

VLA News

February 2018

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Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

Check out what's happening with the [Vermont Library](#)

President's Letter

by Joy Worland

This recent article (<http://inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2018/vocational-awe>) was recently making the rounds in the library world. It raises some issues very relevant to Vermont libraries about attitudes toward librarianship and how those attitudes can affect concrete issues like compensation and burnout. The author, Fobazi Ettarh, uses the term "vocational awe," defined as "the ideas that libraries as institutions are inherently good." Which is a concept that many of us could probably get behind, but it's more complicated than it seems. Do librarians accept low wages and jobs without benefits because we are working for such good institutions and causes? Do librarians see themselves as champions of equality yet overlook inequality within libraries themselves?

Recently ALA was collecting information about censorship challenges in 2017. There is a link on the VLA page for Vermont librarians to report challenges. There are no entries right now, which could mean there were no challenges, but it could also mean people didn't know about the form. Here is the link: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/report>

VLA is working in conjunction with VTLIB and consultant Lawrence Webster on a Vermont library summit. This is still in the planning stages, but the plan is to meet in April with a diverse gathering of librarians and library stakeholders and look closely at the current state and the future direction of Vermont libraries. This grew out of a plan to update the VLA strategic plan, which will hopefully be a byproduct of this work, but discussions around that made it clear that a larger discussion would be helpful. Again, still in the planning stages, but more information will be forthcoming.

The VLA Friends and Trustees Section is seeking nominations for vice president of their section. If you have a suggestion or would like to nominate someone, please let me know. This is a good chance for someone from your library to be involved in the Friends and Trustees Conference, and more generally, to articulate the priorities and concerns of people working in these arenas that are so vital to the financial health (among other things) of our libraries. This is a one-year position moving into a second year as president of the section. More information about the responsibilities is on the VLA website.

[Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 38
Substitutes: 80

Types of Employers:

Public: 37
Community: 1
Academic: 1
School: 1

Volunteers may be able to work in more than one county. Availability in pool by county:

Addison: 25
Bennington: 9
Caledonia: 14
Chittenden: [50](#)
Essex: 8
Franklin: 20
Grand Isle: 12
Lamoille: 21
Orange: 15
Orleans: 6
Rutland: 12
Washington: 26
Windham: 15
Windsor: 18

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer their time for VLA because they feel that it is important to be involved in an organization that benefits their fellow Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders (for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#)). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President:
[Joy Worland](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Cindy Weber](#)

Past President:

Hopefully see you in May – mark your calendars if you haven't already for the VLA annual conference May 18th at Lake Morey Resort.

Joy Worland
VLA President
Library Director, [Joslin Memorial Library](#)
vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com
[802-496-4205](tel:802-496-4205)
Twitter: [@JoyWorland](#)

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib
Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Vermont Library Conference

by Jeannette Bair

Mark your calendars for the
Vermont Library Conference
“Reaching Greater Heights Together”
May 18, 2018
Lake Morey Resort & Conference Center

Registration is scheduled to open early March.
For those in need, a limited number of scholarships
will be available.

Information about how to apply for a scholarship will be included on the VLA website when the full conference brochure is posted.

Be sure to arrive early, our opening speaker is **Erica Freudenberger**, a promiscuous collaborator who spends way too much time thinking about how libraries can empower the communities they serve.

Libraries have an opportunity to strengthen the social fabric in a digital age, creating connections, collaborations, and helping communities to build the world-or at least their corner of it-as they would like it to be. We can empower the communities we serve by helping them identify and multiply resources through strategic collaborations; develop inclusive plans that encourage citizens to become active agents in our democracy; and adapt local, sustainable strategies allowing them to innovate and thrive, so that libraries may as well.

Freudenberger is currently the Outreach & Engagement Consultant at the Southern Adirondack Library System; she formerly led Red Hook Public Library, which was a finalist for the Best Small Library Award given by Library Journal and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and garnered a 5-star rating from 2013-2016. In 2014, Red Hook Public Library was one of 10 libraries nationwide chosen to be a part of the ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative. She was named a Mover & Shaker

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Secretary:

[Kelly McCagg](#)

Treasurer:

[Shara McCaffrey](#)

**Section
Representatives**

**College & Special
Libraries Section**

President:

[Alana Nuth](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries Section

President:

[Jennifer Lee Murray](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services

Section Co-presidents:

[Stacey Knight](#)

[Wendy Sharkey](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

President:

[Adele West-Fisher](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

**VT Dept. of Libraries
Representative to the
Board:**

[Tom McMurdo](#)

**Government Relations
Chair:**

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

by Library Journal in 2016.

