

## October 2018 Spokane Area Diversity/Cultural Events Calendar

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).** Public Law 176, enacted by the Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the Act. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed from the week's name to acknowledge the employment needs of all Americans with disabilities. Congress expanded the week to a month in 1988 and changed its name to "National Disability Awareness Month," which eventually evolved to its current name. The Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy took over responsibility for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 2001.

The 2018 theme is "**America's Workforce: Empowering All**" reflects on the important role that different perspectives play in workforce success. For more information visit <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>. Posters celebrating NDEAM have been placed around campus.

The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate in NDEAM.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month** promotes the teaching of LGBT history. First celebrated in 1994, October was selected, as the first and second Marches on Washington for lesbian and gay rights were held in October in 1979 and 1987. For more information visit <http://www.glbthistorymonth.com>.

**National Italian American Heritage Month** recognizes the achievements of Americans of Italian descent as well as Italians in American. This month was chosen to coincide with Columbus Day. Visit <http://www.italianheritagemonth.com/> or call 617.499.7955 for more information.

**German American Heritage Month** recognizes the achievements of German-Americans. German-American Day was originally proclaimed by President Regan in 1983. About one in four persons in the United States claims German ancestry. Visit <http://german.about.com/od/teaching/a/geramday.htm> for more information.

**Polish American Heritage Month** celebrates Polish history, culture, and pride of Polish Americans. The first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA in 1608. [www.polishamericancenter.com](http://www.polishamericancenter.com) or <http://www.polishamericancenter.org/heritmo.htm>

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** - The purple ribbon signifies Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The YWCA is the only state recognized provider of domestic violence services in Spokane County. One in four women in Spokane will experience domestic violence at some point during her lifetime. Spokane County has the second highest rate of domestic violence in the State of Washington. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year the first national toll-free hotline began. The YWCA responds to domestic violence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, phone: 326.CALL, [www.ywcaspokane.org](http://www.ywcaspokane.org).

**Hispanic Heritage Month** - In 1968, Congress first designated the week including September. 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. This week was chosen because of two historical events: Independence Day (September. 15), which celebrated the formal signing of the Act of Independence of Central American in 1821; and Mexico's Independence Day (September. 16), which commentates the beginning of the struggle against Spanish control in 1810. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a full 31-day period beginning September 15.

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**As Grandmother Taught: Women, Tradition and plateau Art**

Coiled and twined basketry and beaded hats, pouches, bags, dolls, horse regalia, baby boards, and dresses alongside vintage photos of Plateau women wearing or alongside their traditional, handmade clothing and objects, with works by Leanne Campbell, HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull and Bernadine Phillips.

**Dates: October 1, 2018 June 16, 2018 through December 2019.**

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](#), 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$8.00 seniors, \$5.00 children ages 6-17, \$8.00 college students with ID.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org/exhibits/current-exhibits/titanic.cfm> or call 509.456.3931.

**“Sacred Encounters: Father De Smet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West” Exhibit**

The exhibit tells the story of how Jesuit missionaries (Father De Smet) came to the interior Northwest at the invitation of the Coeur d' Alene and Salish tribes and the profound effects this sacred encounter had on both cultures.

**Date: Open, no end date at this time**

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily April through September, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm October through March, (closed holidays)

Location: Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, ID (I-90, exit 39 – 60 miles east of Spokane)

Cost: \$5.00 park entrance fee, exhibit \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family.

For more information visit their website at <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/coeur-d-alenes-old-mission>.

In celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Month**, The **City of Spokane Libraries** will have various displays of artwork from **Latino artists**: Downtown), East Side, Hillyard, Indian Trail, Shadle, and South Hill Libraries.

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**Can You Queer Me Now?**

**Day: Tuesday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Democracy Now**

**Day: Monday-Friday**

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-5:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish**

**Date: Saturday**

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

*Democracy Now!* is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: [www.kyrs.org](http://www.kyrs.org) or [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

**Detention****Day: Monday**

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Variety music/talk show for teens by teens. This show is produced by the students of West Valley City School.

Hosted by Kade, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Dragonflies on Thin Air****Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more.

Hosted by [Trevor, Zoe, Eva and Selena](#), KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Irish Music on Tap****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website:

<http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Latin Lounge****Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website:

<http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Layali Arabia****Day: Saturday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres including but not limited to: hip hop, reggae, indie, metal, folk, pop, electronic, oriental jazz and some of the greatest classics to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rahmi on

KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Queens of Noise****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by "Queen of Mean" and "Luscious Duchess", KYRS 92.3

FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**QueerSounds****Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. Hosted by bob, KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>

Join the hosts on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/qsounds](http://www.facebook.com/qsounds), or email them at [queersounds@kyrs.org](mailto:queersounds@kyrs.org).

**The Persian Hour****Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

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**Cusco: To Live History**

Travel with us to Cusco, Peru, located in the Peruvian Andes and the historic capital of the Inca Empire. At an elevation of over 11,000 feet, it's only about three thousand feet below the top of Mt. Rainier! Father and daughter and former residents Carlos and Karla Uniysonco will discuss the city's fascinating history as well as Peruvian culture.

**Date: Monday, October 1, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library, 3324 S Perry Street

Cost: Free and open to the Public

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual People Who Care – “Respect for Human Dignity”**

Fundraiser for Transitions (Miryam's House, The Women's Hearth, and the Transitional Living Center and EducCare), a non-profit, giving women and their children a second chance.

**Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Time: Doors open 7:00 am, Breakfast Program 7:30-8:30 am

Doors open at 11:30 am, Lunch Program noon-1:00 pm

Location: Centennial Hotel Spokane (formerly Hotel RL by Red Lion), 303 W North River Drive

Cost: Free, suggested donation after program

For more information visit their website at <http://www.help4women.org/> or call; 328.6702. To reserve your seat, call Sarah Lickfold at 509.358.6702 or [pwc@help4women.org](mailto:pwc@help4women.org).

***Dolores Huerta* Documentary**

A 2017 documentary of the life of Dolores Huerta. She is among the most important, yet least known, activists in American history. She co-founded the first farm workers unions with Cesar Chavez and tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century—and she continues the fight to this day, at 87. Panel discussion following the film. Panelist Dr. Julia Stronks and activist Ingrid Gonzales.

**Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm

Location: Whitworth University, Weyerhaeuser hall 111

Cost: Free

For more information contact Jonathan Royal at 509.777.3583 or [jroyal@whitworth.com](mailto:jroyal@whitworth.com).

**Immigration and Acculturation: Psychology's Contribution to the Immigration Debate**

Presenter: Dr. Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Whitworth University professor. Recent undocumented immigration and family separation policies have made front page news. Dr. Jarvis will review recent immigration trends and discuss how immigrants acculturate into our communities. The presentation will also address the following questions: How does acculturation impact immigrants? What is the impact of our immigration policies on undocumented immigrants and other members of our community?

**Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library, 3324 S Perry Street

Cost: Free and open to the Public

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Cesar Chavez Movie**

Dr. Ray Rast, Gonzaga University professor will introduce the movie and lead a brief discussion after. Chronicling the birth of a modern American movement, *Cesar Chavez* tells the story of the famed civil rights leader and labor organizer torn between his duties as a husband and father and his commitment to securing a living wage for farm workers.

**Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Spokane Downtown Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor stage

Cost: Free and open to the Public

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual YWCA – Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon**

Keynote: Gloria Norris, author of *KooKooLand* (true crime memoir) and as a screenwriter and independent producer, her films have premiered at the Sundance, Toronto, and Tribeca Film festivals.

**Date: Thursday, October 4, 2018**

Time: 11:30-1:30 pm

Location: The Davenport Grand, 333 West Spokane Falls Blvd.

Cost: \$125.00

For more information go to <https://ywcaspokane.org/how-to-help/events/women-of-achievement/>.

### **Bilingual Storytime for National Heritage Month**

A student from EWU's Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity will be reading Spanish-English language storybooks during this special preschool story time.

