

JULY 2021 | VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

# OUT & ABOUT

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Register Today for the 2021 ABOS Virtual Conference, "Jazz Up Your Outreach!"

Join your colleagues for a week of learning and discovery at the 2021 ABOS Virtual Conference this October 11-15.

Attendees will have access to over 40 programs presented by peers and vendors in a wide variety of outreach topics, along with 10 workshops offering 4 programs in different areas of outreach, as well as daily featured speakers.

Fill your virtual calendar with tours of bookmobiles, factories, and special libraries, poster sessions, "Meet Ups" and Connecting Convos, plus daily prize and raffle drawings.

Registration is now open and will run through Thursday, September 30.



Learn more and register:  
<https://bit.ly/36cvyLJ>



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## A Word From the President

Greetings to my ABOS Family,

It has been an exciting first six months of the year. ABOS has hosted the Virtual Bookmobile Parade, Little Free Library Week, and “All Aboard!” Membership Week, all new events to engage with our ABOS membership. We spearheaded our first Continuing Education webinar, Healthy Boundaries, Healthy Services, in May 2021.

ABOS is featuring several more events for the rest of 2021 that you want to get on board for: Book Bike Week (August 2-6), Student Week (September 13-17), StoryWalk® Week (November 15-19), and Twelve Days of Membership (December 1-12). Don't forget to hitch a ride to upcoming Continuing Education webinars, the next one being Story Time Kits for a Pandemic World on July 29 at 1 pm CST. Also, you don't want to miss your seat for the 2021 ABOS Virtual Conference, October 11-15. There will be more than forty presentations, over twelve sponsors and vendors, a virtual poster session, Connections Convos, evening events, and many other ways to connect with your outreach colleagues from across the United States and around the world. Registration is capped at 1,200 attendees and registration closes on September 30.

Also... hit the brakes! ABOS has reached an all-time membership high of over 530 members! This is more than a 52% membership increase since January 1, 2021. Membership engagement, membership benefits, and membership value are the new key focus of ABOS in 2021 and beyond. If you are not a member, buckle your seat belt and get on board. Next stop, 750 members!

Yours in outreach,

David Kelsey  
2021 ABOS President



David Kelsey, ABOS President



Connect with David at  
[president@abos-outreach.com](mailto:president@abos-outreach.com)

# ABOS Continuing Education presents:

## Story Time Kits for a Pandemic World

Thursday, July 29 - 1:00 pm CST

What do you do when you can't visit your daycares and schools for story time? Create a story time in a bag! Learn how the Indianapolis Public Library modified their 'On the Road to Reading' story time program to deliver a story time kit each month to their centers. Combined with virtual story time recordings, they were able to still provide excellent literacy services to their patrons. Learn all about these kits, how they were created, and what went into each kit to create a story time in the classroom.



Presented by **Maggie Ward**, Manager of Outreach Services at the Indianapolis Public Library in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Registration is **required**, and open to all current ABOS members.



Register here:  
<https://bit.ly/3dHV3c0>

# ABOS Virtual Conference

## Speaker Spotlight: Charlie H. Luh



Charlie H. Luh serves on the 1000 Books Foundation Board of Directors. He is an attorney in Nevada and co-authored *1000 Books Before Kindergarten: My Journey to 1000 Books* with Mark Borghese (1000 Books Foundation, 2015). Luh speaks frequently on behalf of the 1000 Books Foundation and the importance of early childhood literacy.



Conference information and to register:  
<https://bit.ly/3A17Bzx>

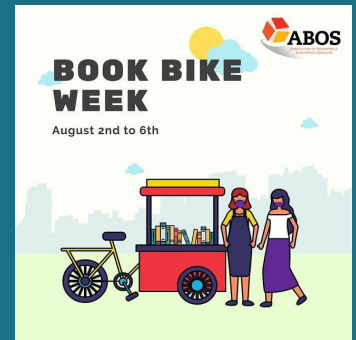
# Save the Date

## Book Bike Week

AUGUST 2-6, 2021

Celebrating library book bike programs around the world.

