

OUT & ABOUT

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services
Quarterly Newsletter



A Word From the President

Happy New Year!

As we see 2022 stretching out in front of us, I'd like to remind you that ABOS is here to engage, inspire, support, and educate you. Take part in a Driven Discussion to engage with others working on the same outreach services. Be inspired by and take part in our favorite social media events (and a couple of new ones!) offered each month, starting in March. Be supported by the extraordinary network of ABOS members working in the outreach and bookmobile field through our listserv. Become better educated by attending our continuing education offerings (free to members!).

Grow with ABOS

ENGAGE

INSPIRE

SUPPORT

EDUCATE

abos-outreach.com

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

Continuing Education:
Driven Discussions

PAGE 3

2022 Board of Directors

PAGE 3

Newly Elected ABOS Officers

PAGE 4

Student Success Library Cards for
Valley View Students

PAGE 5

New Deaf Culture Digital Library
Launches in Virginia

PAGE 6

Lean Green Reading Machine
Comes to Town

PAGE 8

How Wide is Your Window?

PAGE 9

Davenport Public Library Outreach
Sends Out Holiday Cards

PAGE 10

More Than Just a Book Club

PAGE 11



Lori Berezovsky, ABOS President



Connect with Lori at
president@abos-outreach.com

(continued) We'll kick things off in March with a new event, International Outreach Week, which will focus on the best outreach services happening around the world. Start taking photos of your bookmobiles and outreach vans now to be prepared for our Virtual Bookmobile Parade in April—one of our favorite events! And don't miss the new Youth Services Week and Senior Services Week to be held in May and July, respectively. For all of our events, watch the listserv or social media for the link to submit your photos.

The board and I are hard at work on our first in-person conference in two years. I hope to see you in Scottsdale, AZ, October 4-6, as we will be *Rising Up and Reaching Out!* Circle those dates on your calendar—the conference is already taking shape and will be spectacular.

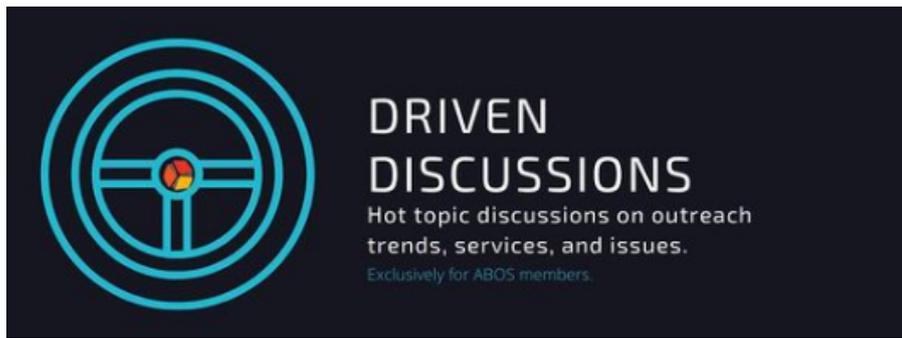
Know that ABOS is here to support you as you begin planning your own services and programs, figure out logistics, and tweak your schedules to serve your community. I can't wait to see everything this new year will bring, and I'm glad to take this journey right beside you.

All the best,

Lori Berezovsky
2022 ABOS President



Continuing Education: Driven Discussions



January 2022

Serving the Incarcerated - Thurs., January 20, 1:00 pm CST
Social Worker in the Library - Wed., January 26, 2:00 pm CST

February 2022

Pop-Up Libraries - Thurs., February 3, 1:00 pm CST
Memory Kits - Tues., February 8, 1:00 pm CST
Barbershops, Literacy, and Library Outreach - Thurs., February 10, 1:00 pm CST

March 2022

Serving the Homeless - Thurs., March 3, 1:00 pm CST
Preschool and Daycare Outreach - Tues., March 8, 1:00 pm CST
Book Bikes - Thurs., March 10, 1:00 pm CST

 Exclusively for ABOS members. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3zGNRX5>

2022 Board of Directors

ABOS Executive Board

Lori Berezovsky, President
Brittany Peacock, Vice President / President-Elect
Brooke Bahnsen, Treasurer
Karen Bradley, Secretary
David Kelsey, Past President