**Date: Friday, October 5, 2018**

Time: 10:30 am – 11:00 am

Location: Indian Trail Library, 4909 W Barnes Rd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Spokane's Renaissance Faire**

The year is 1528, and Good King Hal (Henry VIII) is able to attend this year's tourney of the Golden Apple held in the outskirts of Southampton, England. Our International Court of Nobles from all over Europe will vie for the coveted Golden Apple trophy. The Nobility will compete in various events such as a jousting tournament, skill at arms, archery, bocce ball and dancing.

**Date: Saturday and Sunday, October 6 & 7, 2018**

Time: 9:30 am-5:00 pm

Location: Lazy K Ranch, 5906 E Woolard Rd, Colbert, WA 99005

Cost: \$13.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors 65+ and youth ages 6-12, children under 5 are free, all military, firefighters, law enforcement, and teachers with ID buy one, get one free. Check out website to weekend passes.

For more information call 509.995.2114 or visit [www.spokanerenfaire.com](http://www.spokanerenfaire.com).

### **KPBX Kids Concert: The Willows Play Peter, Paul and Mary**

The Willows, a dynamic Inland Northwest acoustic quartet, offer their spirited tribute to legendary folk singers Peter, Paul and Mary. With combined career spans of 135 years, recording artists Kelly Bogan, Bill Klein, Valerie Hughes, and Bruce Pennell reignite memories in their listeners and evoke sing-along gusto.

**Date: Saturday, October 6, 2018**

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: River Park Square

Cost: Free

For more information call 509.328.5729 or visit their website at

<http://www.spokanepublicradio.org/post/kpbx-kids-concert-willows-play-peter-paul-and-mary>.

### **Mayan Weaving and Culture Presentation**

Maria Cuc Jiatz is a Maya Kakchikel indigenous woman from Solola, Guatemala. She learned to weave on a back-strap loom when she was ten years old. Maria is proficient at weaving the complex and labor intensive “ikat” technique that is the trademark of Sololá weaving. Maria founded *Maya Color* to preserve Mayan traditional weaving arts, culture, and folk art. Her daughter Ingrid will introduce Guatemala and Mayan culture, the current status of traditional weavings, and indigenous rights of collective intellectual property.

**Date: Saturday, October 6, 2018**

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: Indian Trail Library, 4909 W Barnes Rd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **What Happened to Puerto Rico? A Talk About Before and After Hurricanes Irma and Maria**

Before Hurricanes Irma and Maria tore through Puerto Rico in 2017, the island’s collapsing economic system made international news. The economic and human crisis that has taken place after the hurricanes has been crucial in identifying the explicit ways in which Puerto Rico's sociopolitical position makes it vulnerable to natural events. Particularly, this vulnerability makes evident how the island's systems of power and inequality patterns continue to target historically marginalized groups, while also dictating human dignity and limiting accessibility to basic survival resources.

**Date: Saturday, October 6, 2018**

Time: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Shadle Library 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Indian Classical Music – Raga Tharanga – “Melodious Waves”**

Featured Performers: Silarama Rao – Sitar, Raghavendra Rao – Violin, Saraswathi Ranganathan-Veena, Venkatesh – Tabla, and Raghavan Sai - Mridangaming: Light Indian vegetarian dinner will be available for purchase starting at 5:00 pm.

**Date: Friday, October 6, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard Street

Cost: Free Admission

For more information and to register (sitting is limited) contact Sreedharani Nandagopal at [sacaspokane@gmail.com](mailto:sacaspokane@gmail.com) or call 509.467.5558. Presented by The South Asia Cultural Association (SACA) of Spokane. Raga Tharanga is made possible by Spokane Arts, the City of Spokane Cultural Fund and individual donor.

### **Live Irish Music - O’Doherty’s Irish Grille**

**Date: Sunday, October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2018 (every Sunday) until March 31, 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: O’Doherty’s Irish Grille, 525 W Spokane Falls Blvd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit their website at <http://beta.odohertyspub.com/> or call 509.747.0322.

### **School Safety: Shared Responsibility for a Safer Future**

Community-wide forum aims to identify the many ways we *all* may contribute to creating safe learning environments for our children.

**Date: Monday, October 8, 2018**

Time: 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Gonzaga University, Hemmingson Center

Cost: Free

For more information visit their website at <https://www.gonzaga.edu/school-of-education/events-and-conferences/school-safety-forum>. Presented by Gonzaga Schools of Education and Law.

### **The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu**

Join Fred Stahl for his memorable trip to Peru, including Cusco, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, and an added adventure to the floating villages on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. Experience the incredible Inca staircases, walls, and towers of perfectly matching granite boulders, some weighing many tons.

**Date: Monday, October 8, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library, 3324 S Perry St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Project Hope – Senior Entertainers**

Grace Notes presents favorites from the 40's and later in 3-part harmony. The audience is invited to join them in a sing-along for the program.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 1:00 pm-2:00pm

Location: Hazen & Jaeger Valley, 1306 N pines Rd.

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.761.3854.

### **Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Informational Night - Become A Foster Parent to a Refugee or Migrant Minor**

Lutheran Community Services is currently seeking individuals and families interested in learning about and/or fostering Refugee youth. The Unaccompanied refugee Minor Program will allow for youth to be placed in foster homes around the Spokane Area.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Location: Lutheran Community Services NW, 210 W Sprague

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.343.5018 or visit their website at <http://lcsnw.org> or call 509.624.1200.

### **Spokane Coalition of Color Candidate Forum**

Candidates running for the 5<sup>th</sup> District, Superior Court and District Court Judges.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Spokane Community College Lair, Mission and Greene

Cost: This is free and open to the public

For more information visit their Facebook at website at <https://m.facebook.com/SpokaneCoalitionOfColor/>.

Sponsored by Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of Spokane, Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA), and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

### **The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu**

Join Fred Stahl for his memorable trip to Peru, including Cusco, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, and an added adventure to the floating villages on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. Experience the incredible Inca staircases, walls, and towers of perfectly matching granite boulders, some weighing many tons.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Witness for Peace NW Tour**

Featuring Honduran journalist, artist and documentary filmmaker Jennifer Avila as she presents, "Silencing Dissent: How Freedom of the Press is Threatened in Honduras."

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Whitworth University, Weyerhaeuser Hall, 300 W Hawthorne Rd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit [www.whitworth.edu](http://www.whitworth.edu) or call 509.777.1000.

### **'Critical Race Theory Today' with David Theo Goldberg**

Speaker David Goldberg will discuss what Critical Race Theory is and why it is more necessary now than ever.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Gonzaga University, Hemmingson Ballroom

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <https://www.gonzaga.edu/news-events/events/2018/10/9/center-for-public-humanities-david-theo-goldberg>.

### **Hispanic Business / Professional Association monthly luncheon**

Speaker: Spokane Coalition of Color (HPBA-Larry Valadez, NAACP-Fay Baptiste & APIC-Rowena Pineda)

**Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018**

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Perkins Restaurant, Division and Olive St.

Cost: \$10.00-\$15 for lunch if purchased

For more information regarding the luncheon, contact

### **The Face of Migrant Labor in Washington State**

Dr. Martin Meraz-Garcia from Eastern Washington University discusses the images in his exhibit taken in Mount Vernon, Washington. His work gives a glimpse into the ethical, moral, and legal issues at play in farming and immigration. Consumers demand cheap fruits and vegetables, but at what cost?

**Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Spokane Public Library Downtown, 906 W Main Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor stage

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Whitworth University leadership Program**

Speaker: Retired U.S. Army General and former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

**Date: Friday, October 12, 2018**

Time: noon– 1:30 pm

Location: Spokane Convention Center

Cost: \$75.00

For more information visit their website <https://www.whitworth.edu/cms/news-and-events/presidents-leadership-forum/>.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Year Recognition of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies**

Speaker: Professor Nadine Stossen, former president of the American Civil Liberties Union and author of *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship* will offer a presentation which will be streamed from Washington D.C. We'll celebrate local leaders standing up to confront hate, and we'll take a look at the road ahead.

