



# Sharing Experiences of Disability

Nearly 1 out of every 5 Illinois residents lives with some type of disability. Yet, their experiences are often missing from our community stories. This year, Coming Together focuses on the voices, experiences, and talents of members of the disability community across Niles Township. We're also sharing information on resources for advocacy and support that are available to everyone. From March 6–April 23, we will explore learning disabilities, physical disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and mental health disabilities.



## COMING TOGETHER

IN SKOKIE & NILES TOWNSHIP

Find all of the Coming Together events, along with much more information, on the Coming Together website:

[comingtogether.in](http://comingtogether.in)

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[www.skokieliibrary.info](http://www.skokieliibrary.info)



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Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm  
Sunday, noon to 6 pm  
**Closed April 17**

Our  
Featured  
Artist



# Grishma Shah

Grishma Shah is a South Asian visual artist, producer, and entertainment community psychologist based in Chicago.

Consulting with filmmakers, film festivals, and production companies in various stages of the creative process, Grishma also works with an organization in Hollywood to help make the industry more inclusive. Grishma's objective is to bring out beauty where it has been forgotten, so it can be noticed again. She does this by exploring where old stories come from and championing new stories about beauty and worth in the global market.

***“Art can, and should, be used to explore opportunities in the disability space. Art is universal, like love—and through shared universal experiences, we begin to recognize our similarities rather than our differences.”***

As a visual artist, Grishma infuses heritage and components of mixed media into her works to create 3D-like paintings. Most of her paintings tell a story of a lived experience. Grishma believes in the power of storytelling to entertain, educate, and shift perspectives. She believes that “as an artist, storyteller, and leader, I can plant a seed in the mind of individuals—that a woman of color with a disability can be a powerful and influential person.”

COMING  
TOGETHER  
IN SKOKIE & NILES TOWNSHIP



*“Bringing out beauty where it has been forgotten, so it can be noticed again.”*

### Enjoy the Exhibit

You can view Grishma’s exhibit, titled ‘A South Asian Perspective,’ during March and April in the library’s Radmacher Gallery. The paintings are uniquely infused with texture to evoke the sense of touch and explore the many dimensions of life. With the belief that art can be transformative, Grishma creates visual stories intertwining intersectional experiences of culture, womanhood, and identity.

### Gallery Talks

You can meet Grishma and hear her talk about her work and experience. She will also lead a self-reflection exercise related to the exhibit’s themes.

The gallery talk is offered twice. Sign up at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info) or call 847-673-7774.

For more information about Grishma, go to [www.lagrish.com](http://www.lagrish.com).

Sunday, March 27, 1–2 pm

Thursday, April 7, 6:30–7:30 pm



# Fun with Rainbow Therapy

For almost 10 years, we've partnered with Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy to offer supportive experiences for kids. Holly says, "Kids have overcome their fear of dogs and have built more confidence in themselves, which spreads to other areas of their life. One child who was terrified of dogs now has a therapy dog herself!"



# How We Serve People Living with Disabilities



Currently watching: *Cheers* on Netflix

Currently listening to: *Milk & Honey* by Crowder

Fun fact: Traveled to Africa three times to visit Egypt, South Africa, and Kenya

## Holly

I work with a team that serves children and families, often by partnering with local organizations. We support healthy youth development, and for kids with disabilities, one way we do that is by providing learning opportunities that are specially designed for them. Our accessible programs connect families with other families and with community resources.

What I love most about my work is developing relationships. I've had the pleasure of watching a handful of children grow from preschoolers to preteens, and they have pushed through many obstacles and achieved things people didn't think they could do. It's a privilege to celebrate those accomplishments with them and their parents and also to be there when times are tough. They've been there for me, too!

Over the years, some things have changed for the better. Children's books have more representation of disability experiences, and there are more stories featuring kids with disabilities even when their identity is not the focus of the story. Because of universal design, tools and equipment are more affordable and easier to find than they used to be. And organizations are really collaborating, so there's a lot more access to human capital—organizations are willing to help others, for the benefit of all of their clients and families.

