



# NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US



february 20th, 2020 | national center for civil and human rights

# PROGRAM

- 6:00 PM** Gather & Mingle
- 6:35 PM** Welcome & Dinner
- 7:00 PM** The ADA at 30 - Anil Lewis
- 7:05 PM** Performance - Kipper Jones
- 7:10 PM** Documentary Premiere - Ty Hunt
- 7:50 PM** Performance - Kipper Jones
- 7:55 PM** Closing Remarks
- 8:00 PM** Explore the Museum

*Dear friends,*

Thank you for joining us for as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act! The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Throughout the year SILCGA and many other groups & organizations will participate in celebrating this landmark event as a way of bringing attention to the important work that has been done to promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities and to highlight the work that is yet to be done.

This historic law gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to access businesses, employment, transportation, telecommunications, as well as State and local government programs and services.

We recognize that many challenges still remain in building policies and systems that people with disabilities deserve. But, tonight, we pause to recognize how far we have already come.

We welcome all of you to join the Statewide Independent Living Council, GA in the unending and eternally-significant work of promoting equitable employment, housing, transportation and accessibility in Georgia. We hope you find the motivation and vitality tonight to press forward; with and beside us!

Sincerely,



SHELLY SIMMONS

Executive Director, SILCGA



# ABOUT SILC & GILN



## WHAT IS THE SILC?

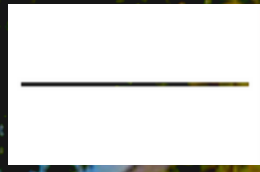
The Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia, Inc. (SILCGA) is a private nonprofit corporation governed by people with all types of disabilities from all across the state. The role of SILCGA is to identify societal barriers to independent living and to collaborate with Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN), Rehabilitation Services and other related entities to remove those barriers and to increase the supports and services needed to create independent living opportunities.

SILCGA activities include sponsoring public hearings, quarterly public meetings, and other educational and outreach efforts; providing information to public officials, state agencies and local organizations and individuals; and conducting studies, and research.

## WHAT IS INDEPENDENT LIVING?

It is important to understand that Independent Living is not a place; it is a philosophy, or viewpoint that barriers to independence have more to do with the world around us than with diagnosis, label or condition. Independent Living is about changing policies and practices that under-estimate, segregate or oppress people with disabilities. Independent Living promotes the idea that people with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities, the same control over life choices as those without disabilities. Therefore, we work to change societal attitudes by moving away from segregation, paternalism and pity opting instead for empowerment and independence.

**O U R  
V E N U E**



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

## **REFLECT. INSPIRE. TRANSFORM.**

The National Center for Civil and Human Rights was first imagined by civil rights legends Evelyn Lowery and former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young and was launched by former Mayor Shirley Franklin. The effort gained broad-based corporate and community support to become one of the few places in the world educating visitors on the bridge between the American Civil Rights Movement and the contemporary struggle for Human Rights around the world.

Through harnessing Atlanta's legacy and galvanizing the corporate, faith-based, public-sector and university communities, The Center serves as the ideal place to reflect on the past, transform the present and inspire the future.

## **PERMANENT EXHIBITS**

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT gallery presents the brave fight for equality in The American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Visitors will be immersed in a visceral experience of sights, sounds and interactive displays depicting the courageous struggles of individuals working to transform the United States from Jim Crow laws to equal rights for all.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT gallery enables visitors to make connections to the world of human rights. The gallery features interactive technology intended for all audiences to help visitors gain a deeper understanding of human rights and how they affect the lives of every person.

# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

1962

Ed Roberts becomes the father of the Independent Living Movement and helps establish the first Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Berkley, CA

1968

The Architectural Barriers Act is signed requiring that all buildings designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds to be made accessible

1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act signed making it illegal for federal and public entities to discriminate on the basis of disability

1975

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is signed guaranteeing a free, appropriate, public education for all children with disabilities

1983

ADAPT is formed and begins a national campaign for lifts on buses and access to public transit for people with disabilities

1988

Students at Gallaudet University (which educated deaf students) organized to protest the appointment of yet another hearing president popularizing the slogan, "Nothing about us without us"

1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is signed into law by President George H. W. Bush (R) alongside its "founding father," Justin Dart

1999

In *Olmstead v. L.C.* the U.S. Supreme Court rules that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities constitutes discrimination and violates the ADA

2006

The first bill requiring that students in a K-12 public school system be taught the history of the disability rights movement is passed

NOW

Disability advocates unite to urge lawmakers to pass the Disability Integration Act which would grant persons with disabilities the right to live and receive services in their own homes

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WRITTEN BY SHELLY SIMMONS

**CURRENTLY** the areas that have been slow to come along in regards to independent living for persons with disabilities are in the sectors of healthcare, housing, and community services & supports. These areas have the most demand in terms of need and assuring that persons with disabilities are able to fully participate in their communities going forward.

Additionally, we still have a low employment rate for people with disabilities. New statistics show that Americans with disabilities saw a slowdown in job gains compared to those of the previous year. The Disability Statistics Compendium, released by the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, shows that the employment rate for people with disabilities has risen to 37 percent, compared to 77.2 percent for people without disabilities. "Our nation was founded on the principle that anyone who works hard should be able to get ahead in life," said Hon. Steve Bartlett, who co-authored the Americans with Disabilities Act when he was in Congress. "People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to earn an income and achieve independence, just like anyone else."