**Date: Friday, October 12, 2018**

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: Location: Gonzaga university, Hemmingson Ballroom

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

For more information visit <https://www.gonzaga.edu/news-events/events/2018/10/12/20th-year-recognition-of-the-gonzaga-institute-for-hate-studies>.

### **Encanto Gala Dinner and Community Leadership Awards**

**Date: Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Spokane Convention Center

Cost: \$100.00 for individual tickets, \$1000 table sponsor

For more information visit <http://www.latinohopefoundation.org/>.

### **11th Annual Partnering for Progress Benefit Auction and Dinner - Into Africa Auction**

**Keynote:** Nereah Obura, P4P Kenya Program Coordinator

**Date: Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 North Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley

Cost: \$75/person or \$550/host a table of eight

For more information please call (509) 720-8408 or visit their website at <http://partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction/>.

### **Immigration and Acculturation: Psychology's Contribution to the Immigration Debate**

Presenter: Dr. Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Whitworth University professor. Recent undocumented immigration and family separation policies have made front page news. Dr. Jarvis will review recent immigration trends and discuss how immigrants acculturate into our communities. The presentation will also address the following questions: How does acculturation impact immigrants? What is the impact of our immigration policies on undocumented immigrants and other members of our community? This very topical program from

**Date: Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Time: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the Public

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **The Hispanic Guitar: The Guitar and the Spanish and Latin Roots**

The guitar is one of the most popular instruments in the world, especially so in Spain and Latin America. Classical guitar represents its academic side, with over 600 years of history and written music. Yet this history is often tied to local folk music, and the associated inventions and cultures from the diverse communities that utilized the instrument. Come hear the music live, complete with brief insight into each song, as we explore the diverse history and culture of Hispanic guitar.

**Date: Monday, October 15, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: South Hill Library, 3324 S Perry St

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **NAACP General Membership Meeting**

**Date: Monday, October 15, 2018**

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Community Building, 35 W Main Ave or community venue, check their Facebook page

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone

For more information contact [spokanenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:spokanenaacp@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naacp/>.

### **Mariachi Music with Mariachi Las Aguilas**

The Mariachi Las Aguilas band was established at Eastern Washington University four years ago, providing a cultural home for students who enjoy Mariachi music. They frequently engage with the broader Spokane community who share in rehearsals, events and performances on and off campus. They delight audiences with favorite mariachi songs accompanied by trumpets, vihuela, guitarron, violin, accordion and guitar.

**Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Spokane Public Library Downtown, 906 W Main Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor stage

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

### **Baha'i Fireside Discussions**

Discussions about topics of interest and the Baha'i faith will take place.

**Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Spokane Valley Library, Small conference room, 12004 E Main Street

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <http://www.sclد.org/locations/spokane-valley/>

### **3rd Annual One Heart Native Arts & Film Festival**

Includes Buffy Sainte Marie Live in Concert (Friday evening), screening short Native films, a Native Art gallery, music and more.

**Date: Friday & Saturday, October 19-20, 2018**

Time: Friday, 5:30 pm, Saturday, 10:30 am

Location: Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague Ave

Cost: \$60.00 festival pass, visit website for individual costs

For more information visit their website at <http://oneheartfestival.org> for location of other activities.

### **I See Me: Multicultural Stories Class (STARS Training)**

Young children love seeing themselves in books. We look at stories that encompass different cultures and find the best books to share with children.

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E Main Ave

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

For information visit and to register for Stars Training credits as seating is limited visit their website at

<https://sclد.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=50154&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2018/10/01>.

### **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holistic Festival**

Wide variety of healthy living possibilities. Free lectures occur throughout the day. There will be 50 booths filled with various health related products/services.

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Location: Center Place at Mirabeau Point Park, 2426 N Discovery Place, Spokane Valley

Cost: \$6.00

For more information call Cindy at 509.468.9001 or Sybil Vaughn at 509.624.1865 or visit their website at

[www.holisticfestivals.com](http://www.holisticfestivals.com).

**Coco: Film and Discussion of Dia de los Muertos**

Despite his family's baffling generations-old ban on music, Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead. He sets off on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind his family's history. Watch the film and discuss the meaning of Dia de los Muertos with Dr. Nydia Martinez from Eastern Washington University. While here, take a look at the Dia de los Muertos shrine.

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Spokane Public Library Downtown, 906 W Main Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor stage

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and schedule of events visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

**Spokane NAACP 99<sup>th</sup> Freedom Fund Banquet**

Keynote: Elmer Dixon, Civil Rights leader

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Northern Quest Casino and Resort, Airway Heights

Cost: \$55.00 a person, \$440 a table

For information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/spokane.naacp/>.

**The African Children's Choir Performances**

The program features well-loved children's songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Performances support African Children's Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development.

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018**

Time/Location: 10:30 am, Christian Life Assembly Church, 302 S. Park St., St. John, 509.648.3840  
7:00 p.m., Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, 4224 E. Fourth Ave., 509.328.1099

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For information visit their website at [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

**Contesting Silences and Memories: Trauma and Transitional Justice in Post-Dictatorial Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay**

This presentation by Dr. Natalia Ruiz-Rubio from Eastern Washington University will focus on the role of art, film and literature for the creation and transmission of memory in the Southern Cone. There has been a growing body of knowledge analyzing the discourses and conflicting representations in accessing a traumatic past. It will also analyze the interconnection between individual and collective memory and social change since the evocation of the past has become a contemporary political practice within the frame of the human rights movement.

**Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Location: Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave

Cost: Free and open to the Public

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>.

**The African Children's Choir Performances**

The program features well-loved children's songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Performances support African Children's Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development.

**Date: Thursday, October 25, 2018**

Time/Location: 7:00 pm: St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone Ave., 509.313.5896

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For information visit their website at [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

**Wailing Black Women in the Media and the Public Sphere**

Speaker: Dr. Celeste pursues the anguish-filled question of 'what now?' via the trope she calls the wailing black woman to analyze the representational trajectory of black mothers mourning publicly to bring attention to injustices and black women’s public grief in reality television show *The First 48*.

**Date: Thursday, October 25, 2018**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Gonzaga University, Wolff Auditorium

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.313.5927visit

**The African Children’s Choir Performances**

The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Performances support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development.

**Date: Friday, October 26, 2018**

Time/Location: 7:00 pm Spokane Classical Christian School, 7111 N. Nine Mile Road, 509.325.2252

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For information visit their website at [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

**The African Children’s Choir Performances**

The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Performances support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development.

**Date: Saturday, October 27, 2018**

Time/Location: 7:00 pm, Westminster Congregational, 411 S. Washington St., 509.624.7992

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For information visit their website at [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

**The African Children’s Choir Performances**

The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Performances support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development.

**Date: Sunday, October 28, 2018**

Time/Location: 6:30 pm, Valley Assembly, 15618 E. Broadway Ave., Spokane Valley, 509. 924.0466.

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For information visit their website at [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

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**Save the Date**

**4th Annual Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)**

This is a Mexican holiday observed throughout Mexico and parts of the U.S. honoring those that have passed. Feel free to bring photos of family and friends that have passed for the altar. There will be activities for the children (face painting, piñatas, arts/crafts, etc.)

**Date: Friday, November 2, 2018**

Location: Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Home, 1306 N Pines Rd (new location)

Cost: Free and open to the public. There is a cost for food if you wish to purchase it.

For more information visit [www.hbpaspokane@gmail.com](mailto:www.hbpaspokane@gmail.com). Sponsored by Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA) and Hennessey Funneral Home.

**2018 Salmon Tales Gala - Salish School of Spokane Annual Fundraiser**

Evening includes three course salmon dinner (with chicken and vegan options), student performances and family testimonials.

**Date: Saturday, November 10, 2018**

Location: Gonzaga preparatory School Student Center, 1224 E Euclid Ave

Cost: \$100.00

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=salish%20school%20of%20spokane>. To purchase tickets go to <http://salishschoolofspokane.org/salmontales2018.html>.

If you know of a diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at [yvonnecmz04@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnecmz04@gmail.com) with event details.

