



# OUT & ABOUT



The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Quarterly Newsletter

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JANUARY 2020

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As we kick-off our 15<sup>th</sup> year, our theme “OUT-DOING OUTREACH” will be foremost in all that ABOS accomplishes in 2020. Whether you are “Out-Doing” in a mobile vehicle or “Out-Doing” in various other methods of outreach, this will be a year of greatness for ABOS, and we want everyone to be a part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. As your Board announces special promotions throughout the year, let us know through our social media outlets and this newsletter how your library participated. We want to see your pictures and hear stories of all the great accomplishments.

I would like to see the organization grow in our 15<sup>th</sup> year. Please talk to everyone about ABOS and the benefits of joining the organization. I am charging the membership committee to strive for a 15% increase in membership, and it will take all of us to make this a reality. Watch for details on this campaign!

Continue to use the Listserv in positive ways – we grow by sharing and asking questions. Watch the website for information on upcoming events and conference 2020 information. I will be representing ABOS at the ALA MidWinter in Philadelphia in January. Contact me if you will be in attendance, too.

Please know that I am humbled and honored to serve as your 15<sup>th</sup> President. I look forward to the challenge of making ABOS recognized for “Out-Doing Outreach” in 2020 and into the future.

Yours in Outreach,

Cathy Zimmerman, ABOS President



Cathy Zimmerman

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ABOS Executive Board

President: Cathy Zimmerman

Vice President/President Elect: David Kelsey

Treasurer: Brooke Bahnsen

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Past President: Susan Parkins

### Board Members '20

Katrina Ford

Wendy Ramsey

Zach Roberts

### Board Members '21

Kevin Kammeraad

Liana Morales

Robin Rousu

## SPOTLIGHT: JOHN PHILIP EXCELLENCE IN OUTREACH AWARD

The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award is given to recognize outstanding contributions and prominent leadership by an individual in bookmobile and outreach services. It is the highest recognition awarded in the outreach world. John Philip, known to all as "Mr. Bookmobile," spent his long and honorable career as an advocate of bookmobile and outreach services. Through his strong leadership and high-profile advocacy, bookmobiles have been recognized as a viable library outreach service. This award honors his dedication and tireless work and serves as a pinnacle for all bookmobile and outreach staff to aspire to.



## DAVID KELSEY

**Q: How long have you worked in outreach?**

**A:** I have worked in outreach services for 4 ½ years, all of them at the St. Charles Public Library in St. Charles, IL.

**Q: What is your favorite outreach service or activity?**

**A:** My favorite outreach activity is coordinating and maintaining our Literacy Partners (book swaps and bins) at more than 50 locations in the community. Every day, I visit three or four locations (such as the local hospital, homeless shelter, or Meals on Wheels) dropping off withdrawn materials for individuals to take home and enjoy. I love the idea of reaching residents who might not normally visit our library in person.

**Q: The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award is the highest honor in the outreach world. Do you have anything in the planning stages for upping your outreach game?**

**A:** Two new senior facilities are opening in our library district within the next year. I am excited about establishing partnerships with them and launching programming and material delivery tailored to their needs.

**Q: How has ABOS made a difference to you and your work?**

**A:** My team and I attribute so many of our current successful programs to ABOS. The 2015 Conference motivated us to launch programming at our senior facilities because we were inspired by Mary Beth Riedner's keynote lunch presentation. Programming is now one of the core services that we offer, and we entertain and engage with hundreds of seniors each month with our programs. I have learned so much vital information and practical knowledge because of participation in ABOS, the Conference, and from its individual members.

**Q: What words of wisdom can you offer to those just starting out in the outreach field?**

**A:** Statistics alone do not adequately represent what we do and how we reach residents. It's the stories we share, the hugs and smiles we receive, and day-to-day improvement in the quality of life that we offer our patrons and community. Remember that outreach services is about making an effective and positive difference. What we do in the community each day can change lives.

## OUT & ABOUT

# SPOTLIGHT: BERNARD VAVREK SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Bernard Vavrek cofounded, along with John Philip, the Great American Bookmobile Conference, running it for many years until ABOS was formed. The \$1000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is currently enrolled and has completed at least one semester in a library and/or information science graduate degree program, and who is interested in the outreach field.

## NATALIA MILES

**Q: Where are you getting your MLS? When will you graduate?**

**A:** I am attending San Jose State University in California; it's all done online, which is convenient, since I am presently living in southern Nevada. I will graduate in 2021.