Board Members 2022

Michelle Fernandez
Crystal Harris
Xo Wagner

Board Members 2023

Carlotta Young
Alicia Rodriguez
Jenn Koetz

Save the Date

International Outreach Week
MARCH 14-18, 2022

Virtual Bookmobile Parade
APRIL 4-8, 2022

Youth Services Week
MAY 16-20, 2022

Membership Week
JUNE 13-17, 2022

Senior Services Week
JULY 18-22, 2022

Book Bike Week
AUGUST 1-5, 2022

Student Week
SEPTEMBER 19-23, 2022

StoryWalk® Week
NOVEMBER 14-18, 2022

Upcoming ABOS Annual Conferences

Scottsdale, Arizona
The Scott Resort and Spa
OCTOBER 4-6, 2022

Hershey, Pennsylvania
Hershey Lodge
OCTOBER 9-11, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana
OCTOBER 16-18, 2024

Newly Elected ABOS Officers

*Vice President /
President-Elect*



Brittany Peacock, Community Outreach
Department Supervisor, Davenport
Public Library, Davenport, Iowa

Secretary



Karen Bradley, Mobile Services
Librarian, Arapahoe Libraries,
Englewood, Colorado

Board Members-at-Large



Carlotta Young, Mobile
Services Supervisor, Enoch
Pratt Free Library, Baltimore,
Maryland



Alicia Rodriguez, Outreach
Librarian, Los Angeles Public
Library, Los Angeles, California



Jenn Koetz, Bookmobile
Operator, Brown County
Library, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Student Success Library Cards for Valley View Students



Elementary school students pose in front of the Fountaindale Public Library bookmobile.

At Fountaindale Public Library, we initiated the Student Success library cards program in 2020. The world was in lockdown, online teaching and learning became the norm, and we, Fountaindale's Outreach team, had to come up with creative ways to serve our school community. We wanted to make sure that all students in our library district had access to our resources; we aspired to make as many library cards as possible—because, to quote author Suzanne White—"Your library card is your ticket to opportunity... What other card in your wallet gives you free access to books and magazines, DVDs and videos, computers and Internet access?"

For this project, we collaborated with Valley View Community Unit School District 365U and White Oak Library District. During our first year, between our two libraries, more than 15,000 Student Success library cards were created and mailed to students.

Fountaindale's Outreach team welcomed the 2021-22 school year with excitement and hope for returning to normalcy. Once again we teamed up with Valley View Community Unit School District 365U and White Oak Library District, to issue Student Success library cards to new students, almost 2,000 of them!

This collaboration continues the tradition of successful partnerships between our organizations by building a sense of community and cooperation and meeting the needs of students pursuing their academic goals. The Student Success library card provides access to books, movies, video games, electronic resources and much more, linking students with the information they need to improve their literacy skills. When we see students boarding our Bookmobile, armed with their Student Success library cards, and with huge smiles on their faces, that's how we know we've done our job!

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

New Deaf Culture Digital Library Launches in Virginia

"As the Deaf/HH [Hard of Hearing] Outreach coordinator at the disAbility Resource Center here in Fredericksburg, it became apparent that many of my community (the Deaf community) could really benefit from a Deaf Culture Digital Library," said ReBecca Bennett, who is also the owner and director of Signs of Fun, a week-long day camp for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from ages 3-18. "Our public libraries are a wealth of information, but sometimes the written word does not translate well into American Sign Language."

The need for this library led Bennett to speak with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) Access Services Librarian Babak Zarin to see whether CRRL would be interested in offering such a library, similar to one that had been established in Maryland.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Zarin. "So I proposed the idea to my supervisor, who discussed the concept with library administration. Administration liked the idea and suggested I reach out to Nan Carmack, the Division Director for Library Development & Networking at the Library of Virginia, to see if the Library of Virginia would be interested in helping it go statewide."