For other general events in Spokane, visit [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com) or [www.spokane7.com/](http://www.spokane7.com/).

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**October 2018 International/National Cultural Celebrations**

**October 1 Independence Day – Cyprus, Nigeria**  
Independence from Britain in 1960.

**National Day – China**  
Commemorates the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

**International Day for the Elderly - UN**  
2018 theme: “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”

**World Habitat Day – UN**  
2018 theme “Municipal Solid Waste Management”, slogan of “Waste-wise cities”

**October 2 Gandhi’s Birthday– India**  
Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948) is the National Father of India who adopted “non-violence” in fighting for freedom of the country, and is honored as a leader of Indian nationalism and Hindu religious beliefs.

**International Day of Non-Violence - UN**  
Urges the world to follow Gandhi’s example of non-violence.

**Mehragan – Iran, Zoroastrian**  
The word “Mehr” in Persian means kindness, love and friendship. It was based on the concept that all farmers would take their harvest to the middle of the town square and share it evenly.

**October 3 National Foundation Day (Gaecheonjeol) – Korea**  
Celebrates the central foundation myth of the ancient Korean kingdom of Gojoseon. The national holiday and the historical myth upon which it is based have long been an integral part of the Korean national identity.  
**Day of German Unity – Germany**

- October 4**      **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi – Italy**  
St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of knighthood, donned the clothes of a poor farmhand and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order. In remembrance of his love of animals, blessings of animals often take place on this date.
- October 5**      **Republic Day – Portugal**  
Commemorates the overthrow of the monarchy and establishment of a republic in 1910.
- World Teachers Day – UN**  
2018 theme “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher”
- October 6**      **Armed Forces Day – Egypt**  
Commemorates the day in 1973 when combined Egyptian and Syrian military forces launched a surprise attack on Israel and crossed into the Sinai Peninsula, which marked the beginning of the October (Yom Kippur).
- October 8**      **Indigenous Day - Spokane City**  
The Spokane City Council voted 6-1 on August 29, 2016, to pass an ordinance changing the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Columbus Day – USA**  
Commemorates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus and his crew’s “discovery” of the new world.
- Independence Day – Croatia**  
Commemorates the nation’s official independence from the other Yugoslav republics.
- Fiji Day – Fiji**  
Celebrates the anniversary of both Fiji’s cession from the United Kingdom in 1874 and its attainment of independence in 1970.
- Taiiku no hi – Japan**  
Known as Sports Day is a national holiday in Japan on the second Monday in October. It commemorates the opening of the 1964 Summer Olympics held in Tokyo, and exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle.
- Thanksgiving Day – Canada**  
Early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrated dinner with venison and waterfowl.
- October 9**      **Navratri – Hindu**  
Nine nights beginning on the new moon. Dedicated to the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and the power of good to destroy demons.
- Independence Day – Uganda**  
Celebrates independence from British rule in 1962.
- World Post Day – UN**  
The anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

- October 9**      **Han-Gul Day – South Korea**  
Celebrates the invention of the 24-letter phonetic Korean alphabet, Hangeul, in 1446 under the direction of King Sejong of the Yi dynasty.
- October 10**      **Curacao Day – Curacao**  
Commemorates the original discovery of the island by Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda in 1499. After World War II, became the “capital island” of the five-island group called the Netherlands Antilles – which was a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands until the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved in 2010.
- Independence Day – Cuba**  
Commemorates the beginning of Cuba's struggle in 1868 to free itself from Spanish colonial power.
- World Mental Health Day - UN**  
The goal is to help raise mental health awareness which affects millions of lives.
- Double Tenth Day - Taiwan**  
Commemorates the start of the Wuchang Uprising of 10 October 1911 (10-10 or double ten), which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.
- October 11**      **National Coming Out Day – Gay and Lesbian**  
The first National Coming Out Day was held on October 11, 1988. It is an international event which gives gay, lesbian and bisexual people the opportunity to “come out” to others about their sexuality. It also provides a means of increasing the visibility of LGBT people.
- International Day of the Girl - UN**  
2018 theme: “EmPower girls: Before and after conflict.”
- October 12**      **Gahambar Ayathrem - Zoroastrian**  
Celebrates the creation of plant life.
- October 12**      **Dia de la Raza (Day of the Race) - Mexico**  
Celebrates the Hispanic and Latino heritage in the Americas.
- Nossa Senhora De Aparecida (Our Lady of the Conception) – Brazil**  
In 1717, a group of Brazilian fishermen pulled up a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary, which was followed by an abundant catch after a fruitless fishing day. They enshrined the statue and in 1929 Brazil named Nossa Senhora De Aparecida the Patroness of Brazil. On October 12, 1980, Pope John Paul II on a visit to Brazil consecrated the Basilica of Aparecida do Norte.
- National Day (also known as Hispanic Day) – Spain**  
Commemorates the date Christopher Columbus sailed for the Americas.
- October 14**      **International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction - UN**  
Promotes a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness
- October 16**      **National Boss Day – USA and Canada**  
A day dedicated to appreciating our supervisors at work.

- October 16**      **World Food Day –UN**  
Celebrates the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.
- 'Ilm - Bahai**  
The first day of the twelfth Bahai month. The English translation of 'Ilm is knowledge.
- October 17**      **Chung Yeung Festival – China, Hong Kong, Taiwan**  
Families visit the graves of their ancestors. This tradition is over 2000 years old.
- Kathina – Buddhist**  
New robes and necessities given to ordained monks and nuns.
- International Day for Eradication of Poverty - UN**  
To promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries.
- October 18**      **Dussehra - Hindu**  
Dussehra means “the tenth” and celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana, is read and enacted. An effigy of Ravan is burnt, accompanied by fireworks.
- Independence Day – Azerbaijan**  
Independence from the Soviet Union when it ceased to exist in 1991.
- October 20**      **Birth of the Bab – Baha’i**  
Born Siyyid ‘Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title in Arabic means “The Gate.” Work is suspended and the Baha’i come together for prayer and festivities.
- October 22**      **Labour day – New Zealand**  
Commemorates the eight-hour working day initiated by the labour union movement over a century ago.
- Abu Simbel Festival – Egypt**  
Built by Ramses II, his temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and once again on his birthday. Crowds pack the temple before sunrise to watch the shafts of light illuminate the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amon.
- October 23**      **Chulalongkorn Day – Thailand**  
Commemorates the death of King Rama V. Abolishing slavery in 1905 is considered to be his more important royal contribution during his reign.
- October 24**      **United Nations Day – UN**  
A day to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945 and the effective date of the UN Charter.
- October 26**      **National Day – Austria**  
The Austrian Parliament passed the constitutional law on permanent neutrality, which has been celebrated as the Austrian National day since 1965.
- October 27**      **Karva Chauth - Hindu**  
A one-day fast kept by married Hindu women for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. The husbands feed the first bite to their wives only after they see the new moon.

- October 28      National Day – Czech Republic**  
Independence Day and Creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.
- National Day “Ochi” - Greece**  
Marks the anniversary of when the Prime Minister Metaxas said “no” (or “ochi” in Greek) to the invasion of Albania by the Italians, thereby entering Greece into the war.
- October 29      Republic Day – Turkey**  
Commemorates the Republic of Turkey in 1923.
- October 31      Halloween – USA, Canada**  
This tradition dates back to the Celtic people 2000 years ago, who celebrated their New Year in late autumn and honored Samhain or Lord of the Dead. They put candles on windows and lit bonfires to scare off the disembodied spirits. They wore disguises so as not to be recognized and always carried a lantern. The Irish traditionally carved lanterns out of turnips or potatoes, but in North America they used pumpkins, which were more readily available.
- Samhain – Wicca**  
This ancient harvest festival, one of the “Greater Sabbats,” honors Saman, an ancient lord of the dead. According to folklore, on this day the souls of all those who had died the previous year gathered. Samhain, or summer’s end, is also celebrated as New Year’s Eve.