**Q: What sparked your interest in outreach services?**

**A:** I have always loved bookmobiles since I experienced them as a little girl living in Long Barn, a tiny mountain village in northern California. The nearest library was too far away for us to visit regularly. The bookmobile seemed like something magical to me back then. Our little log cabin post office had three shelves of library books, and I had read them all pretty quickly. I lived for bookmobile visits! I was in heaven on the bookmobile; I would fill a laundry basket with books for my two sisters, my brother, and myself. I loved gazing at the rows and rows of books that took me to other destinations, worlds, and adventures. The bookmobile driver was so friendly; he made me feel so welcome. He would give us cookies that his wife made, and we would sit in little chairs that had wheels, and we read and read. He never rushed us.

**Q: What do you hope to get out of the ABOS conference this year?**

**A:** There are so many people to meet and so much to learn! I hope to meet people who love outreach and who love bookmobiles—people who are excited



about their work. I hope to make friends and professional connections. I would like to see what is new in outreach and how I can use this information in my coursework at SJSU.

**Q: Any words of wisdom for those about to enroll in an MLS program?**

**A:** Be prepared to devote a lot of time to your studies and become adept at APA formatting. Reach out to professors to ask questions about librarianship and their personal journeys to becoming librarians. They have inspiring stories to tell; in fact, their stories can motivate you to try harder.

## OUTREACH GOES TO COLLEGE

In June 2018, I started working at a local state college. Prior to working for a college, I had worked in a small public library. My role in that library was cataloging and outreach. I was somewhat afraid of leaving a public library since I thought going to an academic institution meant that my outreach for libraries would come to an end. I have since learned that outreach has a different, but critical, role in academic libraries.

As an academic librarian at a state college, I have the opportunity to see students in their classrooms with their peers. Outreach extends beyond students though. Many of the professors learn more about the resources that the college offers by listening to library orientations. This isn't to say that outreach in college could not be better. Like any library, college libraries have room for improvement with outreach and much of it has to do with how we talk about what we do and what services we provide to our students.

Outreach extends beyond only public libraries. I actually let my membership to ABOS lapse this past year because I didn't think that what I was doing in my college was actually outreach. It is important for all library professionals to recognize the value of outreach and how we define outreach to ourselves and those we work with.

*Kayla Kuni is a Librarian at Pasco-Hernando State College in New Port Richey, Florida.*

## A NEW APPROACH TO MEASURING EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

In partnership with the Colorado Early Education Network (CEEN), the High Plains Library District (HPLD) implemented a new approach for collecting outcomes for early literacy skills for CEEN storytime services. Each month, HPLD provides 34 storytimes at 13 different sites within Weld County, Colorado. In 2015, HPLD began utilizing "Twinkle Babies" board book kits, to more fully engage toddlers and preschoolers.

The measurements are rooted in the opportunity the kits allow for each child to experience a book individually. Specific measurements are based on the students' ability to hold board books correctly—in an upright position—and turning the pages at the correct time in the story. Another Print Awareness pre-reading skill is measured as students return their books correctly with book spines facing outward. Other facets of literacies are assessed through observation in participation, measured by correct use of ASL during the welcome song and participation in physical literacy.

For the success of this approach, all CEEN storytimes require consistent use of Twinkle Babies kits and a specific welcome song. Each service must also include one element of physical literacy. Data are collected quantitatively, and observations of two library staff members are conducted and recorded three times a year to track progress. HPLD intends to discover if CEEN storytime services truly cultivate early literacy skills when coupled with best practices. We are hopeful that our skill-based literacy storytimes prepare preschoolers for kindergarten. HPLD is excited to share this approach with likeminded colleagues and community partners to consider.

*Carolyn Valencia is the Outreach Librarian at High Plains Library District in Greeley, Colorado.*

## 2019-2020 Outreach's Early Literacy Project Outcome Measurements - CEEN

Site and Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children in Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### Measurements for the Day

Number of children who are engaged and applying effort with the Welcome song: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children who can correctly sign the Welcome song: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children holding books correctly and on the correct page: Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Final: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children who place books with spines in upright position: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children who ENGAGE in physical literacy: Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Final: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children who participate appropriately in check-out service (taking turns): \_\_\_\_\_

### Staff Notes:

*Example of High Plains Library's CEEN form used to track outcomes for the library's Early Literacy Project.*



## BOOKMOBILE JAMS

Please feel welcome to create a playlist based on this compilation of library and bookmobile-related songs put together by Bruce Greeley, Outreach Mobile Services Manager for the King County Library System in Seattle, Washington. Thanks for sharing, Bruce!