We want people to know they're welcome here. They're invited. And we're thinking about them and their needs. We can make accommodations, develop supports, or modify activities. We can provide visual schedules, sensory equipment, or fidgets at events. We are here for you and for your children. The library is for everyone. I was struck when one mom thanked me for including her son who has mobility disabilities simply by not excluding him. It's so simple, yet so profound, right?



## Dawn

Currently reading:  
Lots of research for  
Coming Together

Fun fact: Listens to  
Yanni or Enya  
to unwind

I work with volunteers at the library and with the disabled population in Skokie. One of the things I love the most is working with community organizations to create ways for people with disabilities to improve their job skills so they can get paying positions out in the community. Sometimes I see people who volunteered at the library through a partner agency come back a year or two later saying, “Hey Dawn, thank you. I got this position. I could have never done it unless I had this opportunity.” I feel like I make a difference in their lives as much as they make a difference in my life.

I think it’s common for people to not understand things that don’t directly affect them. I recently learned, when I was doing my research for the upcoming online event Self-Advocacy and the ADA, that women who use wheelchairs haven’t always been able to get regular mammograms and pap smears because some doctors’ offices don’t have adjustable equipment that can accommodate them. And some can’t be weighed accurately at their annual physical without special equipment that not all doctors’ offices have. That was shocking to me because I haven’t had that experience.

And now we have the new accessible restroom at the library with the adult changing table. When I’m giving tours to patrons, some people won’t really notice because it isn’t something they would use. But for someone who might need it, it’s exciting to see it there. When I first started at the library 14 years ago, a lady would come with her adult son who had mobility disabilities, and she would have to roll him onto the bathroom floor to change him. Or we’d have seniors who would come and watch a movie and have an accident, and their caregiver would have to put them in the car and bring them home like that. So when the renovation was being planned, we got to talk to the architects about these things, and it has made a real difference.

## When You Need to Step Away

We want you to feel comfortable and express yourself—especially in the Kids Room. It’s okay to make a little noise! You won’t actually get “shushed” in the library. But if you or your children get overwhelmed, need to take a break, want to be alone for a little while, or need a place to pray, we have spaces for you.



The Sensory Break Room in the Kids Room



The Quiet Room on the second floor

# Accessibility and Your Library

We strive to make the library a welcoming place for people of all abilities. Our building is ADA-compliant, and we offer many free services and devices for persons with various types of disabilities. If you have questions about any of these resources, please call us at 847-673-7774 or email us at [tellus@skokiellibrary.info](mailto:tellus@skokiellibrary.info).

## Resources for People with Hearing Disabilities

- Library events on Zoom include live captions.
- Hearing loop technology, which sends sound directly to people whose hearing aids have telecoils, is provided in meeting rooms.
- We provide closed-captioned videos on our website and YouTube channel.
- A sign language interpreter can be provided for library events if you request one at least two weeks before the event.





## Resources for People with Mobility Disabilities

- Our building is fully accessible, with electronic entry doors and wheelchair-accessible restrooms, drinking fountains, and elevators.
- One of the first-floor restrooms has an adult changing table.
- A wheelchair and an electronic scooter are available.
- We can mail copies of reference materials.
- Home delivery of books, CDs, movies, magazines, and audiobooks is available to those who are homebound.



## Resources for People with Visual Disabilities

- You can check out large-print books and magazines, download books and audiobooks, or check out books on CD.
- We offer a monthly Low Vision Support Group and a Talking Books Discussion Group.
- We can make referrals for the Talking Books and Braille service.
- We offer computers and laptops with NonVisual Desktop Access, a free and open-source, portable screen reader for Microsoft Windows.
- The TOPAZ OCR Desktop Video Magnifier is near the newspapers.
- SARA and SOLO LV reading machines are available on request.



# FOR ADULTS

## Online Events

Except for events during the first week of March, registration opens March 1 at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info). Except for the adult book discussions, you will receive your link to attend in the email that confirms your registration.