**THE FUTURE** of disability in America will depend on how well we prepare for and manage the demographic, fiscal, and technological developments that are sure to unfold during the next two to three decades.

There continues to be breakthroughs in technology daily. Some of that is in communications and robotics. This know-how can and will be used by people with disabilities to assist in organizing their lives by helping them with activities of daily living.

We should all continue to promote person-centered thinking & practice and to help states comply with the Home and Community-Based Settings rule. We can also look to expand education programs and social services for people with disabilities. As more equality legislation is passed, we will have more of the same chances every other American has; to work and participate in society like everyone else.

As we celebrate this progress, we also look forward to the future and knocking down the remaining barriers to community living encountered by Americans with disabilities.



# OLMSTEAD AT 20

## promises kept, promises unfulfilled

Robin Payne, a renowned photojournalist, was awarded a grant from the Atlanta Legal Aid Society to produce a series of portraits of individuals with disabilities who have better lives because of the Olmstead decision in 1999, as well as several who are still waiting for their lives to improve. The full collection is on exhibit at Atlanta Legal Aid Society located at 54 Ellis St. NE in Atlanta, Georgia.







*Robin Rayne* is an internationally-published magazine photojournalist, specializing in disability issues, social justice, and gender diversity.

In a career spanning 35-years, Robin's work has appeared in Newsweek, Time, Business Week, Forbes, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, NBC News, Paris Match and Der Spiegel, among dozens more. Robin's work is syndicated globally by ZUMA Press photo agency.

Robin also produces documentary films for disability-focused non-profit organizations and universities, and frequently speaks at photojournalism seminars on the importance of personal projects. Robin, who is non-binary, is married and lives in Canton, Georgia.





A FILM BY TY HUNT

# Inclusion

THE STORY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The documentary, *Inclusion: The Story of the Americans With Disabilities Act*, follows the lives of several people living with disabilities, documenting their ups, their downs, their struggles and their successes. By drawing on these respective experiences, we can connect with an audience who is unfamiliar with people living with disabilities. This initial, introspective look segues into the bigger question of the film how does this affect society as a whole? With millions affected

worldwide, how do we include them into everyday life? How can they live as independently as they are capable of without having to worry about places that are inaccessible to them? How does society adapt when they don't know how or what needs to change? *Inclusion* answers this question. It starts with awareness; perception follows. By the end of the film, the audience will have a better idea of what is missing, both from the point of accessibility, as well as an emotional human perspective.



Tony Award winner, Ali Stroker, being interviewed for the film

LIGHT HAWK STUDIOS, production company

LIGHT HAWK is an independent production company specializing in commercials, branded content, and original entertainment. Our collective experience has allowed us to collaborate with several national brands, award-winning creatives, and advertising agencies to create exciting content. Beyond that, we just love creating and telling phenomenal stories and helping others find their voice and vision.

TY HUNT, director

With a background working with national brands like Walt Disney World, Marvel, LucasFilm, and Coca-Cola, Ty brings his creative vision to each project he directs. He remains focused on capturing each brand's story with both a narrative and cinematic eye. He describes his style as "being grounded in reality with a flair of fantasy." Additionally, he has coordinated and assisted on award-winning commercials, feature films, and episodic productions that have won Emmy's and ad spots that have aired during several recent Super Bowls.

Director, Ty Hunt, working virtually with SILCGA Marketing Coordinator, Kelly Rhyne, to interview Ali Stroker in New York City





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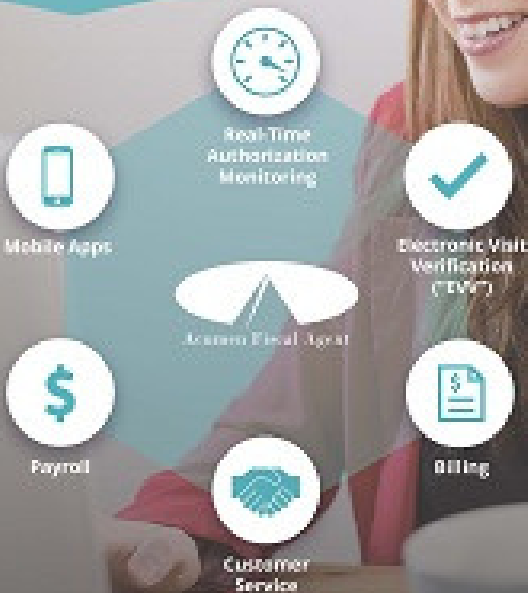
**GAO**

**GEORGIA ADVOCACY  
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*The Protection and Advocacy System for People with Disabilities in Georgia*

GAO envisions a Georgia where all people have value, visibility, and voice;  
where even the most difficult and long-lasting challenges are addressed  
by ordinary citizens acting voluntarily on behalf of each other;  
and where the perception of disability is replaced  
by the recognition of ability.

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615 F Oak Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
PHONE: 770-534-6656

**GVRA**



**GEORGIA VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION AGENCY**

<https://gvs.georgia.gov/>



*Celebrates 30 Years of the ADA!*



The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities is the state's leader in advancing public policy on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. Our work directly supports the mission of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Visit us online at [www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org)



**Shepherd  
Center**

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# Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia

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VISIT US AT [SILCGA.ORG](http://SILCGA.ORG) AND DON'T FORGET  
TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

## S I L C G A S T A F F

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## E V E N T S P O N S O R S

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