Win a free ABOS membership by tuning into Book Bike Week via ABOS social media.



## StoryWalk® Week

NOVEMBER 15-19, 2021

ABOS is excited to partner with Let's Move in Libraries for the first annual StoryWalk® Week.

"The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson."

# Upcoming ABOS Annual Conferences

"Jazz Up Your Outreach!"  
Virtual Conference

OCTOBER 11-15, 2021

Scottsdale, Arizona

OCTOBER 5-7, 2022

Knoxville, Tennessee

OCTOBER 18-20, 2023

San Antonio, Texas

OCTOBER 16-18, 2024

## Just in Time for Summer!

Mansfield Public Library (MPL) in Mansfield, Texas – a suburban community in the southern part of the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex – has unveiled a new mobile outreach vehicle just in time for summer. In an effort to grow its outreach abilities, MPL purchased and modified a 2020 Ford Transit van for staff to transport programming supplies across town.

The tech truck is equipped with ample interior storage space, numerous electrical outlets, and an exterior TV screen, allowing video demonstrations to be played for passersby. Additionally, the tech truck boasts built-in components for a generator and a bubble machine, which has already proven valuable for drawing the attention of the youngest patrons during outreach events.



*Tech truck  
with all  
components  
set up.*

MPL staff have started using the mobile outreach vehicle to promote library initiatives. At the latest Mansfield Animal Care & Control adoption event, the youth services librarian gifted books for each adoption while highlighting the library's Summer Reading Club in an effort to spread awareness about the program.

The mobile outreach vehicle has also been used to create programming that will promote the library at community events. For the city's upcoming Fourth of July weekend celebration, staff have developed a "take & make" craft and a BINGO game utilizing the tech truck. The community engagement librarian is also planning pop up events at local parks, with a shark-themed story time planned for "Shark Week" at Mansfield's splash pad. Plus, with a homebound delivery program on the brink for the library, the tech truck will be used to transport items to Mansfield residents who are unable to visit the library.

The Mansfield community is quickly growing, so MPL staff are constantly looking for innovative ways to reach their patrons. Leaving the walls of the library is an exciting step for MPL and all that it means for its services.

***Lori Eddy** is the Community Engagement Librarian at Mansfield Public Library in Mansfield, Texas.*

# Reading and Dementia

When you explore why we humans like to read, you find statements such as,

*"We read to know we're not alone."  
"Books unfold new worlds, worlds that  
can sing to you, comfort you, quiet you."  
"Books help us understand who we are."*

What a shame that people living with dementia cannot have these experiences in a time when they need them most. After all, elders living with degenerative conditions can no longer read in any meaningful way, correct?

No; this assumption is not correct. The ability to read is stored in the long-term procedural memory. It's an automatic skill that most older adults retain, to some functional degree. Although people living with dementia experience declines in visual, cognitive, and sensory areas, the basic ability to read is relatively untouched by dementia.

Then why do most older adults stop reading in the early stages of dementia? The answer lies in the format and syntax of typical newspapers, magazines, and books. Aging adults need an adapted print material to exercise their latent capacity to read. Modifications in font, visual contrast, syntax, graphic layout, and the relationship between images and text all compensate for cognitive deficits related to aging or dementia. Adapted reading allows most older adults to independently experience the joy of leisurely reading, at their own pace, in their own way.

The International Federation of Library Associations writes,

*"Being able to read gives a person self-confidence, enabling them to expand their view of the world and take control of their own life. Through reading, people are able to share ideas, thoughts and experiences, and to grow as human beings."*

These gifts are especially precious during the aging process. Let's soften and expand our ideas of what adult reading material looks like. Aging lifelong readers should not have to enter into a literary abyss when typical published material becomes inaccessible.

**Susan Ostrowski** is the Reading2Connect® Co-Creator/Director at Reading2Connect® in Niantic, Connecticut.



Learn more about the  
Library Reading Program  
for Older Adults at  
[reading2connect.com](http://reading2connect.com)

# Take a Walk on the Wild Side

## *Natrona County's New Bookmobile is Eye-Catching and Practical*

Casper, Wyoming is an idyllic mountain town that is home to natural and human history you can touch. For history buffs, there are plenty of attractions around the Cowboy State including the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center and the Nicolaysen Art Museum. Do you want to travel to the past? Visit Fort Caspar, which is a reconstructed 1865 military post that transports guests back to the 19th century wild west.