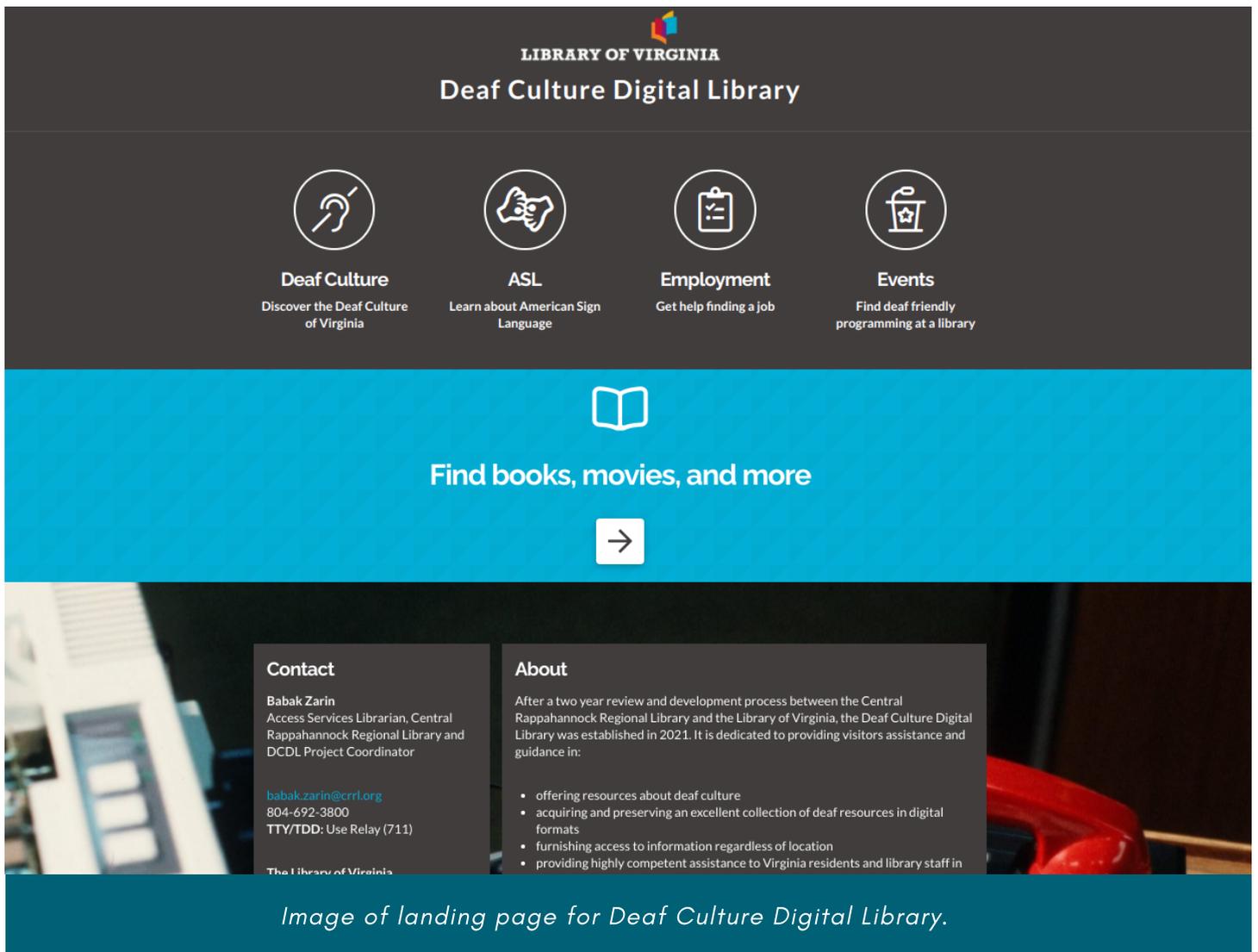


Image of landing page for Deaf Culture Digital Library.

Continued on page 7

(continued) The Library of Virginia was interested. And so, after a two-year development process that overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library of Virginia Deaf Culture Digital Library was launched. The library, which can be accessed at deaf.libva.org, offers visitors information about Deaf culture and American Sign Language, as well as resources for those seeking employment and an events page where Deaf and Hard of Hearing groups throughout the state of Virginia can announce events that are occurring in their areas.

"COVID made it even more clear due to isolation that it is imperative to include all communities," Bennett says. "I ache for our Deaf/HH children who do not have a culture to cling to, to study, and to appreciate as most Deaf children are born to hearing parents. The Deaf Culture Digital Library gives them a vantage point that hearing children have by sharing books in THEIR language, which makes our libraries inclusive for all!"

"We're excited to be able to partner with Library of Virginia to offer this service to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in our area and throughout the state," added Zarin, who now also serves as a project coordinator for the new library. "The initial response has been incredibly positive, and we hope that the rest of Virginia will come to find the Deaf Culture Digital Library a welcome resource as we continue to grow and develop its offerings."



Job Resources

[Job Accommodations Network \(JAN\)](#)

JAN provides free consulting services for all employees on job accommodations, accommodation process and ideas, and an ADA Library of resources.



[ASTLA Job Postings](#)

Search for ASL teaching job opportunities or post job openings on the ASLTA website.

