

<https://radio.azpm.org/p/radio-azspot-splash/2017/10/20/118698-differences-and-dwarfism/>

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Differences and Dwarfism

On a special Arizona Spotlight: Pima County Public Library celebrates diversity; a rare kind of bone health clinic in Phoenix; a roundtable talk from three people living with dwarfism; why the lack of dolls that reflect differences is a problem.

by [Mark McLemore](#)



Some young attendees at a Tucson chapter meeting of the Little People of America, including Pima County Public Library Associate Amy Morris. (PHOTO: courtesy Amy Morris)

Featured on the October 20th, 2017 edition of [ARIZONA SPOTLIGHT](#) with host Mark McLemore:

October is National Dwarfism Awareness Month. There are more than 400 kinds of dwarfism, affecting the lives of an estimated 16,000 Americans and their families. This week, *Arizona Spotlight* is taking a closer look at what it means to live with dwarfism, and introduces some dynamic & diverse members of our community along the way.

- In 2017, the [Skeletal Dysplasia and Bone Health Clinic](#) became a part of Phoenix Children's Hospital. It offers a multi-disciplinary approach to help with the numerous physical conditions linked to dwarfism. Sara Hammond talks to Kristin Lindstrom M.D., a pediatric geneticist about her work counseling families on their health care options...



Geneticist Kristin Lindstrom, M.D. (far right) meets with patients at the Skeletal Dysplasia and Bone Health Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital. (PHOTO: Phoenix Children's Hospital)



Geneticist Dr. Kristin Lindstrom examines a patient at the Skeletal Dysplasia and Bone Health Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital. (PHOTO: Phoenix Children's Hospital)

- Brenna Bailey visits one of the [Pima County Public Library's](#) special story time series for children called *Differences & Dwarfism*, to get some reactions from librarians, parents and kids about how lessons on acceptance are being shared...



Pima County Public Library associate Amy Morris with some of the books shared with children during storytime. (PHOTO: courtesy Amy Morris)

- In a roundtable conversation, Arizonans Sheri Baker, Hailey Hendrikse, and Ed Myers meet and share their experiences dealing with the day-to-day aspects of living with dwarfism...



From left to right: Hailey Hendrikse, Sheri Baker and Ed Myers in the AZPM Radio Studios.

- And, in a frank and funny essay called *Better Call Becky With the Good Chair*, [Adiba Nelson](#) explores Mattel Toy's decision to quietly discontinue Becky, a Barbie doll who used a wheelchair, and the message the doll's absence from toy shelves is sending...



Becky, Barbie's friend who has now been discontinued, sitting in her non-folding wheelchair.



Adiba Nelson (PHOTO: Kathleen Dreier)



Arizona Spotlight airs every Friday at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm and every Saturday at 5:00 pm on NPR 89.1 FM / 1550 AM. You can subscribe to our podcast on [iTunes](#). See [more from Arizona Spotlight](#).



Mark McLemore

Host of Arizona Spotlight, Reporter/Producer, NPR 89.1

Emmy award winning producer Mark McLemore has been the host of Arizona Public Media's "Arizona Spotlight" since 2007. It is a weekly public affairs, culture, and arts show with a very wide beat. Mark has done stories about topics ranging from wildfires to deep sea research, from global refugees to Arizona's centenarian population, and from dinosaur fossil finds to the proper care of urban chickens.

Along the way, he has had the chance to have in-depth conversations with artists and celebrities including Carol Burnett, Art Garfunkel, Patti Lupone, Michael York, Randy Newman, Leslie Marmon Silko, Doc Severinsen, Billy Collins, Stacy Keach, Bruce Dern, Burt Bacharach, Ken Burns, Jean Auel, Julie Newmar, Martin Short, Bernadette Peters, Dana Carvey, William Shatner, Sandra Bernhard, Tippi Hedren, Roger Corman, Chris Isaak, Ellen Burstyn, George Takei, and the magician known only as Teller.

Mark was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, where he studied music and art, and worked as a film projectionist, museum guard, and musician. He has played drums in bands since he was a teenager, and it was a sudden chance to play in a friend's band that brought him to Tucson in 1991, a decision he has never had time to regret.

"Tucson is home to an arts scene that defies and exceeds expectations. Living in Tucson, you often hear people say that our city feels like 'a small town'. I think you can make the case that Tucson is a global village. Artists of all stripes are drawn here for many reasons - our borderlands culture, exquisite scenery, low cost of living, terrific food, and remarkable weather are just a few. I believe Tucson is rich in the fundamental elements that make up creativity, vibrancy, and freedom. It is a joy to share in the stories that artists create here everyday."

To hear the Arizona Spotlight in its entirety, go to -

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