



Join "Special Needs Long Island," the radio program focuses on the Special Needs Community, as we feature the organization, Self-Advocacy Association of New York (SANYS). Representatives for SANYS will be Cathy Loquercio, Vice President, Jessica Campbell, Grassroots Presenter And Bridget Cariello, Coordinator for Long Island's SANYS  
Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.  
Listen to us at 1240 AM WGBB or  
on the web at [www.am1240wgb.com](http://www.am1240wgb.com) (click on "Listen Live")

**11-21-11** - On this week's show, we are pleased to present Cathy Loquercio, Vice President, Jessica Campbell, Grassroots Presenter and Bridget Cariello, Coordinator for Long Island's Region of The Self-Advocacy Association of New York (SANYS). The mission of SANYS is to teach individuals with developmental disabilities to speak up for themselves and others. This is done through training, public speaking, self-advocacy group experience, the creation of curriculum coordination of events and presenting testimony while effecting policy nationally, locally and statewide.

**Cathy Loquercio** is the current Vice President of SANYS. Cathy has been involved since 2005. She takes the time to hear concerns from advocates in her region as well as statewide. Cathy inspires others by sharing the top ten ways to be your own best advocate. As a true mentor, Cathy empowers others when sharing her message, **"Speak Up for Yourself. You Have a Voice, Use It!"**

**Jessica Campbell** got her start in self-advocacy in 2004 while she was a representative at a local agency. From 2007-2009, Jessica served as Treasurer, Vice President and President of her local self-advocacy group. These leadership roles gave her opportunities to join committees that would later lead to professional growth in the field. Jessica recounts how her disability has helped her to come to the path of "understanding and learning what self-motivation means. **Not giving up, the world doesn't come to you, you must go to it!"**

**Bridget Cariello** has taken her professional career as Coordinator for Long Island through The Self-Advocacy Association of NYS very seriously. Her role is to support and develop self-advocacy leadership in the region and generate the creation of self-advocacy groups across Long Island. As a determined parent of a child with Asperger's Syndrome, it became Bridget's life's mission to educate the public on the abilities of individuals with disabilities and the importance of Parent Education. Over the years, Bridget has chartered Center Moriches SEPTA and serving as President for two years. In 2008, she graduated from Partners in Policymaking and remains on the Statewide Advisory Panel with Cornell University till this day. In 2009, Bridget was asked to serve as Special Education Chairperson for Suffolk Region PTA. She continues to write articles on community building and social marketing. When asked about her work, Bridget shares, "Working with SANYS has been a life changing journey. It is seeing progress in action. **The Self-Advocacy Association is a place where individuals become self-advocates. And self-advocates become leaders. It is an amazing place to be part of."**

Cathy, Jessica and Bridget will be interviewed between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. on Long Island's WGBB 1240 AM. For those out of the local broadcast range, or wanting the best clarity, the program is simulcast on the internet at [www.am1240wgb.com](http://www.am1240wgb.com).

Special Needs Long Island is a weekly radio program dedicated to the special needs community on Long Island. Featured guests are from special needs organizations, professionals practicing in the field and individuals with special needs. The program is hosted by Jeff Silverman, Director of Special Needs Planning for the Center for Wealth Preservation in Syosset, New York. He can be reached by e-mail at [SpecialNeedsLI@gmail.com](mailto:SpecialNeedsLI@gmail.com) or at (516) 682-3363.