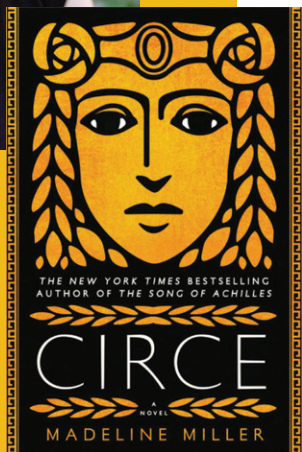
### The Perfect Cup of Coffee: Science, History, and Percolation

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30–7:30 pm



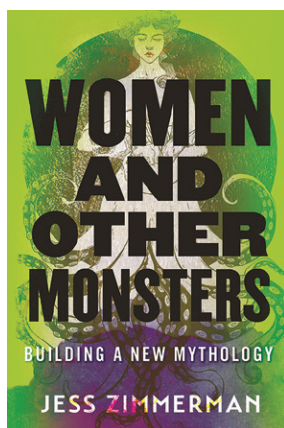
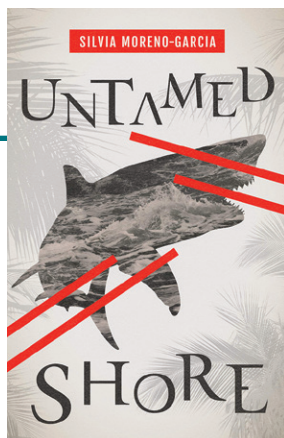
### An Evening with Madeline Miller

Bestselling author of Greek retellings  
Thursday, March 3, 7–8 pm



### Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, March 8, April 12, 1:30–2:30 pm



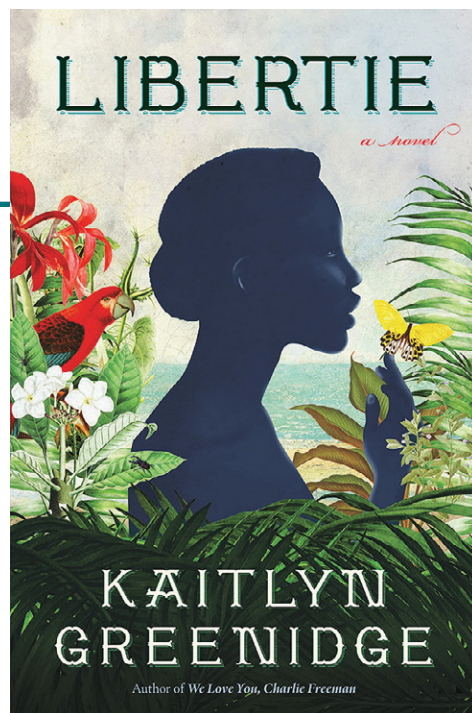
### LitLounge

#### Libertie

Wednesday, March 9,  
7:30–9 pm

#### Untamed Shore

Wednesday, April 13,  
7:30–9 pm



### 3D Design with Tinkercad

Tuesday, March 15, 7–8 pm

### Who's Gonna Win the Oscar?

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30–8:30 pm

### Adult Book Discussions

#### Women and Other Monsters

Goodreads: Thursday, March 24, 8–9 pm

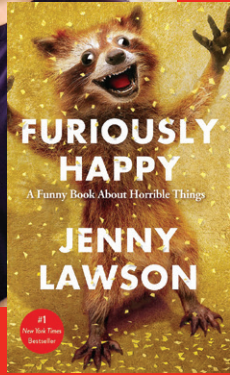
Instagram Live: Tuesday, March 29, 7:30–8 pm

#### Clap When You Land

Goodreads: Thursday, April 21, 8–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesday, April 26, 7:30–8 pm





