**Dots and Dashes**

**September 23, 2024**

# **The Best Thrift Store in Amarillo Is … ACB’s!**

For the second consecutive year, ACB’s Amarillo Thrift Store has been honored with two prestigious awards from Community Votes: Best Thrift Store and Best Secondhand Clothing and Consignment Store in Amarillo!

Over the past year, the store has significantly enhanced its focus on customer service, ensured a steady flow of fresh merchandise onto the sales floor, and strengthened community relationships. These achievements highlight the team’s dedication and hard work, solidifying the store’s reputation as a premier shopping destination in Amarillo.

# **Take the ACB Community Survey!**

The ACB Community Platform began in March 2020 and has grown to include more than 400 events monthly held via Zoom and other platforms. Please take the time to help us gain a better understanding of our audience and your needs. This survey has just eight questions and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 30th. Take the survey here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/1HJBoacpU3AewW7EZDa2oxuyNVPXD81YQWp8ln9nFjGg/viewform?edit_requested=true>

If anyone needs assistance with the survey, email community@acb.org or leave a message at (612) 345-9036, and we will have a volunteer call to assist you.

# **August’s Volunteer of the Month**

The community support committee would like to congratulate Danette Dixon, for being selected as August volunteer of the month. Congratulations, Danette, and thank you for your service to ACB Community.

# **Convention Cartridges**

If you ordered the 2024 convention sessions on cartridge, they will be sent out by the end of October.

If you did not, you still have a chance to purchase an NLS cartridge, a thumb drive or an SD card. You will receive all convention sessions including many of the audio-described tours, the exhibitor segments, and all of the convention sessions that were held virtually or in Jacksonville with the exception of social events and mixers. You may purchase all 180 hours for just $45. A huge thank-you to ACB’s media team for creating all this information as podcasts, and to Perkins for compiling the cartridges.

If you would like to purchase a cartridge, thumb drive, or SD card, please contact the Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242 by October 4th.

# **Announcing the 2024-2025 Cohort of the ACB INSPIRE Mentoring Program**

The ACB INSPIRE mentoring program serves as a roadmap and places an emphasis on aiding and guiding potential leaders to expand their involvement at the local, state and/or national level.

INSPIRE refers to Imagine, Nurture, Support, Prepare, Influence, Reflect, and Evolve.

This year’s ACB Explorers are:

* Liz Bottner, Washington, D.C.
* Theresa Breeden, Fredericksburg, Va.
* Ashley Coleman, Bladenboro, N.C.
* Becky Dunkerson, Des Moines, Iowa
* Alicia Eidson, Winter Springs, Fla.
* Amber Grant, Ocean Grove, N.J.
* Janae Miller, Columbus, Ohio
* Jason Miller, Philadelphia, Pa.
* Debbie Platner, Webb City, Mo.
* Winter Renfrow, Owensboro, Ky.
* Tammy Robbins, Moosup, Conn.
* Courtney Smith, Talladega, Ala.
* Norman Warren, Trenton, N.J.
* Cachet Wells, Jacksonville, Fla.
* Hindley Williams, Towson, Md.

And the Guides are:

* Ron Brooks, Phoenix, Ariz.
* Dawn Brush, Aberdeen, S.D.
* Karyn Campbell, Springfield, Ill.
* Ray Campbell, Springfield, Ill.
* Brian Charlson, Watertown, Mass.
* Becky Davidson, Charlotte, N.C.
* Lucy Edmonds, Lansing, Mich.
* Donna Pomerantz, Pasadena, Calif.
* Penny Reeder, Montgomery Village, Md.
* Sandra Sermons, Rockville, Md.
* Pam Shaw, Jenkintown, Pa.
* Patty Slaby, Arcadia, Wis.
* Leslie Spoone, Orlando, Fla.
* Jeff Thom, Sacramento, Calif.
* Sheila Young, Orlando, Fla.

# **A Guide to Making Public Outreach Accessible for Everyone Including People with Disabilities**

ACB member Ron Brooks lost his eyesight while playing a pick-up basketball game with friends when he was 14 years old. Now, as a 30-year veteran of the public transit industry, Ron is a sought-after expert for his work to make public transportation more accessible and inclusive for everyone. Drawing on both his professional and lived experience, Ron teamed up with Kristen Joyner, one of the transit industry’s foremost experts in the areas of event planning, marketing, and training, to author a brand-new book, “All Aboard: Conducting Accessible Community Involvement for Public Transit.”

For more information about the book, visit [**https://accessibleavenue.net/all-aboard**](https://accessibleavenue.net/all-aboard). It is available for purchase in paperback or Kindle versions on [**Amazon at this link**](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DFMMF6XZ/ref%3Dsr_1_2?crid=3GN33GOMN79P5&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.ldu8RHOtpOW9euRsS2Kt4wqAHlKytegPTYZ95-eIBscnJjBnEYq1KCO3CdCH5V2VVI96kCjILBzZKmCJH33f7yI_C_jj7MjE3C1xZp1d1NY.6kHw9pkZ6OBOJEOspZqqeQK_kKqwN3llK77kheRA7x0&dib_tag=se&keywords=all+aboard+public+transit&qid=1725038889&sprefix=all+aboard+public+transit%2Caps%2C135&sr=8-2).

# **Former Scholarship Winner Now Co-Host of a Podcast**

Tim Cordes, a former ACB scholarship winner, is now a blind physician/psychiatrist and co-host of a podcase called Bald, Blind, and Buddies. Blindness isn't center stage, but the podcast demonstrates a person who is blind engaging in political discussions and reflecting his values and ideas. For example, the group has talked about people describing their clothing when they meet you, electric cars, gun control, and the election.