Our keynote speakers will be Vermont authors, Bill McKibben and Sue Halpern.

Sue Halpern. "Sometimes the best stories in the library aren't found on its shelves; they're walking through its doors and congregating by the reference desk. Sue Halpern knows this and mines the setting for comic and tragicomic gold," comments reviewer, Marilyn Johnson, about Halpern's latest book, the novel *Summer Hours at the Robbers Library*, published in February. Journalist and author, Sue is a frequent contributor to the *New York Review* and is the author of both fiction and nonfiction: *The Book of Hard Things*, *Migration to Solitude*, *Four Wings and a Prayer*, *A Dog Walks Into A Nursing Home*, and *I Can't Remember What I Forgot*. She is a Scholar-in-Residence at Middlebury College.

Bill McKibben. A prolific author, his book *The End of Nature* began the discussion of climate change almost 30 years ago. Last year, he published his first novel, *Radio Free Vermont*, a rollicking story of an oddball band of patriots who think maybe Vermont would be better off as its own republic. Activist and one of the foremost environmental authors of our time, Bill is a founder of [350.org](#), the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement.

Former Vermont librarian, Sandy Lincoln, owner of The Bookery and Sandy's Books and Bakery, will be with us bringing copies of Bill and Sue's books for sale and signing.

Jeannette Bair

VLA Conference Committee Chair

vermontlibraryconference@gmail.com

[802-767-3927](tel:802-767-3927)

College & Special Libraries Section

by Alana Nuth

Professional Development Opportunities

Academic librarians around the state are looking forward to upcoming professional development opportunities happening in the region:

March:

[NELA Academic Libraries Section 2018 Spring Event](#)

Libraries, Ransomware, and Digital Security

March 16, 2018

UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, Lowell, MA

April:

[New England Technical Services Librarians Spring Conference](#)

April 2, 2018

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Inclusion Chair:[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual Freedom Chair:[Angele Mott Nickerson](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Membership & Outreach Chair:[Christine Porter](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:[Jami Yazdani](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:[Jeannette Bair](#)**VLA News Editor:**[Janet Clapp](#)**Webmasters:**[Sarah Costa](#)[Jessamyn West](#)**Representatives****ALA Councilor:**[Marti Fiske](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA Representative:[Steve Picazio](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please note your *VLA News* has been clipped by the mail service.

To finish reading the issue, scroll to the bottom of the

May:[ACRL New England Chapter Annual Conference](#)

Failing Forward: Experimentation and Creativity in Libraries

May 4, 2018

Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor, Plymouth, MA

[Vermont Library Association Conference](#)

May 18, 2018

Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT

Alana M. Nuth

VLA College & Special Libraries Section President

Collections Development Librarian, Bailey/Howe Library, [University of](#)

[Vermont Libraries](#)alana.nuth@uvm.edu[802-656-8350](tel:802-656-8350)

Technical Services Section

Technical Services Un-conference

by Wendy Sharkey

The Technical Services section of VLA will be holding an un-conference on **April 3rd, 2018** from 9:30 until 3:00 at the Bennington Free Library. This will be an all-day event so bring a lunch.

For those of you who have never attended an un-conference, hold on to your hats, you are about to have your minds blown! The un-conference format creates space and time for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and creativity.

At the start of the event, the whole group will gather together and be guided through creating an agenda using the topics that all the participants want to discuss.

Just to get your creative juices flowing here are a few suggestions to start with:

- Work flow, best practices
- RDA
- Training new catalogers
- Keeping everyone on the same page
- How to achieve the best possible catalog
- Street dates-what they are and not releasing the item until that date
- Unique cataloging-who does it and what they do to ensure a good record
- What is the best way to engage/educate catalogers-what format should this take?

