name is Larissa and I'm a sweeper at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. I walk up and down the Boardwalk to pick up trash, clean tables, sweep, and help guests find their way around the Boardwalk. It's been fun to work with my co-workers and we always have a good time. I knew I would like this job because the Boardwalk is my favorite place.

I found out about the job because I went on the Boardwalk's website and searched for job openings. I printed an application, filled it out, and turned it in with my TDS staff member. My staff also helped me make my resume. I did a mock interview with my staff member before the real interview. I had an interview with the Hiring Manager.

I have a lot of soft skills and I'm always learning new soft skills with my staff. My greatest soft skill is my ability to always be a team player. I gained my employment experience by talking about customer service skills with my staff. I also gained experience in working for the Blue and Gold Mobile Home Park, Rite Aid, and my volunteer positions at my sister's elementary school and the library. I get to work with the help of my family and my staff. I receive on-the-job support from my TDS staff. So far I've had challenges with rude customers that don't follow the rules of the Boardwalk. My supervisor helps me with challenges and my job coach.

My long term goals for working at the Boardwalk are to become a leader for other co-workers. My long term goals for my life are working with law enforcement, because it would be fun for me and I've never worked there before. I plan to take college classes to reach that goal.

My advice to others looking for a job is you got to have responsibility, you gotta be strong and independent, and you always have to be on time. It's probably hard for people still looking for a job, but they should apply to the Boardwalk because they need people and it's really fun and exciting to work there. You have fun, and you even get to laugh! You can't goof off because you would get in trouble, but you can have a good time working anyways. Fill out an application for the Boardwalk. They will hire someone that's feeling really stuck and doesn't know what to do.



Out and about in the Community



ZUMBA!

Monarch now offers a weekly Zumba class, taught by a certified Zumba Instructor, every:

Thursday from 3:30-4:30 pm
at Louden Nelson Center

The class is open to everyone in the community and cost \$3 per person.

Come dance, get in shape, and have fun!



Also feel free to join us for our other community classes, Yoga and Dance, also at Louden Nelson Center, cosponsored with Employment & Community Options:

Yoga—Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am

Dance—Fridays from 10:30-11:30 am

Halloween Fun

This past Halloween featured TWO different dances—the Boo Bash put on in conjunction with Imagine SLS, and Shared Adventures yearly Halloween Dance at Harvey West Clubhouse. Both events were tons of fun!

Several Monarchians also participated in the Thriller community classes offered at Louden Nelson Center, in preparation for their yearly Thrill the World event, a world wide community flash mob to Michael Jackson's thriller!



"I really loved the Halloween dance. The food was great and the drinks were awesome and the cupcakes were yummy. I really enjoyed dancing and the music was awesome. I had a blast at the Halloween Dance!"

-Emily Woods

Our next Speed-Friending event is coming soon!

We had great turnouts to our recent speed-friending events, and are gearing up to put on another! The Springtime Speed-Friending event is a great opportunity to meet new people and make connections. All are welcome to this casual afternoon get-together on May 27th at Brommer Street Park.

Come share food and games while making new friends! This event is free, however all participants are encouraged to bring a dish or snack to share with the group. There will be a fun group activity for those who would like to get to know one another better, like at past singles events, however participation is not required. We hope to see you there!

Creativity Corner

Fun in the Ballroom

Fan Fiction by Lyza Harried

The two Pinkie Pies are having a blast getting the ballroom ready for the gala. They are decorating the ballroom like it was something from a nice and elegant ballroom and yet it has a wild party look. The Pony Pinkie Pie is just about to bring her party canons in order to finish decorating the ballroom with decorations and streamers. "Wow! You have party canons too," Human Pinkie says surprised that the pony version of herself has party canons as well. "I sure do, you have some as well?" Pony Pinkie replies with a big smile. "Well duh, but mine's at home. I guess I'll just have to decorate the room the old fashion way," Human Pinkie replies with a smile. "Don't worry I always bring extras," Pony Pinkie says while bringing the human version of herself two more party canons. "Is there anything else we can do?" Human Pinkie asks. "Well, all we need to do is to make sure the other bands are here for practice," Pony Pinkie replies thinking of other activities to do in order to make sure the gala is ready. "Hey! Maybe I can introduce you to them?" Pony Pinkie replies with excitement. "I would like to meet the other bands we will be performing with," Human Pinkie answers happily. "Look! Here they come now," Pony Pinkie says pointing to the bands who are coming to play.