## An Evening with Jenny Lawson

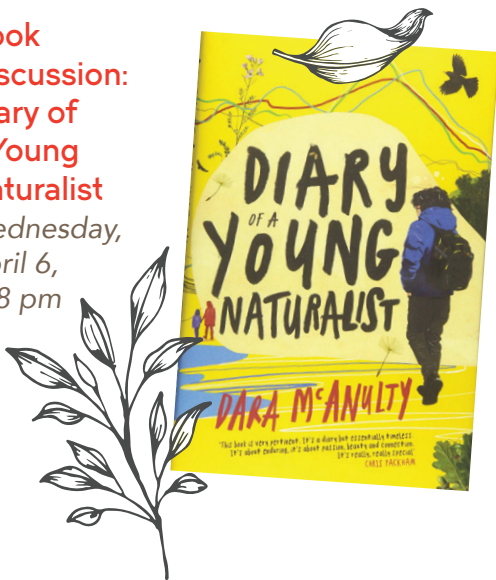
Award-winning humorist author  
Wednesday, March 30, 7–8 pm

### Self-Advocacy and the ADA: Perspectives, Challenges, and Success Stories

Thursday, March 31, 7–8 pm

### Book Discussion: Diary of a Young Naturalist

Wednesday,  
April 6,  
7–8 pm



### Supercharge Your Website with Search Engine Optimization

Thursday, April 28, 6:30–7:30 pm

## In-Person Events

Check for event details and sign up at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info). Registration opens March 1, except for events during the first week of March.

### Knit and Crochet with Fiber Friends

Tuesdays, 4–6 pm (drop in)

### Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesdays, March 1, April 5, 6:30–8 pm

### ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm

In person: March 2, 16, 30, April 13, 27

Online: March 9, 23, April 6, 20



### Technology Classes

#### How to Make Video Calls

Tuesday, March 8, 5–6:30 pm

#### Excel Charts and Graphs

Sunday, March 20, 1–2:30 pm

#### Beginning Word 2019

Tuesday, March 22,  
5–6:30 pm

Saturday, April 16,  
10–11:30 am

#### Baseball Box Scores Using Google Sheets

Wednesday,  
April 20,  
5:30–7 pm



## Movie Night

Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 pm (drop in)

Fireworks Wednesday

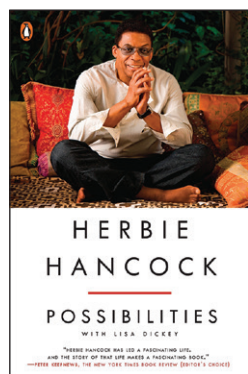
Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 pm (drop in)



## Women's Role in Abolition and the Underground Railroad

Scholar and artist Deena Uzzell presents women who were instrumental in both periods.

Sunday, March 13, 2 pm



## Talking Books

Carnegie's Maid

Wednesday, March 16, 1:30–2:30 pm

Possibilities

Wednesday, April 13, 1:30–2:30 pm

## Mend or Alter Your Clothes

Sundays, March 20 or April 10, 12:30–1:30 or 1:30–2:30 pm



## Character Fleadh Performance: Traditional Irish and Scottish Music

Sunday, March 20, 3 pm (drop in)

## Financial Fitness: The Power of Budgeting

Thursday, March 24, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Friday Film (drop in)

Respect

Friday, March 25, 1:30 pm

Dark Waters

Friday, April 22, 1:30 pm

## Laser Engrave an Aluminum Dog Tag

Saturday, April 2, 11 am–noon

## Making Art from Your Life: Writing Personal Narratives

Wednesday, April 6, 6–8 pm

## I Was Born to Be an Architect (in Russian)

Saturday, April 9, 2–3 pm

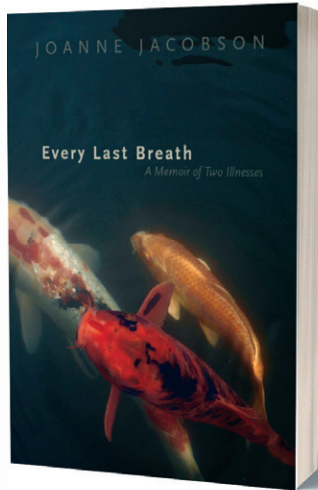
## Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, April 12, 1:30–2:30 pm



**Vinyl Cut a Decal for a Plastic Tumbler**

Wednesday, April 20, 7–8 pm



**Body Language: Writing about Illness and the Body**

Sunday, April 24, 2–3 pm

**Something My Grandma Used to Sing: Mark Dvorak Performance**

Sunday, April 24, 3 pm (drop in)

# Teens

Check the online calendar for added events or events that can include teens, along with other ages. Sign up for online and in-person events at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info).

