

**Bloomington Celebrates
Disability Awareness Month during March 2020
and
Community Accessibility Month during April 2020
(As of March 11th)**

The months of March and April offer Bloomington a time to consider ways in which our community is a welcoming one to people with disabilities. During March, Bloomington and communities across Indiana celebrate **Disability Awareness Month**. In April, the City of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility celebrates **Accessibility Awareness Month**. A wealth of activities will be occurring in Bloomington and on the IU campus over these next two months. Individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, faculty, and other community members are encouraged to participate.

MARCH ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 6th

"Way to Go"

Travel Training Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. This March 7th class will be held at 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. Additional classes can be arranged. Interested persons or groups must RSVP. For more information and to RSVP contact Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812-336-7433.

Wednesday, March 25

Caregiver University: Empowering the Dementia Caregiver

Family caregivers are at higher risk for depression than the general population. When caregivers suffer from depression, the psychological, physical, and emotional symptoms take a toll on themselves, the care recipient, family unit, and healthcare system. This course will increase the knowledge, skills, and confidence of the participants, enabling them to better cope with the demands of caregiving. A partnership between IU Health Bloomington and the Library presented by Ellen Clancy. Main Library Meeting Room 2A at 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Reading Glasses Assessment and Giveaway

Members of the Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity chapter at the Indiana University School of Optometry will be on hand in the Main Library Atrium to assess the

strength of reading glasses needed by members of the community, and to give away free pairs. Drop in from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. A partnership between Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity chapter at Indiana University School of Optometry and the Library. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Saturday, March 28th

PALS Volunteer Training People & Animal Learning

Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help groom, saddle, train, and care for horses and help with barn chores. No horse experience necessary! This training will be held from 10:00-12:30pm on March 9th. For more information, contact volunteer@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 0.

Saturday, March 28th

Disability Awareness Film Series: Invaluable: The Unrecognized

Profession of Direct Support. A documentary film exploring the underappreciated and underfunded work of direct support professionals (DSPs), the people who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living full lives as members of their communities. The film will be showing at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. For more information, please contact Adam Hamel at (812) 332-2168 ext. 269 or ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Tuesday, March 31st

IU Cinema Presents *Flamekeeper: The Michael Cleveland Story*

Flamekeeper portrays the life and music of 11-time 'Fiddler of the Year' Michael Cleveland. Born blind and with a cleft palate, as well as having lost much of the hearing in his left ear in early childhood, Cleveland rose above these challenges to become the nation's foremost bluegrass fiddler. Michael Cleveland is scheduled to be present. IU Cinema will be showing this film at 7:00pm on March 31st. For more information, contact IU Cinema at iucinema@indiana.edu or 812-856-2463.

APRIL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Friday, April 03

Audiobook Book Club: The Accidental President: Harry S.

Truman and the Four Months That Changed the World by A. J. Baime A book club open to anyone who prefers the listening form of reading, and especially those who are blind or have limited vision. Main Library Meeting Room 1C at 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Sunday, April 05,

Autism and Sensory-Friendly Movie

The lights are up, the sound is low, and no one will complain about a little noise or movement. Parental guidance suggested. Titles are announced three weeks in advance. Main Library Auditorium at 3:00 PM - 4:45 PM. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Thursday, April 09

Caregiver University: Aging—What's Normal and What's Not

This workshop helps learners understand and recognize the differences in “normal” and “not normal” aging. Care partners will learn how to address the typical issues that occur during the progression of dementia, including how to match specific support and assistance techniques to the needs of an individual to help maintain their sense of control and self-direction. A partnership between IU Health Bloomington and the Library. Presented by Dayna Thompson, Alzheimer's Resource Service. Main Library Meeting Room 2A at 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Thursday, April 9th

IU Cinema Presents *When We Walk*

Director Jason DaSilva's autobiographical *When We Walk* tracks his daily exertions balancing his multiple sclerosis and fatherhood. The follow-up to the Emmy Award-winning *When I Walk* (2013), *When We Walk* is the second installment of a documentary trilogy chronicling a devoted filmmaker and father's indestructible drive to keep the cameras rolling no matter what—and to show his son what it means to never give up. IU Cinema will be showing this film at 7:00pm on April 9th. For more information, contact IU Cinema at iucinema@indiana.edu or 812856-2463.

Wednesday, April 15th

Transition and Community Resource Fair

The Monroe/Owen Transition Council will host its annual Transition and Community Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 15th from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Ivy Tech Community College in the Student Commons/Shreve Hall. There will be almost 50 vendors from adult service providers to recreation to advocacy to transportation represented. For further information, contact Jennifer

Robinson @ 330-7700, ext. 51086, jrobinso@mccsc.edu; Mary Ellen Jones @ 335-3507, ext. 174, mejones@stonebelt.org; or Melinda Bunger @ 3307700, ext. 50124, mbunger@mccsc.edu.

Saturday, April 18th

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Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Musical Memories: A Live Performance

Lara Lynn and the Kid are a husband and wife duo who perform a broad repertoire of popular music, from the standards of the Great American Songbook, on up through the hits of the 60's and 70's. They bring wit and charm to their live performances, and showcase the songs that some consider "oldies," but which are nonetheless timeless classics. This program is designed to support individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers. Main Library Meeting Room 2B at 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson at (812) 349-3103 or cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us.

Monday, April 27th

Breaking Down the Barriers

On Monday, April 27th, 2020, 4:30-5:30 p.m., we will show some downtown/Kirkwood Ave. Bloomington businesses that we appreciate them being accessible. Hard to say if we have the most fun at this event, but it receives rave reviews from the participants! To coordinate the logistics for this effort (assure we can have the widest coverage, food, etc.), we need to know if you're coming, some contact info, and what your t-shirt size is (if you need one). Due by Tuesday, April 7th, 3 p.m. Join the fun and register [here](#). For more information, please contact Michael Shermis at (812) 349-3471 or cca@bloomington.in.gov.