[Communication Service for the Deaf](#)

CSD, a non-profit organization provides education, employment and training services for the deaf community, businesses and educators.

Image of Deaf Culture Digital Library's "Job Resources" tab.

Babak Zarin is the Access Services Librarian at Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Lean Green Reading Machine Comes to Town

After much anticipation, Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) received our new Early Literacy Outreach vehicle in February of 2021. Named the Lean Green Reading Machine, this bookmobile provides early literacy and STEM based programming to needs-based preschools throughout Monterey County. The vehicle itself is a Mercedes Sprinter van, featuring a wheelchair/book-cart ramp in the back, a back-up camera, retractable awning, and a dual-purpose driver's seat that spins around to serve as the circulation desk chair.

The Lean Green Reading Machine has been making trips to schools even during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing drop off "book packs" with activities to classrooms. MCFL staff also check out one book for each student to take home. Staff make deliveries and pick-ups once a month to 10 classrooms. When allowed, staff also provide storytimes and activities in the classroom, working hands-on with teachers and students. The vehicle was funded by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and Sunlight Giving, among other generous supporters.



Monterey County Free Library staff pose in front of the new Lean Green Reading Machine.

Alison Day is the Programs, Outreach, Youth Services Manager at Monterey County Free Libraries in Monterey County, California.

MONTEREY COUNTY FREE LIBRARIES

LEAN GREEN READING MACHINE

eMCFL.org



Bibliotecas Gratis del Condado de Monterey



Check out a video tour by visiting:
<https://bit.ly/32kixkn>

How Wide is Your Window?

In a polarized world, how do we work across bridges and mend our bruised hearts? Here is one thoughtful approach from High Plains Library District (HPLD). I'll begin by saying good things come from great partnerships.

In 2019, I was inspired by librarians Jessica Anne Bratt and Kirby McCurtis and the work they did nationally with their Let's Talk About Race storytimes. They modeled how to begin "the work." On a personal and professional level, I dedicated myself to bringing meaningful EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) conversations to my community. As a planning committee member for the Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration, I saw this event as an excellent opportunity. The MLK Celebration is a community event hosted by The University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, The City of Greeley, Greeley-Evans School District Six (D6), and HPLD. In 2020, I facilitated three Let's Talk About Race storytimes. HPLD's Pop-up library vehicle was utilized to offer checkouts outside of the event. On this journey, the success of any EDI initiative requires we keep the conversations going.



The observational storytime that accompanies the "Widening the Window" book club.

In 2021, I re-envisioned Let's Talk About Race and created HPLD's first family book club that encompasses the idea of racialized trauma while exploring various healing techniques for families. "Widening the Window" Family Book Club is a 4-month series designed specifically for families from diverse backgrounds (coining the name from R. Sims-Bishop's Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors. Thank you, Sims-Bishop!) The intention was to encourage thoughtful, courageous conversation about diversity, race, and racialized trauma.

Participants received a book bag with three diverse children's picture books and one adult-reading-level non-fiction book. The hour and a half-long program met monthly at a D6 building. We began with grounding exercises for families and facilitators, followed by an age-appropriate land acknowledgement, and offered a 20-minute family storytime.

One diverse children's picture book was featured per month and was tied to a general theme. The first month's theme was observation. The second month's theme was empathy, and the third month's theme was loving-kindness. Librarians modeled how to talk about diversity, inclusion, race, racism, and equality in age-appropriate ways with preschoolers, school-aged children (up to 8-yrs of age), parents, and caretakers.

Continued on page 10

(continued) Following the storytime, the children participated in a theme-appropriate crafting activity while adults engaged in a 60-minute discussion focused on certain segments of the adult read, *My Grandmother's Hands* by Reesma Menakem.