## Teen Summer Service

An online interest survey will be available starting April 18 for service opportunities that will begin the week of June 13. More info: [skokiellibrary.info/volunteer](https://skokiellibrary.info/volunteer)

## Friend Squad

Ages 11–16

Wednesdays, March 2, April 6, 6–7:30 pm

## Teen Library Collaborative

Grades 6–12

Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 pm

In Person: March 3, 31, April 28

Online: March 17, April 14



## Strategies for Success on the SAT, PSAT, and ACT

Tuesday, March 8, 6:30–7:30 pm



## Women's Role in Resisting Slavery: Art and History Workshop

Sunday, March 27, and Tuesday, March 29, 3–5 pm

## Build a Play Workshop with Northlight Theatre

Monday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 30, 3–4:30 pm

## LinkedIn Workshop for Teens

Tuesday, April 5, 5–6 pm



**Take Charge of Your Breast Health**

Monday, April 25, 5:30–6:30 pm

# KIDS & FAMILIES

Check the online calendar for added events, and sign up for online and in-person events at [events.skokiellibrary.info](http://events.skokiellibrary.info). Capacity for each event is limited.

## In-Person Events

### Small Hands Crafts

Ages 3–5 (drop in)

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 am

### Adventure Club: Peru

Grades K–2

Tuesday, March 1, 4:30–5:30 pm

### Book Babies Storytime

Babies to 11 months who are not yet walking

Wednesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10–10:30 am

### Wonderful Ones Storytime

Age 1

Wednesdays, 10:30–11 am



### Storytime

Ages 3–5

Thursdays in March, 1:30–2 pm

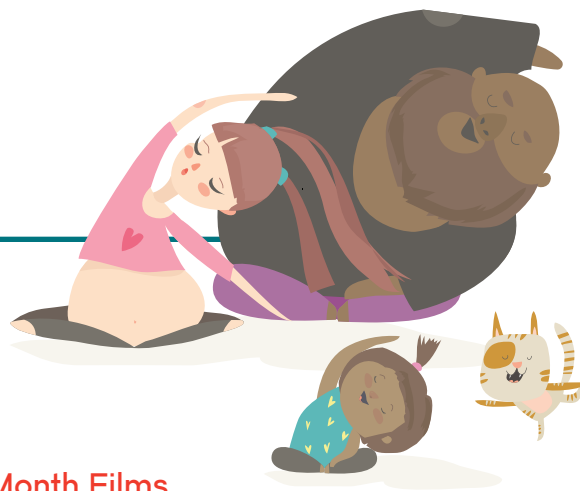
### Terrific Twos

Age 2

Thursdays in April, 10:30–11 am

### Family Yoga

Thursdays in March,  
10:30–11 am  
(except March 31)



### Women's History Month Films

Saturdays, 1–3 pm

Moana	A Wrinkle in Time
March 12	March 19

### Fun with Rainbow Therapy Dogs

Sundays, March 20, April 10, 11:15 am–noon

### Be the Artist

Grades 3–5

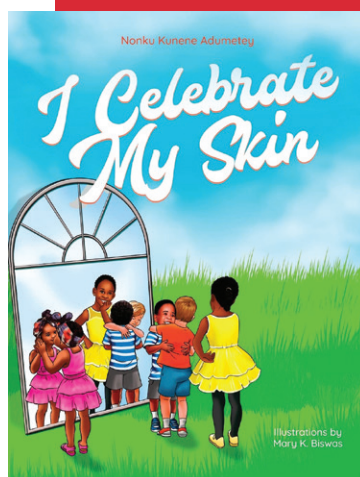
Mondays, March 21, April 11, 5:30–6:30 pm



## Meet the Author: Nonku Adumetey

Enjoy a reading by and activity with author Nonku Kunene Adumetey, who is the author of *I Celebrate My Skin*.