Source: With permission from Creative Cultural Communications, Multicultural Calendar 2018:  
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

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**Children’s books about abilities/disabilities**

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/childrens-books-about-disabilities/>

***My Sister, Alicia May***, by Nancy Tupper Ling

This is a wonderful book written from the perspective of Rachel, whose younger sister has Down Syndrome. Alicia May is a lot like other six-year-olds. She likes dogs and horses, paints her toenails, and studies bugs. She can also be hard to have around – like when she doesn’t understand that the kids on the bus are teasing her – and does whatever they tell her to do.

Rachel appreciates her sister’s special qualities (like a sharp memory and the way she always says hello) and learns to stand up for her when others tease. This book is based on the real-life relationship of Rachel and Alicia, close friends of the author.

***My Friend Has Autism***, by Amanda Doering Tourville

This is a simple story perfect for teaching kids about how their friends with autism are different than they are – and that it’s okay. Nick has a friend with autism named Zack. Zack loves airplanes – and talks a lot about them, repeating the same facts over and over. When Zack is focused on something, it’s hard to get his attention. He is bothered by the loud noises at the airport and doesn’t like people to touch him. But, as Nick points out, he’s also a good friend who can beat him at video games and share his love of model airplanes.

***Ian's Walk***, by Laurie Lears

Have you heard the saying, "If you know one child with autism, you know one child with autism"? That's a good thing to remember when reading this book – it's the picture of *one* child with autism, a condition which can look very different from person to person.

Unlike the boy in *My Friend Has Autism*, Ian is nonverbal. His older sister Tara takes him on a walk and is embarrassed that he stares at the ceiling fan in the drugstore, puts his nose against the bricks by the post office, and lies on the ground with his ear to the cement.

But when Ian disappears, and Tara finally finds him, she sees things in a different way. This is a good book for siblings who may be struggling with their feelings about a sibling with a severe disability.

***Sara's Secret***, by Suzanne Wanous

Sara has a brother with severe disabilities. But "nobody understands that even though my brother can't walk or talk or feed himself, or even sit up, he can still make me happy."

When Sara joins a new school, she doesn't want anyone to know that Sean is her brother. They might make fun of her like they did at her last school. But one day her teacher begins a discussion about disabilities. As Sara listens, she is troubled when her classmates talk about how the children in the special ed class are "slobbery." The teacher tells the students to bring something to school that would help a person with disabilities.

Sara struggles over what to do. Her parents think she should introduce her classmates to Sean. "If I brought him, they might tease me for the rest of the year...(then) I thought about Justin's smile and how he loved me just for being near him. He was my brother, not a secret."

***A Different Little Doggy***, by Heather Whittaker (ages 4-8)

Sometimes it's best to approach difficult topics from a lighter perspective. This gentle book, is the perfect springboard for a discussion about differences at home or in the classroom. This is the true story of Taz, a dog who is different from her friends in many ways. She is tiny, has pins in her knees, and her ears are floppy instead of standing tall.

Even with her disabilities, Taz is happy to be different and celebrates what she *can* do. In fact, her differences are not portrayed as disabilities at all. Even after becoming blind, Taz "can still run and play. I just do it in a different way. I now see with my nose and feel with my toes..."

***We Can Do It!*** by Laura Dwight (ages 3-6)

This book is a perfect follow up to *A Different Little Doggy* because it features real children with different disabilities – and focuses on what they *can* do. Five-year-old Gina with spina bifida plays with her dollhouse and rides a special bike. Four-year-old Sarah, who is blind, can read her name in Braille and pour her own juice.

***The Pirate of Kindergarten***, by George Ella Lyon

Ginny is a kindergartener who loves school. Reading Circle is her favorite, but it's hard to know where to sit (there are so many chairs!). When she runs into a chair, someone always laughs. She loves to read, but her eyes play tricks and she reads each word twice. When Vision Screening Day arrives, Ginny learns that she has double vision. Ginny becomes a kindergarten pirate when she wears a patch to school. Now she can do read, do numbers, cut, and even take a seat without knocking over a single chair.

***Eagle Eyes***, by Jeanne Gehret

The author wrote this book after her son was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder and learning disabilities. It acknowledges the difficulties that Ben experiences at home and school because he has trouble controlling how he moves and thinks. He learns that he's not a clumsy bad kid, but a gifted boy with a special way of seeing the world. Ben learns to manage his ADD with medication and behavioral techniques.

***Be Good to Eddie Lee***, by Virginia Fleming

Christy is told by her mother to “be good to Eddie Lee” because he is lonesome and different. Eddie Lee, Christy’s neighbor, has Down Syndrome. Christy is uncomfortable around Eddie Lee and not exactly friendly, but her friend Jim Bud is truly mean. Most of us have seen children or adults with disabilities get teased or made fun of. It’s hard to see. It’s hard to read about. In the end, Christy appreciates Eddie Lee – both his genuine friendship and his ability to do something she can’t.

***We’ll Paint the Octopus Red***, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Six-year-old Emma is excited to get a new brother or sister. She has a list of a “million things” she’ll get to do with her new sibling. But one day her father wakes her up. His eyes are red. “There’s something you need to know about the baby. Isaac has been born with something called Down Syndrome.” Emma doesn’t quite understand, but she thinks she knows what he means – her new brother won’t be able to do any of the things she’d been counting on.

Yet as they talk about each of the million things, Emma learns that “as long as we were patient with Isaac, and helped him when he needed it, there probably wasn’t anything he couldn’t do.”

***Thank you, Mr. Falker***, by Patricia Polacco (ages 5-8)

Trisha is a little girl who can’t wait to learn to read. But she is quickly disappointed when all her classmates read before she does. She’s left behind in the lowest reading group, all by herself. She is teased and laughed at. She feels dumb. School gets harder and harder. “Reading is pure torture.”

Until the day when she gets a new young teacher – Mr. Falker. He praises her drawings and defends her when her classmates tease. Most of all, he gets her special reading help after school so that after several months, she is able to read all on her own.

**A Mighty Girl Books on Disabilities**

<https://www.amightygirl.com/catalogsearch/result?q=books+on+disabilities>

***Rules*** by Cynthia Lord (ages 9 and up, 2008)

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She’s spent years trying to teach David the rules from “a peach is not a funny-looking apple” to “keep your pants on in public” -- in order to head off David’s embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she’s always wished for, it’s her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

***Helen’s Big World: The Life of Helen Keller*** by Doreen Rappaport (ages 6-9, 2012)

This picture book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world’s most influential luminaries. With her signature style of prose laced with stirring quotes, Doreen Rappaport brings to life Helen Keller’s poignant narrative.

Acclaimed illustrator Matt Tavares beautifully captures the dynamism and verve of Helen Keller’s life and legacy, including her advocacy on behalf on people with disabilities and women’s suffrage. *Helen’s Big World* is an unforgettable portrait of a woman whose vision for innovation and progress changed America and the world forever.

***Yuko-chan and the Daruma Doll: The Adventures of a Blind Japanese Girl Who Saves Her Village*** by Sunny Seki (ages 4-8, 2012)

Yuko-chan, an adventurous blind orphan, is able to do amazing things.... During her travels, Yuko-chan trips and tumbles down a snowy cliff. She discovers a strange thing as she waits for help: her tea gourd, regardless of how she drops it, always lands right-side-up.... Inspired by this, she creates the famous Daruma doll toy, which rights itself when tipped -- a true symbol of resilience.

Thanks to Yuko-chan’s invention, the villagers are able to earn a living and feed themselves by selling the dolls. Yuko-chan never gave up, no matter the obstacles she faced, and the Daruma doll is a charming reminder of the power of perseverance.

***A Corner of The Universe* by Ann Martin (ages 10-15, 2004)**

The summer Hattie turns 12, her predictable smalltown life is turned on end when her uncle Adam returns home for the first time in over ten years. Hattie has never met him, never known about him. He's been institutionalized; his condition involves schizophrenia and autism.