This list is not exhaustive, and you are encouraged to add any of your own thoughts and ideas when you sign up for the un-conference. The actual agenda is created on the day of the un-conference so any last minute thoughts/ideas can and will be accommodated.

For those participants who are willing to go with the flow, this event will provide the forum to learn from each other, to possibly solve that problem you keep on having, and in the end help you become a better cataloger. While attending you are encouraged to follow your passion and go to the sessions that interest you. Make sure that you maximize what you get out of the un-conference by participating in the discussions and by getting the topics you are interested in on the agenda.

message and click the link:

[Message Clipped] [View Entire Message](#)

Other mail clients should receive VLA News in its entirety, but if not, please [let us know](#).

For anyone interested sign up by emailing me at catalog@bfli.org. Please include your name, your library, email address, and any ideas for discussion.

Wendy Sharkey
VLA Technical Services Co-president
Head of Circulation Department and Cataloger
[Bennington Free Library](#)
catalog@bfli.org

Seeking Birdie Award Nominations

by Stacey Knight

Don't let your colleague's hard work in technical services go unnoticed. Nominate him or her for the biennial Birdie Award which was created in 2014 in memory of Birdie MacLennan, a librarian at UVM who went above and beyond to share her knowledge and skills with the Vermont library community. Please email your nomination to sknight3@smcvt.edu. Be sure to include the technical services staff member's name, place of work, and a brief statement supporting the nomination (no more than 250 words). **Deadline: March 15, 2018**

Stacey Knight
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Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

In this dark and chilly season it is good to have something to look forward to! An occasion where we as a community can come together to learn, share, and rejoice in the warmth (hopefully) of a beautiful Vermont spring. This year, that occasion will be the annual Vermont Library Conference on Friday, May 18 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. Looking ahead to this happy day, it is time to start thinking about recognizing those special colleagues, mentors, trustees, and/or library supporters who help to create the community that we value and who give us a reason to celebrate.

Nominations are now open for the following awards:

The Sarah C. Hagar Award acknowledges exceptional service in or significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Nominees for the Sarah C. Hagar award must be working in a Vermont library (public, academic, school, or special) and be a member of VLA.

The Trustee of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a trustee on behalf of his or her library, either during the previous year or during his or her years of service. Nominations may be submitted by any library trustee, library board, librarian, member of a Friends group, or VLA member.

The Library Advocate of the Year Award is given when deemed warranted by the VLA Government Relations Committee to an outstanding public advocate for libraries in local, state, or national government.

The Green Mountain Award is given as the opportunity arises to individuals or organizations for distinguished service, support, or unusual contributions to a Vermont library or libraries.

The Birdie Award was created in March 2014 as a memorial to University of Vermont librarian Birdie MacLennan to honor outstanding service in the field of technical services.

Who inspires you? Please consider acknowledging this individual with a nomination. All nomination letters and supporting materials must be received by **March 1**. For more information about the awards, nomination procedures, and/or to find the listings of previous inspirational award recipients visit <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards>.

Lisa Milchman
VLA Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Director, [Norwich Public Library](#)
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Scholarship Committee

by Jami Yazdani

Scholarship Announcement

The VLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the 2018 VLA Graduate Student Scholarship has been awarded to Susan O'Connell of East Hardwick, VT. Susan's dedication to supporting public libraries was reflected in her impressive record of service across the state. We agreed with her references that she is a "mighty force," and we look forward to her continued contributions to the field of librarianship. Congratulations, Susan!



Apply now for a Continuing Education Grant!

We are accepting applications for the spring round of VLA's Continuing Education Grant – applications are due March 1st. Up to \$250 is available to support your attendance at a professional conference or workshop or for other continuing education programs. Details and the application are available at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee/vla-continuing-education-grant>.

Learn more about VLA's scholarship and continuing education funding opportunities at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee>.