If you enjoy outdoor activities like mountain biking, running, fishing, and snowmobiling, then there is something for everyone around the area. Casper Mountain offers both waterfalls and ski slopes to enjoy or check out what the North Platte River, Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park, and Fremont Canyon has to offer.

If curling up with a good book is more your type of activity, the Natrona County Library has you covered.

### *Community Support*

Natrona County Library's main focus is caring for those in their community. If you look at the bookmobile's schedule, you'll see numerous daycares dotting the calendar. With many school libraries facing funding cuts and daycares unable to visit brick-and-mortar branches, the library helps fill in the gaps by providing materials to these organizations. For now, only staff from the facilities are allowed on the bookmobile to collect materials. Natrona can't wait until community patrons and children are able to freely board the vehicle and peruse at their leisure again.



*Natrona County Library's brand new bookmobile.*

"We typically provide services to at-home and regular daycares, as well as senior resident facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and we also partner with schools. The trend in public schools has been to scale down the libraries, so we have made the commitment to the school leadership and administration that we will help them fill the gaps and provide access to the materials and resources they need," explained Lisa Scroggins, Executive Director of the Natrona County Library.

One of the features they were adamant about including was the wheelchair lift. This gives everyone access to the vehicle. Their previous bookmobile did not include a lift which is why they made sure to include it on their new one. The lift also assists with loading and unloading

*Continued on page 7*

(continued) the book carts, which were another must have as well. Book carts allow the library to prepare materials days ahead or bring them to a specified area for browsing. For Natrona, the book carts get the most use when visiting the many facilities for seniors on their calendar. The carts allow staff to bring the materials to the people, making it especially easy to browse even if they have mobility issues. Natrona is looking forward to providing more in-person services, especially for those with dementia.



*Bookmobile interior featuring built-in shelving and seating, removable book carts, and white board.*

## *Marketing Tool*

While Natrona uses the vehicle as an outreach tool for the community it is also an invaluable marketing tool as well. While the bookmobile hasn't been on the road for long, it has still made a noticeable impact. When speaking with Lisa, she was quick to mention how they have always incorporated visuals into their bookmobiles to serve as functioning billboards, helping to raise awareness about the library and its services.

"We use our bookmobiles as mobile billboards and conduct a lot of awareness campaigns. When we ask how people have heard about us, invariably it comes back to the bookmobile. It is so exciting to see the data back on the reactions that we get from it," said Lisa.

The library also partners with the local community center which hosts ice skating during the winter and outdoor concerts during the summer. They have also used the bookmobile as its own booth while attending community festivals and events as well. Swag is handed out and people will show up to the vehicle to see what is available on board. Natrona is looking forward to when they can go back to full services and improving the past services they have offered as well.

*Continued on page 8*

## First Rodeo

The experience of creating a bookmobile can feel overwhelming when people are unfamiliar with custom vehicles. For Lisa, the process of bidding and designing a new bookmobile was a plunge into the unknown. However, working on the project with LDV helped quell any uncertainties Natrona had about the process.

The team felt they knew what they wanted but didn't know what that meant when it came to "specing" out the truck, although they thought the process was ultimately friendly. One of the biggest takeaways from the experience for Lisa was the responsiveness, level of information, and active listening that Outreach Sales Specialist Cory Weithaus brought to the table during this project. This also extended to the rest of the LDV team that they worked with.

"The service and working with everyone at LDV from start to finish was a phenomenal experience. Everyone was so willing to invest time building a relationship with us. I never felt like I was being pushed into choosing a certain feature or making a decision. LDV was willing to make suggestions but ultimately left it up to us to select options and features to create the bookmobile we were envisioning. Truly, I cannot sing enough praises about working with LDV," said Lisa.