The first group is Octavia and her band. The second one is Vinyl Scratch and her dj system. The third one is Sapphire Shore and her dance group. The last group is an old friend of Applejack's, her name is Rara or Countess Coloratura. Human Pinkie becomes shocked because she recognizes some of them from her home world. "Octavia... Vinyl... Is that you?!" Human Pinkie asks surprisingly. As soon as the other band members come in, they are surprised to see two different forms of Pinkie Pie. "Pinkie who is she and why does she look like you?" Vinyl asks curiously. "And how does she know our names?" Octavia asks curiously. "Everyone this is the Pinkie Pie from an alternate universe and she and her friends are going to be performing at the gala as well," Pinkie explain happily. "Really that's interesting, though I've never seen a creature like her before," Coloratura replies a little curious of the Human Pinkie Pie. Human Pinkie looks at Coloratura very carefully and recognizes who she is. "Are you supposed to be Applejack's old friend Coloratura?" Pinkie asks curiously. "Yes that will be me," Coloratura answers with glee. "Cool! You look great as a pony, though it's been a long time since she saw her and she became a great singer back in my home world," Human Pinkie replies.

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Come join us at The Human Race!



On May 7th, Monarchians will be fundraising for our new non-profit, Wings of Success, by walking in the Human Race. There will be music, food, and lots of fun!

You can walk with us or contribute through our fundraising page at:

<https://humanracesc.org/npo/wings-of-success>

Fun in the Ballroom, continued from pg. 5

Coloratura turns to the Pony Pinkie Pie and asks in excitement, “Speaking of Applejack, where is she? I’d really like to see her.” “Oh! She’s in the kitchen helping the chefs prepare the banquet for the gala with her human counterpart,” Pony Pinkie answers Coloratura’s question. “So Pinkie are you finished decorating? So we can get to practicing,” Sapphire asks. “Almost. Me and my counterpart are just about to put the finishing touches in the room,” Pony Pinkie Pie says happily. “Yeah and you all better stand back because we’re going to get it finished right now,” Human Pinkie replies with glee. Then the two Pinkie Pies pull out two party canons each. They are about to put their finishing touches into the ballroom to have it fully decorated. “Um Ms. Pies are these canons really necessary?” Octavia asks in concern about the canons. “Absolutely!” Human Pinkie answers with a grin on her face. Then both of the Pinkie Pies pull the strings on their canons and streamers and other decorations spread across the room. After that, the ballroom is fully ready for the gala tonight and it’s nicely decorated as well with some of Rarity's supplies.

“Wow Pinkie you and your friend really out did yourselves,” Sapphire Shores says. “Of course, nothing makes me happier than making people happy and making sure they bring their party on,” Human Pinkie says. Just then Human Pinkie starts to glow pink and starts to float up in the air. She then grows a pony tail and pony ears. Human Pinkie smiles and says, “Ooh Floaty!” “Wow... that... is.... Amazing!” Pony Pinkie screams in excitement. “Wow! I’ve never seen anything so sensational before!” Sapphire Shore replies amazed by what she just witnessed. “How did you manage to do that?” Octavia asks surprised. “It’s easy. Ever since magic was brought into my home world, every time I bring out laughter and happiness and play my drums I pony up with the others as we represent a true part of themselves and my Twilight Sparkle started to Pony up last month,” Human Pinkie explains fast and happily. “Wow that is so cool!” Vinyl screams in excitement. “You can say that again,” Pinkie says popping out of nowhere. Everyone in the ballroom starts to laugh at the fact that the Human Pinkie Pie transforms when she gets excited.