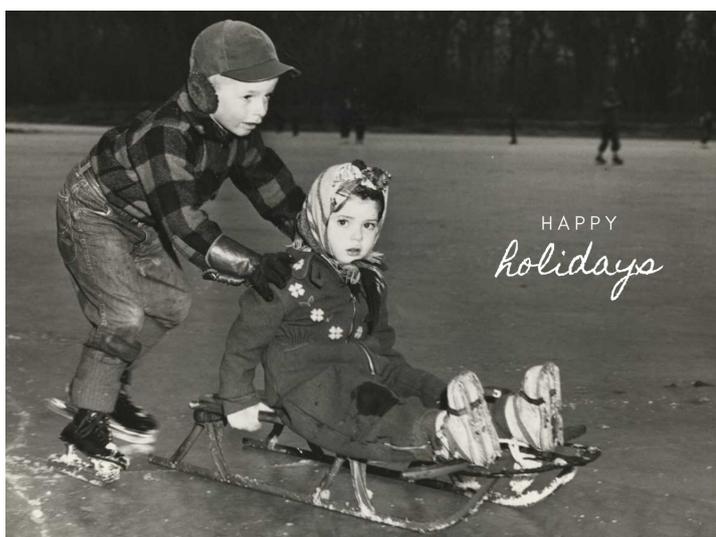
To assist with the adult EDI segment, HPLD partnered with D6 and employed two trained facilitators to direct the conversation. Theme-appropriate resources were available for check-out. Throughout the month, weekly prompts for self-regulation were offered to the family members via email. Our series concluded with a "fiesta." We intentionally celebrated diversity and gave thanks for our shared experience of knowledge building, as a community, through moments of vulnerability, many tears, and somatic exercises that soothed our central nervous system and metabolized heavy emotions. For more details, please reach out to CValencia@highplains.us. Let's keep the conversations going.



"Widening the Window" program book bags include three diverse children's picture books and one adult-reading-level non-fiction book.

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

Davenport Public Library Outreach Sends Out Holiday Cards



Sledding children holiday card, with 'Happy Holidays' greeting.

The Davenport Public Library (DPL) Outreach Department, along with the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, teamed up to create holiday cards to send out to outreach patrons. DPL Outreach Library Assistant, Michelle Frieden, came up with this idea early in 2021 and knew this would be sure to bring smiles to those that the library serves. DPL has the best team in Special Collections and they worked closely with Michelle to pick out the perfect graphic for the holiday cards--the photograph does not do them justice. Soon, patrons will receive handwritten notes and warm wishes from the DPL Outreach team thanking them for utilizing our services this last year.

Brittany Peacock is ABOS Vice President/President-Elect and the Community Outreach Supervisor at Davenport Public Library in Davenport, Iowa.

More Than Just a Book Club



The group discusses their book while remaining masked and socially distant.

Book clubs have been a fundamental service provided by libraries for many years. But what happens when a book club is created outside library walls and taken to a senior living facility? Healing, reminiscence, community building, and more.

The Aurora Public Library District felt the need to fulfill a request from a senior living facility to hold a book club for its residents. Christine Koontz, Outreach Services Department's Library Assistant, felt additionally compelled to provide this service since previous programs had to be cancelled during the pandemic. She was determined to learn the best way to hold a book club, despite having never run one before, while also providing a safe place for its participants to build community.

Christine began to promote this service and offered informal programs where residents received more information, signed up for library cards, and started building connections with Christine. Behind the scenes, Christine was shadowing experienced book club facilitators and curating her own style to lead.

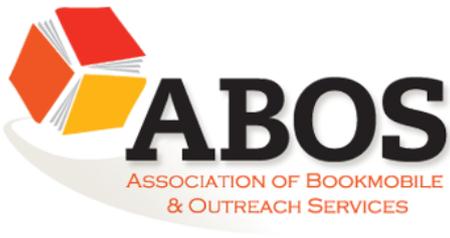
The third Wednesday of September came around and the first book club meeting was held. Christine asked, "What did you think of the book?" and participants began making connections to their own upbringing, giving requests for the next book club, and sharing that they would've never picked the book, but liked it.

The book club is now in its sixth session and participants consistently attend. Residents not only gather to discuss the book, but feel it's a safe space where Christine encourages everyone to share their own experiences and look for ways to connect. A new tradition at the start of the book club is to share something good and bad. Participants share about their families, the way they are feeling, and a stronger connection is being built!

Christine says, "I love everything about the book club. It opened up a new world to me to talk about books and connect to people on a much deeper level. It's a completely different service to do lobby stops and provide 200+ books on a cart for customers to read on their own than it is to connect over a book. I like to hear so many different opinions and the seniors are such independent thinkers."

The book club is continuing to meet monthly and has recently completed its sixth meeting with its consistent attendees. After each meeting, everyone gathers for an exciting unveiling of the next book, and the Outreach Department is equally excited! For their next chapter, they hope to bring book clubs to other senior living facilities.

Miriam Meza-Gotto is the Communications Manager at Aurora Public Library District in Aurora, 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

Stay Connected With ABOS



facebook.com/abosoutreach



@abos.outreach



@ABOS_Outreach



abos-outreach.com