Hattie, a shy girl who prefers the company of adults, takes immediately to her excitable uncle, even when the rest of the family -- her parents and grandparents -- have trouble dealing with his intense way of seeing the world. And Adam, too, sees that Hattie is special, that her quiet, shy ways are not a disability.

***Mia Lee is Wheeling Through Middle School* by Melissa and Eva Shang (ages 8-11, 2016)**

Hello, sixth grade! Mia Lee is a stop-motion filmmaker with a wheelchair and a lot of sass, trying to survive her new middle school. Which doesn't seem so easy when she's running for Video Production Club President against certified Middle School Mean Girl, Angela Vanover. Things get weird when Angela starts being nice to her -- well, when other people are around, at least.

But when Mia's campaign posters for VP Club President mysteriously vanish -- no tape, no poster, no nothin' -- the presidential race gets real. With the help of her brain files, an awesome aide with keys to the whole school, and her friends, Rory, Daniela, and Caroline, Mia finds herself on a mission to prove Angela isn't just an ordinary middle school mean girl, she's a thief!

***Deenie* by Judy Blume (ages 12 and up, 2010)**

Deenie is so beautiful that her mother and aunt are pushing her to be a model. But when Deenie finds out that she has scoliosis, she's scared. When she sees the brace for the first time, she wants to scream. Then she learns that treatment for her scoliosis means wearing a Milwaukee brace, which extends from her neck to her hips, for as much as four years.

Suddenly, Deenie is one of the teens with disabilities that she's looked down on in the past. But in the end, wearing the brace frees Deenie from both her mother's expectations and her own self-doubts. After all, Deenie realizes, no one is perfect but everyone is worthy of love.

***We're Amazing 1, 2, 3!* by Leslie Kimmelman, Illustrated by Mary Beth Nelson (ages 3-5)**

When Elmo introduces his friend Julia to Abby Cadabby, Abby is confused: Julia doesn't say hello or look at her. Did she do something wrong? Elmo explains that Julia is autistic, and that she does things a little differently — but that doesn't mean they don't have lots in common. In fact, if Abby lets Julia be herself, it's easy for them to find fun games to play! This book introduces common differences between neurotypical and autistic kids — including mentions of stimming and sensory sensitivity — in a nonjudgmental way, allowing autistic kids to see themselves in a storybook and giving neurotypical kids a framework for understanding and accepting their autistic peers.

***Susan Laughs* by Jeanne Willis, Tony Ross (ages 4-7)**

The little girl in this story is busy doing all sorts of activities: swimming and school, playing on the playground and riding a horse. It's not until the final page, which reveals Susan sitting in a wheelchair, that the reader realizes that there's anything different about Susan at all — and as the previous pages show, that difference really isn't as big as it may seem. The simple verse of the text flows nicely as a read-aloud, while the pastel illustrations cleverly depict Susan doing everything without ever standing unassisted. This book avoids the trap of presenting a child with limited mobility as a subject of pity or as a prop for other children's compassion, instead presenting her as she is: a happy, active child, full of life.

***Walking Through A World Of Aromas* by Ariel Andres Almada, Illustrated by Sonja Wimmer (ages 4-8)**

Annie was born without sight, but she and her grandmother have discovered that she can use her sense of smell to help guide her through life. Soon, she's become an excellent cook, mixing spices and creating dishes that not only fill bellies but also make others surprisingly happy, conjuring memories of people and places that give them peace. Over time, her village considers her a wise-woman, able to use food to cure... but one young man, Julian, is lonely and sad no matter what food she makes. It takes a little advice from her grandmother to help Annie figure out how to help her friend — and herself. Lyrical and elegant, this uplifting book celebrates uniqueness and the power to turn what some consider weakness into strength.

***Zoom!*** by Robert Munsch, Illustrated by Michael Martchenko (ages 4-8)

Lauretta is exasperated by her old, slow, wheelchair, and when her mother takes her to buy a new one, she decides she wants something really *fast*— like the 92-speed, black, silver, and red dirt-bike wheelchair! Her mother grudgingly decides to let her give it a one-day tryout and Lauretta is thrilled... until she gets a speeding ticket and her parents insist the chair will have to go back. But when Lauretta's brother has an accident and needs to get to the hospital, it turns out that Lauretta is just the one for the job! Kids will giggle and cheer as Lauretta finally gets a set of wheels she really loves.

***My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay*** by Cari Best, Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (ages 4-8)

Zulay and her three best friends are in the same first grade class, even though Zulay is blind. She uses a Braille typewriter and manipulatives for math, so she rarely feels like she stands out -- except when she gets pulled out of class to practice using a cane, something that still makes her self-conscious. When her teacher announces the upcoming Field Day, Zulay decides she wants to run a race, and her peers fall silent, not sure how she can. Fortunately, her understanding and determined teacher assures her and them that the class can definitely find a way for Zulay to cross the finish line! Encouraging and optimistic, this book reminds young readers that a little creativity goes a long way when it comes to including peers with disabilities.

***Hello Goodbye Dog*** by Maria Gianferrari, Illustrated by Patrice Barton (ages 4-8)

Zara the girl and Moose the dog adore one another, which means saying goodbye is as awful for Moose as "an itch that couldn't be scratched." So when Zara goes to school, Moose keeps escaping (in more and more elaborate ways) to join her! The only thing that works is confining a lonely Moose to a crate, something everyone realizes isn't a good solution. So Zara takes Moose to her own school — therapy dog school — and Moose returns to the classroom as the class reading dog! This fun story, one of the rare titles depicting a girl with a disability that doesn't make her disability the focus of the story, also includes an endnote with additional information and websites about therapy dogs.

***See The Ocean*** by Estelle Condra (ages 5-8)

Every year, Nellie and her two brothers look forward to their family's trip over the Black Mountains to their beach house. Her brothers always compete about who will see the ocean first, but Nellie never participates until one year, when the shore is shrouded by thick fog. Suddenly, Nellie says she sees the ocean, "an old, old man born at the beginning of time.... When the sun shines, he laughs and gurgles and prattles in the rock pools." It's not until one of her brothers protests that "She can't even see!" that readers realize that Nellie is blind — and yet, as Nellie's mother reminds them, she has her own ways of seeing. Author Estelle Condra draws on her own experiences with losing her sight to create a happy, active, and perceptive Mighty Girl character.

***Let's Hear It For Almigal*** by Wendy Kupfer, Illustrated by Tammie Lyon (ages 5-8)

Almigal and her friends love to celebrate their differences: one friend wears glasses, two are twins, and her best friend is hard of hearing — just like Almigal is. Although Almigal wears hearing aids, she gets frustrated by all the things she can't hear — from the music for dance class to the voices of her friends and family. Then, after an appointment to her hearing specialist, Almigal learns that she is a candidate for cochlear implants. While the implants come with some big responsibilities, they also help her hear the sounds she's been dreaming of — most of all, the sounds of her parents whispering to her when they tuck her into bed every night.

***Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship*** by Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes, Illustrated by: Scott Magoon (ages 5-9)

All of Rescue's family are seeing eye dogs, but his trainer thinks he's better suited to become a service dog — and Rescue's worried he's not up to the task. Then he meets Jessica, a girl whose leg has just been amputated who is struggling to adjust to her new life. Now Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. And, when Jessica's other leg has to be amputated too, they have to start all over again. It turns out that Rescue can help Jessica see after all: a way forward, together, one step at a time! This unique and thoughtful picture book about acquired disability, service dogs, and the power of hope also includes an introduction to the work of dogs trained by the National Education for Assistance Dog Services (NEADS).

***The Junkyard Wonders*** by Patricia Polacco, Illustrated by Patricia Polacco (ages 6-10)

Attitudes towards children with special needs are often the most difficult obstacle of all. Tricia, who has dyslexia, is horrified to discover that the special education classroom at her new school is called "the Junkyard" — the kids, including a student with Tourette's Syndrome, a mute girl, and a boy with a visual impairment, are the misfits of the school. But their teacher, Mrs. Peterson, teaches them to adopt the name with pride, taking them to an actual junkyard and showing them the potential that lies within it — and them. And when one of their classmates dies, the Junkyard Wonders pay special tribute to him with something that most people would write off as trash. This heartfelt book will teach readers to seek the unique talents in every person.