*Natrona County Library board members and staff attend the ribbon-cutting event for their new bookmobile.*

**Jason France** is the Marketing Manager at LDV Custom Specialty Vehicles Incorporated in Burlington, Wisconsin.



# PopUp Fitness Parties Spark Positive Vibes with Movement and Community

We all need an opportunity to disconnect and tune into the great outdoors to help reset our mental health. May's Mental Health Awareness and No Screen Week is the perfect opportunity to engage in outdoor therapy and make movement fun. During the first week of May, the High Plains Library District's (HPLD) PopUp Library made a special visit to Greeley parks and libraries to help boost community endorphins and connections. Many community members seized the opportunity to dance, stretch, and breathe in the beautiful outdoors.

After a year of limited social interaction, it felt amazing to connect and move together. Smiles were beaming and endorphins were elevated after an hour of Zumba® Fitness and Yoga in the park, instructed by HPLD's Events and Experience Supervisor and Outreach Librarian, Amy Ortiz, and Carolyn Valencia. The two active librarians facilitated a three-week series of Zumba®/Yoga Fusion at different parks in the Greeley community to offer community members an opportunity to shake off stress and activate the "feel good" vibes.

HPLD's PopUp library pumped the jams as twenty-plus community members, including teens from the nearby skate park, joined the first outdoor party. The boomin' Latin rhythms helped participants to let loose, have fun, and move their bodies. After 30 minutes of high-energy merengue, reggaeton, and cumbia dancing, yoga added the perfect touch with beneficial stretching and calming meditation. The fusion of the two popular fitness formats helped spread good energy. The participants concluded their PopUp fitness-party experience by checking out health and wellness materials and taking home library swag and a stress ball/ guided meditation take and make kit. Participants left smiling and thanked the two upbeat librarians for spreading positive vibes.

Turning off screens is critical for children and teens that lack physical activity and spend many hours per day engaging with technology. During No Screen Week, the PopUp was delighted to partner with district-wide libraries to bring kids fitness, books, and swag to brighten their day. Erie Public Library's Children's Librarian, Kristin Jardin, led an exciting outdoor Star Wars Fitness Program and invited the PopUp to pump the jams. Twelve children engaged in 45 minutes of high-energy Star Wars Yoga and Zumba® Kids. Children left the program sweaty and tired. One kid commented, "I'm going home to faint!" Another patron commented that she wished that she had worn her workout clothes to exercise alongside her child.

We all need opportunities to move to enhance our physical and mental health, so why not make movement fun with Yoda Yoga and high-energy Soca rhythms to encourage children to move? The PopUp Library strives to inspire community members to be active and healthy by making movement enjoyable and accessible one dance step and yoga pose at a time.

**Amy Ortiz** is the Events and Experience Supervisor at High Plains Library District in Greeley, Colorado.



*Adults and children engaging in Zumba Kids and Yoga in the park.*

# A Surprise End of Year Delivery to School Delivery Students

Columbus Metropolitan Library has been delivering bins of books to 22 area elementary schools since 2014. A typical bin contains 30 high-interest titles geared to a range of reading levels for each classroom. The bins rotate from building to building throughout the year. Teachers requesting specific titles and subjects are encouraged to request a Teacher Collection that can be delivered at the same time. Books are checked out on a school card and deliveries and pickups occur once a month or bimonthly depending on the school system.



*Books readied for packing.*

During the 2020-2021 school year, some modifications to the service were put in place. Classrooms initially were virtual, which required us to transition our bins from “reading on your own” materials to books that teachers could read aloud to their students.

In 2016, I became manager of the service, and it had been a longtime wish that during our last pickup of the year we could deliver books to the students to keep. Studies have shown that ownership of books leads to school success. Thanks to a generous donation of \$50,000 from the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation, we were able to make this wish a reality!

This May, as we picked up the last bins, we delivered boxes of books to each classroom. Each box contained 30 books and included a letter to the teacher with instructions for distributing the books to their students. Any remaining books could be used for prizes or could be added to the teacher’s classroom library. Building principals and administrators were alerted in advance to the gift books. We requested that teachers send photos and letters that could be shared with our donors. Within hours of dropping off the books, the emails started arriving from happy students and grateful educators.