Saturday, March 26,  
11:30 am–12:30 pm



## Local Author Showcase

Saturday, March 26, 3–5 pm



## Draw with The Kao

Ages 9+

Thursday, March 31, 5–6 pm

## Adventure Club: Jordan

Tuesday, April 5, 4:30–5:30 pm

## Developmental Screenings for Young Children

Birth to Age 3

Tuesday, April 12, 9 am–noon

## Family Book Discussion:

## We Move Together

Saturday, April 16, 1:30–2:15 pm

## Be the Scientist: Terrariums

Monday, April 25, 4:30–5:15 pm

## Fun with Excavation

Wednesday, April 27, 4:30–5:30 pm

## The Science of Soda

Thursday, April 28, 4:30–5:30 pm



## Online Events

### Preschool Puppet Playtime

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, April 6, 10:30–11 am

### Virtual Petting Zoo

Fridays in March, 10:30–11 am

### Family Fun Storytime

Fridays in April, 10:30–11 am

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, March 5, 19, April 2, 16, 30, 10:30–11 am



### Adventure Club

Grades K–2

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 pm

Jordan

Peru

March 8

April 12

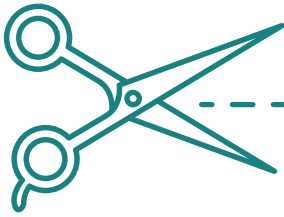
### Pajama Storytime

Mondays, March 14, April 11, 6:30–7 pm

### Kids Book Chat

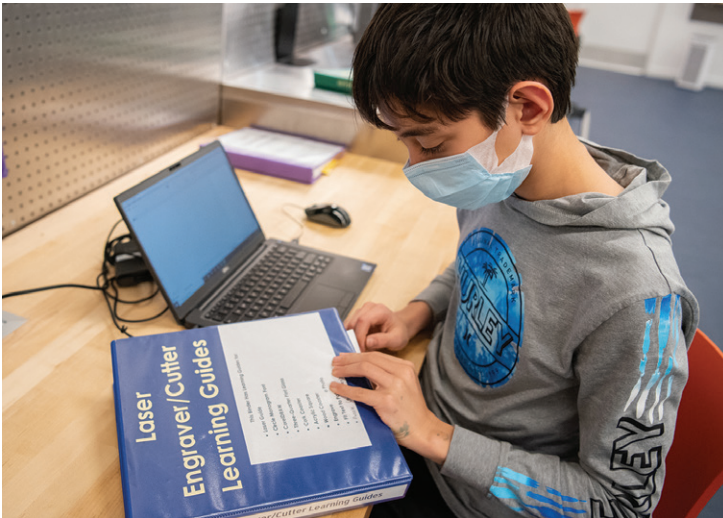
Science Fun in Fiction and Nonfiction

Wednesday, April 27, 6:30–7 pm on Facebook Live



# One Family's Crafting Journey with the Studio

At age 12, Henry discovered that his dream Halloween costume was far too expensive to buy on Etsy. No problem—he'd make it instead. The Studio was the best place to get started. Henry had only sewn a little before, but when he brought his idea to Studio staff, they helped him simplify the project and guided him along the way.



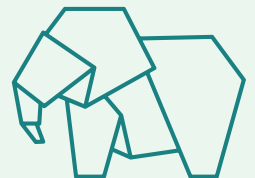
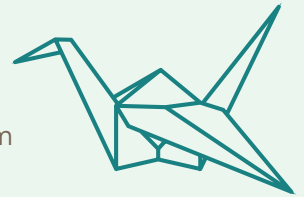
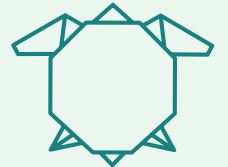
It was a great experience to have Michelle, one of our experiential learning specialists, help Henry create his costume: Ralsei from the pixelated role-playing game Deltarune. On Halloween night, someone recognized his character immediately and gave him extra candy for his hard work!