***Eliza Bing Is (Not) A Big, Fat Quitter*** by Carmella Van Vleet. Illustrated by: Karen Donnelly (ages 8-11)

Eliza's ADHD makes her flit from interest to interest, becoming captivated by something but then losing motivation just as quickly. Currently, her obsession is learning to decorate cakes, but her parents insist that the "Cakes with Caroline" class is too expensive given her history of quitting. So when her brother quits a non-refundable taekwondo class, Eliza strikes a deal: if she can see the class through, her parents will let her take the course she wants. At first she has no interest in the martial arts, but as she persists, she discovers new focus, as well as a sense of accomplishment. Eliza's story sensitively depicts the challenges of life with ADHD, as well as confidence boost that comes with finding your passion.

***Rain Reign*** by Ann M. Martin (ages 8-12)

12-year-old Rose is autistic and has a particular obsession with homophones — so when her father brings her home a dog, she names him Rain, a word with three homophones (rein, reign) that makes him extra special. When a storm causes flooding and Rain goes missing, she is determined to find her beloved dog, but when Rose discovers that Rain may belong to someone else, she faces a seemingly insurmountable challenge: breaking out of her routine and comfort zone to find Rain's owners, and maybe even giving back her beloved friend. Rose's authentic voice in this book captures her struggles with a life full of rules that are critical to her but unimportant or incomprehensible to those around her, but also reveals an observant, loving, and funny girl who finds empowerment by learning how to let go of some of her need for control.

***El Deafo*** by Cece Bell, Illustrated by Cece Bell, David Lasky (ages 8-12)

After a serious illness at the age of four, CeCe discovers that she's no longer able to hear. Hearing aids and lip reading provide unexpected challenges, and as she goes out into the wider world she realizes how little people understand about living with hearing loss. All she wants is a friend, but that seems impossible when she struggles to do something as simple as watch a TV show with hearing kids. To succeed in school, she gets a bulky device called a Phonic Ear that allows her to hear her teachers — even when they forget she's listening. Perhaps El Deafo can be a superhero to her peers after all...

***Mockingbird*** by Kathryn Erskine (ages 9-12)

Caitlin has always depended on her older brother, Devon, to help comfort her: her diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome means that anything other than black and white is confusing and upsetting. But when Devon is killed in a school shooting, her world is truly turned upside down, and her widower father is too deep in his own grief to help. When Caitlin hears the word closure, she turns to her trusty dictionary and determines that's exactly what she needs — but how is she going to find it? With the help of the school's counselor, maybe Caitlin can also learn to find the friendship she desperately wants. This National Book Award winner beautifully captures Caitlin's thought process, which may seem "weird" to others but makes total sense through her eyes.

***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling (ages 9-13)**

Aven has long since gotten tired of questions about what "happened" to her arms, so she creates crazy stories instead of repeating over and over that she was born without them. When her family moves to Arizona to run a theme park called Stagecoach Pass, she steels herself for even more questions. Then she meets Connor, who also feels isolated by disability (in his case, Tourette's Syndrome.) And when the newfound friends discover a mystery at Stagecoach Pass, the real adventure can begin! This quirky adventure starring a delightfully funny main character is a reminder that others' reactions are often more problematic than the disability itself — and that nothing, not even "lack of armage," has to hold you back.

***Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry (ages 10-13)**

Ever since her father died, astronomy-loving Calliope June has struggled with her mother's constant moves — and faced rejection among new sets of peers when her Tourette's syndrome causes facial tics and noises that she can't control. When they arrive in St. George, Utah, Calli once again tries and fails to blend in, but she finds friendship with her neighbor Jinsong, the student body president and a sports star. But will he be brave enough to make their friendship public? And what if Calli's mom decides to move again just as she's beginning to feel like her differences aren't the end of the world? Told in Calli and Jinsong's dual perspectives, in prose poetry and free verse, this touching story celebrates the power of accepting — and being true — to who you are.

***Fish In A Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (ages 10 and up)**

Ally is clever — she knows that, if she's enough of a disruption in class, no one will figure out just how little she can read. But how can she be smart if she can't even read the simplest things? Her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, seems to see past her brash, troublemaking exterior, and even puts a name to her reading problems: dyslexia. Lynda Mullaly Hunt provides a compassionate look at life with a learning disability, with an ending that's realistic: Ally's happy ending will involve small changes and a lot of hard work! Her reminder that great minds don't always think alike — and that struggles with literacy can affect surprising aspects of a person's life — will provide kids with dyslexia with hope and encourage those without similar struggles to have empathy for the challenges they pose.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper (ages 10 and up)**

Melody's classmates and teachers dismiss her as mentally challenged, because her cerebral palsy leaves her unable to walk or speak. But the truth is that Melody's mind is remarkable: deeply intelligent and with a photographic memory, she's capable of much more than anyone expects. And while she's been repeating the same preschool-level ABCs year after year, she's also been planning exactly what she'll say whenever she figures out how to communicate. Then her parents get a computer — one which has a special keyboard that will allow Melody to talk. Melody has found her voice; are people ready to hear what she has to say? Complex and thought-provoking, this novel will open middle readers' eyes to the misconceptions about people with disabilities.

***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen (ages 12 and up)**

Promising athlete Jessica's life seems to fall apart after an accident results in the loss of her leg. Being able to walk again — with a prosthetic — doesn't seem that great to a girl who loved to run. And learning that Rosa, a girl with cerebral palsy who Jessica used to ignore, is going to be her math tutor is salt in the wound. But Rosa has a lot to teach Jessica about being comfortable in her skin, and when Jessica's former teammates raise \$20,000 to get Jessica a running leg, Jessica has a realization: the next time she races, Rosa should be getting some of the spotlight too. Jessica's realistic journey, both through the grief of losing a limb and through the guilt of recognizing how poorly she has treated people with disabilities in the past, is sure to speak to teens, and readers will cheer as Jessica finds a new running dream to chase.

***Push Girl* by Chelsie Hill and Jessica Love (ages 13 and up)**

Kara is a popular student and aspiring dancer with a mostly perfect life; the few snags, like her parents' arguments, seem minor. But after one particularly terrible day, she drives off from a party... only to be struck by a drunk driver. When she wakes up in the hospital, she learns that she is now paralyzed below the waist. Suddenly, Kara has to adjust to a new life after a serious injury, and her popular friends and boyfriend are nowhere to be found. Fortunately, with the help of some old friends — and the decision to be a "push girl," who faces every challenge with determination -- Kara finds a way to build a new life and give hope to others around her. Author Chelsie Hill survived the same sort of injury as Kara and created the real life Walk and Roll Foundation, which is dedicated to helping people with spinal injuries, giving this book an authenticity and heart that's deeply touching.

***The Thing With Feathers* by McCall Hoyle (ages 13 and up)**

For Emilie, life is about being safe: since her father died of cancer and she was diagnosed with epilepsy, she's been happy to stay homeschooled, with no one but her seizure alert dog for company. When her mother decides it's time for Emilie to attend public school, Emilie's fears about her recently-adjusted medications failing lurk in the background as she adjusts to busy school halls and newfound friends. Even when she's paired with star athlete Chatham York for a project about Emily Dickinson — and he actually shows interest in her — she can't help but worry what will happen if she has a seizure at school. And when the inevitable happens, Emilie is forced to make a decision: give up on her life, figuratively or literally — or see just what the big world has to offer. This powerful title about overcoming fears and finding friendship and love also recognizes the challenges of life with an invisible disability.