In addition to receiving photos of happy students we also received words of thanks from building principals and teachers:

*“Thank you so much for the amazing books for our students. We were all so excited when we opened the boxes and saw the quality of the books and popular titles we know our kids love!! It was such a wonderful surprise and a great way to end our year. Check out the attached pictures of our grateful students. Some of the kids started reading the books as soon as they got them.”*



*Example of a Kindergarten bin.*

*Continued on page 11*

(continued) The Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation also used the images and messages to craft a thank you email to our donors. We hope that this distribution of books for students will become an annual event.

Since this was our first experience with ordering books to give away, we learned some lessons. We will begin the process of selecting materials much earlier. Inventories of materials in warehouses changed quickly so we had to make some last-minute substitutions for titles. Ordering 12,000 books required careful selection in order to stick to our budget.



*Happy Kindergarten students share their selections.*

We will also ask for assistance with preparing the materials for delivery. The two-member School Delivery team wanted to try to do the work on their own, but it will be best to “share the wealth” moving forward! We will also strive for more time for the schools to distribute the materials. Despite our best efforts, most of our buildings only had one to two days to distribute the books, and we know that end-of-year activities in schools often lead to hectic schedules for teachers.

**Wendy Ramsey** is Manager of School Delivery and Senior Services at Columbus Metropolitan Library in Gahanna, Ohio.



For additional information about Columbus Metropolitan Library’s School Delivery program, please contact Wendy Ramsey at [wramsey@columbuslibrary.org](mailto:wramsey@columbuslibrary.org)

# Fountaindale Public Library District Welcomes a New Bookmobile



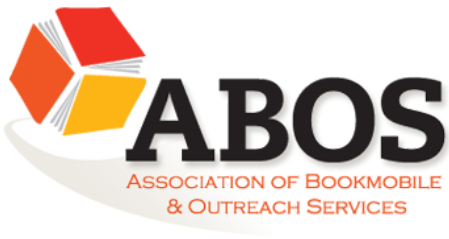
*Fountaindale Bookmobile at Cavalcade of Planes Summer Event.*

Fountaindale Public Library District recently welcomed the arrival of its new bookmobile that replaced our current bookmobile that has been part of the Fountaindale family since 2003. Our new bookmobile is a full-service, tech-friendly mobile branch of our library. In addition to a robust collection of popular materials, our new bookmobile boasts bench seats, Wi-Fi, a wheelchair lift, a high-resolution monitor installed on a drop-down ceiling mount and a 20-foot awning over an exterior 75-inch TV. With our bookmobile we provide scheduled stops around the community, attend community events and visit preschools, schools and senior facility. Our Outreach Services team has already started transitioning this amazing vehicle for use, and we've already attended several events in our community this summer.

Our patrons can do so much while on the bookmobile! They have the option to get a library card, to pick up and return their materials, to sign up for our Summer Adventure Program, and to browse and check out best sellers, magazines, audiobooks, CDs, Playaways, video games and DVDs for children, teens and adults. Patrons can get recommendations from our friendly outreach staff about the most popular books, movies and TV shows! History, science, true crime, romance, summer reads (and beyond!) - our bookmobile has it all!

Fountaindale's outreach team is excited about getting our new bookmobile! We look forward to reaching out to the community in new and exciting ways, making sure our library is a vital community partner to our local organizations, businesses and residents.

**Tana Petrov** is an Outreach Services Manager at Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, Illinois.



## Out & About Newsletter

*Brought to you by the ABOS Marketing Committee:*

Editor-in-chief: Carly Sanft

Content editors: Mary Beth Adams, Rachel Alexander, Lori Berezovsky, Greta Caldwell, Glenna Godinsky, Brittany Schaaf, Heather Sturm, Claire Williams

Calls for article submissions are requested via social media and the ABOS listserv throughout the year.



Questions or comments?

Email [outandabout@abos-outreach.com](mailto:outandabout@abos-outreach.com)

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