To check out the podcast, visit [**https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bald-blind-and-buddies/id1745983439**](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bald-blind-and-buddies/id1745983439)**.**

# **Seeking Participants with Low Vision for a Research Study**

You can help us evaluate how different crosswalk markings affect street crossing by pedestrians with low vision. The crosswalks we are evaluating may be

marked with typical white crosswalk markings, or they may have different colors.

The UNC Highway Safety Research Center, in conjunction with Accessible Design for the Blind, is looking for volunteers who have low vision to participate in a study on the effect of crosswalk markings on the accessibility of crossing in the Washington, D.C. area in early November.

The study will take about two hours. The compensation is $75, and travel to the study area will be reimbursed. There will be day and evening appointments. We are looking for experienced travelers who don’t have full vision and who regularly travel independently outdoors including crossing streets. This study is limited to travelers with reduced acuity, restricted fields, sensitivity to glare, or loss of contrast sensitivity but who can see crosswalks. Travelers who typically travel with a cane, use a telescope, or just use their remaining vision may qualify. Guide dog users with low vision and who own and use a cane will be asked to use their cane rather than their guide dog.

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to find crosswalks, align to cross, and cross when it is safe. An orientation and mobility specialist will be with you while you travel all routes.

If you are interested in participating in this study, contact Mary Beth Cleveland at (301) 412-4224 or email her at **mbcleveland@fastmail.net**.

# **NLS BARD Support: Open Beta Registration for My Talking Books on Alexa**

NLS is ready to open beta registration for the new My Talking Books skill on Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers.

NLS patrons who register for open beta will be onboarded on a rolling basis starting on September 25th. Patrons who wish to register for the open beta should fill out the Patron Registration Form at [**www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!e_heI6iOjNsoCDD7iviqs7hRgKpm99UaXZaLvXL0qtoJMVkfFJr6DbHaiNL2DefjqSwGL7rUe8cMVDgd2rr3A98nvNbzVjOM37N0yw%24).

For patrons who are under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian is additionally required to fill out and sign the Parental Acknowledgment Form at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-parental-acknowledgment](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-parental-acknowledgment__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!e_heI6iOjNsoCDD7iviqs7hRgKpm99UaXZaLvXL0qtoJMVkfFJr6DbHaiNL2DefjqSwGL7rUe8cMVDgd2rr3A98nvNbzVjNsC37lEw%24).

# **Not Too Late to Register**

It’s not too late to register for the M-Enabling Summit, to be held October 15-17 in Washington, D.C. Key topics include:

* Closing the Web Accessibility Global Gap: Thinking Out of the Box
* AI Policies and Standards for Persons with Disabilities
* Scaling Up Accessibility in the Enterprise
* How AI and Automation Transform the Role of Accessibility Professionals
* Automation and Overlays: Setting the Rules to Do No Harm
* Accessibility for Emergency Preparedness

For more information, go to [**https://m-enabling.com/about-the-summit/**](https://m-enabling.com/about-the-summit/). To register, visit [**https://m-enabling.com/registration-pricing-2024/**](https://m-enabling.com/registration-pricing-2024/).

# **Change for East Bay’s ‘I Love Braille’ Info**

If you attend the East Bay Center for the Blind’s “I Love Braille” events, please note that the connection information has changed. The updated information is below.

I Love Braille: Thursdays at noon Eastern/9 a.m. Pacific

<https://acb-org.zoom.us/j/85372703181?pwd=RPKxZFbc1l6Y0jl2YGs18MajwereIz.1>

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,85372703181#,,,,\*1961#

Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 853 7270 3181

Passcode: 1961

# **Happy 103rd Birthday to AFB**

Today is the American Foundation for the Blind’s 103rd birthday. Among their accomplishments over the years are:

* Collaborated with the Perkins School for the Blind to create evidence-based teaching methods for educators of children with visual impairments.
* Helped invent talking books and, in the process, gave the world 33-1/3 records.
* Joined forces with the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London to establish a uniform braille code.
* Played a significant role in the passage of legislation that protects the rights and opportunities of people who are blind or have low vision, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
* Was instrumental in the U.S. Department of Justice announcing a final rule in 2024 requiring state and local governments to ensure their websites and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities, as part of the ADA.

# **New Colorado Law Will Increase Accessibility to Medication for the Visually Impaired**

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KKTV) — A new Colorado law was passed that now requires pharmacies in the state to offer prescription drug labels in braille, audio devices, or other requested formats.

Many who are visually impaired have had to rely on other people or special phone apps to read their medication. A braille teacher at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind said that she often worries she could be given the wrong medication, as someone who is blind herself.

State Representative Mary Young was a sponsor of this bill and said she wanted to ensure those with a visual disability could always have the resources they need. “This is 30 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act where we committed to people that we would provide them access, so they could live independently in communities. For me, this was a critical issue that needed to be addressed,” said Rep. Young.

For smaller pharmacies that may not have the budget to make all these formats of labels, they will be given a grant paid over 2 years to fund these requests. For other formats a pharmacy may not have, they will be given 28 days to make that accommodation.

The law will officially take effect in 2025.

# **Research on Mobile Health Applications**

Carlos Mora is working on a research project about mobile health applications that can be used by blind and low-vision individuals.

He is looking for 23 volunteers who can test one or more mobile health applications (in English and/or in Spanish) and report how accessible, functionable, and robust it is, as well as how difficult or easy is to navigate. If the app has any cost, requires any additional devices, or you are able to test it via free trial, he needs to know that too.

If you would like to participate in this research, or have questions, email Carlos at carlosgmora18@gmail.com.