***A Time To Dance* by Padma Venkatraman (ages 13 and up)**

Veda is a classical dance prodigy in India, and she adores dancing — so the accident that takes her leg is crushing. With her leg amputated below the knee, her dreams of being a dancer are surely ruined. But Veda refuses to give up dancing, and starts taking lessons in the beginner class, using a prosthetic leg. Her connection to one teacher, Govinda, becomes a deeper relationship as they share their feelings about spirituality and dance. "Our ancient scriptures say the best dancers must have ten talents: balance, agility, steadiness, grace, intelligence, dedication, hard work, the ability to sing well, to speak well, and to see deeply and expressively," he tells her. "You've only lost the first three talents. Only for a while." Readers will be delighted as Veda finds ways to overcome the obstacles that keep her from her passion for dancing.

***Say What You Will* by Cammie McGovern (ages 14 and up)**

Amy was born with cerebral palsy, and she's spent her whole life using a walker, a speaker box — and an adult aide. One day, though, Matthew, one of her high school classmates challenges her bubbly exterior, and Amy decides that relying on adults has kept her separated from her peers. In response, Amy asks her parents to pay her fellow students to help her, and urges Matthew to apply. As they form a friendship, Amy discovers that Matthew's quirks are actually compulsions, and that, in many ways, his undiagnosed and untreated OCD limits him far more than her CP limits her. Together, they face the challenges of high school, their friendship turns into a romantic relationship, and Amy realizes that letting people her own age into her life has taught her to see her possibilities, not her limitations.

***Girls Like Us* by Gail Giles (ages 15 and up)**

Quincy and Bidy are "speddies," graduates of high school special education programs, and now they're taking on a new challenge: life in a supervised apartment space. Quincy is suspicious of everyone — no one has ever been kind to her before, so why would they start now? — while Bidy is terrified of everything beyond their front door. After being paired as roommates, though, what seems to be a poor fit turns into a deep friendship — particularly when Quincy goes through a traumatic experience that Bidy understands all too well. Together, maybe they really can make a life for themselves, even if they learn a little slower than other girls. This novel doesn't shy away from the challenges facing people with intellectual disabilities, including scenes involving physical and sexual assault, but Quincy and Bidy show the power of learning independence, particularly with a friend at your side.

***An Uncomplicated Life: A Father's Memoir of His Exceptional Daughter*** by Paul Daugherty

Jillian Daugherty was born with Down syndrome, leaving her parents, Paul and Kerry, flooded with worry and uncertainty — and also overwhelming love. They refused to believe that Jillian was destined for a life of misery and struggle, instead deciding that they would help their daughter achieve everything she was capable of. And they discovered that Jillian was capable of a lot more than the naysayers expected! In fact, her determination and strength allowed her to exceed every expectation that was mistakenly laid on her diagnosis. In his memoir about raising his very special daughter, Paul Daugherty shows how Jillian has inspired those around her to live better and more fully. The day Jillian was born, Paul says, was the last bad day — and this heartwarming book about their journey together captures how much this Mighty Girl has taught her father.

***The Girl Who Thought In Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin*** by Julia Finley Mosca, Illustrated by Daniel Rieley (ages 5-9)

Temple Grandin was considered a strange girl, and doctors told her mother she'd never speak, let alone have a productive life. But her mother refused to believe it: she saw potential in her observant and creative child. As Temple grew, she started learning how to articulate the different way that her mind worked: her astounding visual memory allowed her to draw whole blueprints just from one tour through a facility, and her empathy with animals helped her design spaces that helped them stay calm. Today, she is a powerful voice in science, advocating for autistic people like herself. This picture book biography told in rhyming text is an inspiring introduction to an important figure in scientific history.

***Temple Grandin: How The Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** by Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin (ages 9-14)

When Temple Grandin was born, autism was newly described — and a diagnosis meant a life in an institution. But her mother refused to believe that her daughter was incapable of learning, and to everyone's amazement, Grandin learned to speak and attended a regular school. As a teen, a love of science and an empathy with animals around her, who also found themselves overwhelmed and frightened by sensory stimuli, led her to a career in the animal sciences, where she has revolutionized the livestock industry and provided a role model for autistic people around the world. This compelling biography shows readers that a different way of seeing the world can be of tremendous value in scientific discovery.

***We're Amazing 1, 2, 3*** by Leslie Kimmelman. Illustrated by Mary Beth Nelson (ages 3-5)

When Elmo introduces his friend Julia to Abby Cadabby, Abby is confused: Julia doesn't say hello or look at her. Did she do something wrong? Elmo explains that Julia is autistic, and that she does things a little differently — but that doesn't mean they don't have lots in common. In fact, if Abby lets Julia be herself, it's easy for them to find fun games to play! This book introduces common differences between neurotypical and autistic kids — including mentions of stimming and sensory sensitivity — in a nonjudgmental way, allowing autistic kids to see themselves in a storybook and giving neurotypical kids a framework for understanding and accepting their autistic peers.

***My Brother Charlie*** by Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete (ages 4-8)

Siblings of autistic kids can provide an understanding explanation of autism for other children. This little girl explains that her brother's diagnosis means that "his brain works in a special way. It's harder for him to make friends. Or show his true feelings. Or stay safe." Sometimes that makes things difficult, but she also knows that there are many things that Charlie is very good at: he plays the piano, he knows all the American presidents, and he can tell you more about airplanes than anyone! Holly Robinson Peete was inspired to write this story by her son with autism, and collaborated with her daughter Ryan Elizabeth Peete to capture the real-life experiences of a sibling of an autistic child and a simple explanation of autism spectrum disorder for children who aren't familiar with it.

***Slug Days*** by Sara Leach, Illustrated by Rebecca Bender (ages 6-9)

Lauren, a young girl with autism spectrum disorder, is having a week of ups and downs. Some days, Lauren says, are "slug days" — those are the days when people don't understand her and she feels like she has no friends. Other days are "butterfly days," like when she makes her classmates laugh or has special time with Mom. It's hard for Lauren to stay calm or to understand others' feelings, but when she does, she doesn't just learn to shine in her own, unique way; she also provides a helping hand to a new student... who becomes a new friend! Author Sara Leach's experience teaching kids with ASD allows her to create a realistic portrayal of life through their eyes. This empathetic chapter book, filled with black and white illustrations on nearly every page, is perfect for sparking conversation with elementary school children about understanding and embracing differences.

***M is for Autism*** by The Students of Limpsfield Grange School, Vicky Martin (ages 9-12)

M's world is a little different than that of her classmates, and she just wants to be like them — the ones who don't have to fight their anxiety at every classroom door, or who see the world in a way that everyone seems to understand. Just when she thinks her life couldn't be more upside-down, she gets a diagnosis: autism spectrum disorder. Suddenly her life is full of terms like "stims" and "sensory issues," "coping strategies" and "therapy." But by understanding who she is — and that she's not alone in her view of the world — M might just find her own kind of normal. Written by students at Limpsfield Grange, a school for girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder with communication and interaction difficulties, this book provides an inside look at what it's like to find your identity and understand yourself in a new way.

***How To Speak Dolphin*** by Ginny Rorby (ages 10-13)

Lily adores her autistic half-brother, Adam, but she's also frustrated by how his needs have taken over her life: her stepfather, Don, refuses to see Adam's needs, forcing Lily to be more caretaker than sister. When Adam bonds with a captive dolphin, Nori, Don thinks it's the solution to the family's problems — but a new friend has Lily questioning if it's fair to keep a dolphin away from the ocean to benefit her brother. What she really wants is to help Nori find her freedom — while also ensuring that both she and Adam have the opportunity to find happiness. This complex novel explores the challenges that family's face finding the solutions that fit autistic children's unique situations.

***The Ostrich and Other Lost Things*** by Beth Hautala (ages 10-13)

Eleven-year-old Olivia is struggling to find her own place in a family consumed with managing her brother Jacob's autism. When a local theater puts on an all-kids production of *Peter Pan*, Olivia is excited to participate — until her parents push Jacob to audition as well. When Jacob melts down on opening night, Olivia is torn between her love for her brother and her frustration at always having to put his needs first. Add in an insightful new friend and an escape-prone (real) ostrich from a traveling zoo, and it looks like Olivia is in for a difficult summer but one that will teach her about love, being herself, and making her own definition of normal.