Jami Yazdani
VLA Scholarship Committee Chair
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Life-Long Learning at the Norman Williams Public Library

By Amanda Merk, Executive Director

Continuous learning is an essential part of my role as the director of the Norman Williams Public Library (NWPL), and it is also essential that every member of the NWPL staff keep up with trends and changes in library technology and service. I got my first library job during my freshman year at McGill University where I served as a work-study library page. I quickly recognized that libraries are places where there is a rapid rate of technological change. I watched the library staff as they worked on

renewing their expertise and skills so they could assist patrons in this information age. When I began work on my master's degree in library studies at Simmons College, my professors encouraged me to join professional associations for librarians to keep up with life-long learning. I am proud to say that I am a member of several library associations including the American Library Association, the New England Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association and of course, the Vermont Library Association. I try to be as active as I can in these associations by attending classes and seminars, forming partnerships with other librarians, and engaging in mentoring. This past summer I received a full scholarship from the Vermont Library Association to attend the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) where I went through an intensive, week-long library management training program with other library directors from all over New England.

The Vermont Library Association also generously granted me a scholarship to attend another conference of my choosing in 2017 to continue my professional education. I chose the New York Library Association's conference which was held in early November in Saratoga Springs, New York. This is the largest state library association conference on the east coast. It featured a wide variety of programs, special events, networking opportunities, and vendor displays. I attended programs on topics such as "An Adventure in Inspiration: Advocating with Soul," "Fighting for Libraries, Fighting for Librarians," "Legal Issues in Financing and Building Libraries," and "Innovation and Disruption in Libraries." I attended panel Q & A sessions on various issues impacting the library world led by library directors and library trustees.

I am pleased to report that the trustees of the NWPL are very supportive of professional development and life-long learning for all library staff at every level. This week two of our librarians are attending a free training course on CLOVER, the new state-wide interlibrary loan system recently adopted by the Vermont Department of Libraries. This training will enable our already savvy librarians to be even more expert as they borrow books from other libraries. Another NWPL librarian recently attended a free training offered by the Vermont Department of Libraries on how to spot teens in crisis in the library and how to go about making sure they are directed to helpful resources. We recognize that we need to be life-long learners on a budget so we take advantage of scholarships, free trainings, and free webinars whenever possible.

In early 2018 NWPL will embark on a new initiative in which all staff will have the opportunity to receive technology refresher training through a combination of peer training and webinars. We recognize that library staff need support as they gain new technology skills and keep their skills fresh. Library staff want to assist patrons one on one with technology questions and provide assistance with audiovisual presentations. With electronic gadgets and gizmos changing on a daily basis, library staff training workshops can help make staff more competent and confident when it comes to technology assistance and instruction. If our program is a success, and I am sure it will be, I hope to give a presentation about it at the next Vermont Library Conference.

The Norman Williams Public Library offers a space and technology for life-long learning for one and all. Many of our programs are educational. The library shelves are bursting with books and CDs about new topics. Each week you have the opportunity to join the knitting club to learn to knit, you can learn to play bridge, and you can always visit us to ask for help with your smart phone, tablet, laptop or another device. And just as you seek to continually learn and grow, so do your public library director and staff!

Amanda Merck
Executive Director, [Norman Williams Public Library](#)

Substitute Pool

by Nancy Tusinski

I've listed a comparison to a year ago below:

Number of participating libraries = 38 libraries February 2018 / 31 libraries November 2016

Of those participating libraries:

	February 2018	November 2016
Academic	1	1
Community	1	1
School	1	1
Public	37	31

Number of participating libraries by county:

	February 2018	November 2016
Addison	2	0
Bennington	1	1
Caledonia	1	1
Chittenden	10	8
Franklin	3	3
Grand Isle	1	1
Lamoille	2	2
Orange	2	3
Rutland	1	1
Washington	4	4
Windham	2	1
Windsor	9	6

Number of library substitutes = 80 substitutes February 2018 / 52 substitutes November 2016. Library substitutes may work in more than one county. The number of substitutes in each county appears below:

	February 2018	November 2016
Addison	25	13
Bennington	9	7
Caledonia	14	8
Chittenden	50	
Essex	8	4
Franklin	20	11
Grand Isle	12	6
Lamoille	21	14
Orange	15	9
Rutland	12	11
Washington	26	16
Windham	15	11
Windsor	18	12

Nancy Tusinski
VLA Substitute Pool Coordinator
Library Director, [Hartland Public Library](#)

The People of Vermont Libraries

If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) send to vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com and we'll put it in the next issue of the VLA News.

Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803, Burlington, VT 05402