Henry's family has been coming to the library for years, and they know their way around the Studio. Matthew, Henry's nine-year-old brother, enjoys making paper cranes, stars, and envelopes with orange and brown paper at the Studio tables. Meng-Jia is Matthew's coach in this activity; she uses her hands to guide him along the way but never keeps him from facing the challenges of origami himself.

While Henry says he is "sort of" graduating from the BOOMbox to the Studio, Matthew sees the two spaces differently. While the BOOMbox "gives you ideas [for projects] already," the Studio has far more possibilities that require a bit more self-direction. But Matthew, who used the Studio to make a triangle pillow with his brother's costume scraps, says "Ask for someone who works here [in the Studio] if you need help. That's really the best thing you can do."

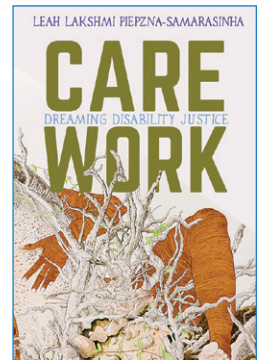
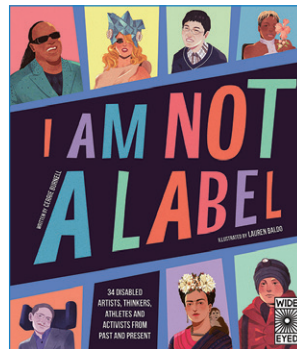
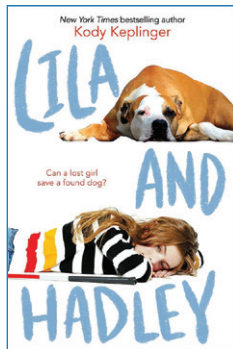
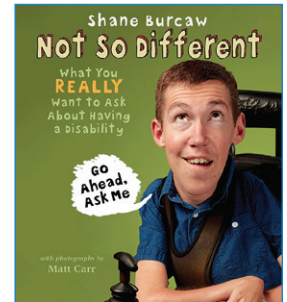
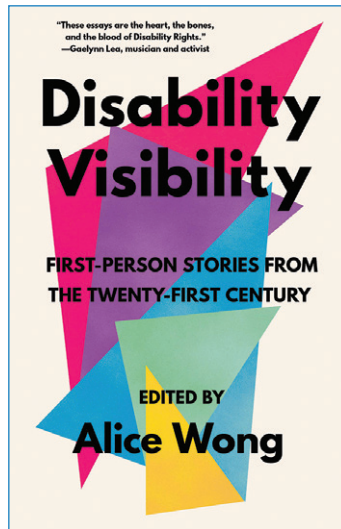
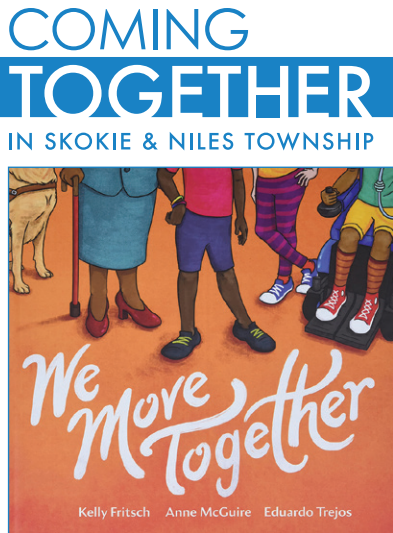


Henry's dad proudly watches his children work on their separate projects. Having opportunities to learn in spaces like the Studio and the BOOMbox "gave the boys a love for the library." As for the Studio being there for Henry in his time of Halloween need, it was "the rescue they needed."

Find out how you can use the Studio:  
[skokielibrary.info/studio](https://skokielibrary.info/studio)



## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



# Sharing Experiences of Disability

Although no collection of books could possibly reflect the incredible diversity within the disability community, we have selected some outstanding examples that are appropriate for various age groups. Find them, along with why you might like them, at [skokielibrary.info/lists](http://skokielibrary.info/lists).