

The Newton Commission On Disability, Understanding Our Differences, & the Newton Free Library present:

Demystifying Disability: A Community Conversation with Author Emily Ladau

**In conversation with Jack Lovett
Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 7-8pm**

Scan for
Program



Emily Ladau is a passionate disability rights activist, writer, and communications and cultural access consultant. Her career began at the age of 10, when she appeared on multiple episodes of Sesame Street to educate about her life with a physical disability. Emily's writing has been published in outlets including The New York Times, CNN, Vice, and HuffPost and her first book, *Demystifying Disability*, was published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House. She has spoken before numerous audiences, from the U.S. Department of Education to the United Nations. Central to all of Emily's work is her belief that by sharing our stories and making the disability experience accessible to the world, we will reach a world that is accessible to the disability community.

Jack Lovett has lived in Newton since 2006, attending Bowen Elementary School, Oak Hill Middle School, and Newton South High School. Jack has Asperger's Syndrome and chronic Tinnitus (ear ringing), and also has a brother with severe Autism. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Newton Commission on Disability (COD) and serves on the Newton Public Schools' Disability Advisory Group (DAG). Jack also works for the City of Newton full-time. In what remains of his free time, Jack enjoys reading about American history.



The Disability Pride Flag was designed by Ann Magill in 2019, and updated by her in 2021 to accommodate people with visually triggered disabilities. The flag features a black background representing mourning and rage for victims of ableist violence and abuse. Diagonal bands of color stand for “cutting across” walls and barriers that separate people with disabilities from the rest of society. The five colors—red, gold, white, blue and green—represent the spectrum of needs and experiences of individuals with disabilities: physical disabilities, neurodivergence, invisible and undiagnosed disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, and sensory disabilities, respectively. The parallelism of the stripes symbolizes solidarity among communities.