1. **TLC on the Road Again by Dave Ross**
2. **Cef Bookmobile Song by Stan Ransom, The Connecticut Peddler**
3. **Library Card by Voices**
4. **Bookmobile by Melvil Dewey**
5. **Library Rap by Dave Ross**
6. **Wreck of the Bookmobile by Antsy McClain & The Trailer Park Troubadours**
7. **Marian the Librarian by Music Man**
8. **Bookmobile Submarine by John Hadfield**
9. **Love in the Library by Jimmy Buffett**
10. **Bookmobile by Love Kit**
11. **Library Card by Judith Edelman**
12. **Library Pictures by Arctic Monkeys**
13. **My Baby Loves a Bunch of Authors by Moxxy Früvous**
14. **Reference Librarian by Rob Lopresti**
15. **Sweet Librarian by Railroad Jerk**
16. **Too Much Information by The Police**
17. **A Trip to the Library from “She Loves Me”**
18. **Your Library by Ludwig Von Drake**
19. **Bookmobile by Pharaon / Giacomo Bisciarri**
20. **Bookmobile by Town & Country**
21. **Bookshop by Monty Python**
22. **Shhhh! by Miles Davis**



*...Even more library-related songs!*

- *Lost in the Library by Saint Etienne*
- *Thee Ecstatic Library by Comet Gain*
- *At the Library by Green Day*
- *Library Card by Frank Zappa*

*Do you have your own song ideas or driving playlists that you'd like to share? Submit it to us!*

*See submission instructions on back page.*

**30 #Kweli20  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
APPLY BY FEB 2ND**



The Color of Children's  
Literature Conference  
April 4, 2020 | kwelijournal.org

Co-sponsored and hosted by **BCRW**  
BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

Art © 2019 by Michaela Goade  
from *We Are Water Protectors*

Scholarship application for Kweli 2020 is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/qol493n>

For more information, contact Laura at [editors@kwelijournal.org](mailto:editors@kwelijournal.org)

## Announcements

Marianne Thompson, Outreach Services Manager at Fountaindale Public Library in Bollingbrook, Illinois announced her retirement.

New Library2Go vehicle in Rock Island, Illinois on January 7.

Send announcements such as retirement, new job titles, new vehicles, program news, and other updates to board | [@abos-outreach.com](mailto:@abos-outreach.com) or secretary [@abos-outreach.com](mailto:@abos-outreach.com).



## Upcoming ABOS Conferences

2020 Dallas, TX

2021 St. Louis, MO

2022 Scottsdale, AZ

2023 Knoxville, TN

## OUT & ABOUT



Get involved! Join a committee today! Contact the committee chair to express your interest or ask questions.

- Advocacy—board1@abos-outreach.com
- Awards—vicepresident@abos-outreach.com
- By-Laws—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Bookmobile/Outreach Information Repository (BOIR) - board3@abos.outreach.com
- Conference Planning—president@abos-outreach.com
- Finance—treasurer@abos-outreach.com
- Long Range Planning—board7@abos-outreach.com
- Marketing—secretary@abos-outreach.com
- Membership—board6@abos-outreach.com
- Nominations—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Technology—board5@abos-outreach.com

## ABOS MARKETING COMMITTEE

**This newsletter is brought to you by the ABOS Marketing Committee**

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Michelle Parrish

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### Newsletter Subcommittee

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### For submissions to *Out & About*,

contact the marketing committee chair via email: board1@abos-outreach.com or secretary@abos-outreach.com. Also, look for postings on Facebook and the ABOS listserv calling for submissions. *Out & About* is published quarterly.

## ABOS LISTSERV

Not on the listserv? Be a part of the conversation! Communicate your ideas and issues with your colleagues by joining the ABOS Listserv.

To join, email webmaster@abos-outreach.com. More information can be viewed at <https://abos-outreach.com/listserv>.

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is comprised of libraries of all types and sizes. Library administrators, support staff, library staff, governmental officials, trustees, friends of libraries, and professionals from other fields comprise this movement.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are fundamental values of ABOS and its members.

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.