

VLA News

May 2017

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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 Substitute Pool!](#)

President's Letter

by Margaret Woodruff

May 18th is almost here and with it the opportunity to share our ideas, put forward our questions, and brainstorm solutions at the VLA unconference (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2017>). I'm looking forward to sharing a little bit about the work the Vermont Library Association has done over the past year and getting feedback from you about where and how VLA can improve its connections and service to members. Here are a few things I hope to discuss and discover at the unconference:

1. Learning more about library advocacy at all levels, from our grassroots efforts with our local government to contact with state and federal officials. This unconference conversation will be a great preface to the ALA Advocacy Bootcamp which will be offered as a pre-conference event at the joint VLA-NELA conference in October.
2. Working on a sustainable libraries resolution with an eye to developing a sustainable libraries initiative. Such an effort, modeled after the New York Library Association initiative, would provide a framework to guide and inform the design and implementation of sustainable solutions in libraries of all sizes across Vermont.
3. Participating in conversations about information literacy and civil community. We all understand the library's responsibility to provide access to information as well as the guidelines for ensuring that Vermonters are information literate. How do we make sure that notion does not get lost in the swirl of fake news and alternative fact? At the same time, libraries can serve as the showcase for respectful back and forth dialogue about the issues we face.

I hope to see you in Killington!

Margaret Woodruff
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: [@VLAlib](https://twitter.com/@VLAlib)
Instagram: instagram.com/vlalib
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256

Employers: 32
Substitutes: 53

Types of Employers:

Public: 28
Community: 1
Academic: 1
School: 1

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

Addison: 13
Bennington: 7
Caledonia: 9
Chittenden: 29
Essex: 5
Franklin: 12
Grand Isle: 6
Lamoille: 15
Orange: 9
Orleans: 6
Rutland: 11
Washington: 16
Windham: 11
Windsor: 12

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:
[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Joy Worland](#)

Vice President's Letter

by Joy Worland

It's been an exciting and busy few months for libraries. With threats of cuts to federal library funding looming, librarians in Vermont and beyond rallied to make our voices heard. There was a huge push from ALA and other library advocates for people to call and write legislators asking them to support funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy and the Library Services and Technology Act. And support did significantly increase, presumably at least partly because of those efforts. There is of course still much work to be done. ALA is doing a terrific job of funneling information to members and providing accessible ways to participate in advocacy. We will continue to share these on the VLA website (www.vermontlibraries.org) and Facebook page, so check in as the good fight continues!

This was a good opportunity to bring library advocacy local, too. Almost everyone has heard about the threats to PBS and NPR. Discussions about those more "famous" programs have been serving well as introductions to remind people that local libraries are affected by federal funding, too.

These efforts came right up to National Library Week, during which many libraries participated in Library Snapshot Day (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/statelocalefforts/snapshotday>). I love Library Snapshot Day. It is not only a great tool to use in promoting the relevancy of libraries when budgets are being discussed, but it also is just a super feel-good: to look at the statistics and stories from one day magnifies even for we library lovers how much important community building and education and creativity happens in our buildings each day. Share with staff, trustees, volunteers – it's terrific for morale and a reminder that the (let's face it, often underpaid) work library people do has a measurable impact. Get it outside the building via social media and your local news outlets and even some library patrons and supporters might be surprised to see the size and character of the "snapshot."

Looking ahead, National Library Legislative Day (which is actually more than one day) is May 1st and 2nd. Vermont will be represented by a mix of public, school, and state librarians, a small but hopefully metaphorically loud group. Those unable to attend can participate virtually. Find information about that here: www.districtdispatch.org/2017/04/participate-nlld17-home. An easy but dramatic way you can get people's attention is to participate in the "Thunderclap," the same message simultaneously going out on multiple social media platforms and accounts. For that to happen on YOUR social media so all the people to whom you are connected will see it, sign up here: www.thunderclap.it/projects/54983-fight-for-libraries.

Looking ahead, and in the spirit of "let's pause and reflect on how many great things are happening in Vermont Libraries even as we continue to advocate," the Passport to Vermont Libraries program is returning this summer. More information is on the VLA website www.vermontlibraries.org/passport. Passports have been created, and we'll be ready to distribute them at the conference May 18th, which hopefully many of you will attend!

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Past President:[Virgil Fuller](#)[802-496-4205](#)Twitter: [@JoyWorland](#)**Secretary:**[Kelly McCagg](#)

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[Angela Bernard](#)**Section
Representatives****College & Special
Libraries Section****President:**[Beth Dietrich](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries**Section President:**[Christine Porter](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services**Section President:**[Stacey Knight](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends**President:**[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians**President:**[Ian Gauthier](#)

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:**[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with

Vermont Library Conference

by Toni Josey

**VLC 2017 "Let Your Voice Be Heard"
May 18**

We're gearing up for a great event on Thursday, May 18 in Killington. Registrations are rolling in, and the exhibit hall is filling up. Visit our [Facebook event page](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/events/207623042982065>) for a preview of exhibitors.

Not yet registered? Visit the VLC 2017 website (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2017>) or head straight to vlc2017.eventbrite.com to register before May 5. The cost includes breakfast and lunch. (Coffee all day, folks. You asked, we listened.)

Join your VLA section for its annual meeting as new leaders are chosen and section events are planned for the coming year. Celebrate VLA members being honored for their accomplishments and recognized on their retirements. Reconnect--and make new connections--with colleagues from across the state.

And, of course, we're preparing for a day of great sessions based on topics chosen by you, the participants. We'll take your suggestions at the opening session and form the day's schedule right there. Let Your Voice Be Heard and join the discussions that are important to you by sharing what you want to talk about.

Toni Fortini Josey
VLA Conference Chair
vermontlibraryconference@gmail.com

Passport to Vermont Libraries

by Nancy Tusinski

The Vermont Library Association is proud to sponsor the third Passport to Vermont Libraries program which will run from June 1-September 1, 2017 at participating Vermont libraries. People pick up a Library Passport from a participating library and try to visit as many libraries as possible during the summer. There's a Facebook page, prizes for the winners, and great stories about our Vermont libraries.

connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:

[Amanda Perry](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual Freedom

Chair:

[Ray Brior](#)

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

Membership &

Outreach Chair:

[Kelly McElligott](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:

[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:

[April Shaw](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:

[Toni Josey](#)

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:

[Sarah Costa](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:

[Charlotte Gerstein](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA Representative:

[Karson Kiesinger](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please

An email with more information will be going out to library listservs soon, and please check back at the VLA website for updates (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/passport>) and for a look at last year's program information.

If you would like more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to email any of these folks:

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nancytusinski33@gmail.com, Jessamyn West: jessamyn@gmail.com,

Joy Worland: joyworland@gmail.com

Nancy Tusinski, Library Director

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College & Special Libraries Section

by Beth Dietrich

Anchoring Information Literacy through Assessment

By Beth Dietrich, President, College & Special Libraries Section & Sean Leahy, Instruction & Learning Assessment Librarian, Champlain College

Last month, academic librarians from across the country flocked to Baltimore, Maryland for the biennial ACRL conference. I was pleased to see so many from Vermont had been able to make the trip and was proud to learn that two of our fantastic colleagues from Champlain College were leading a workshop at the conference. After hearing of their success, I invited Sean Leahy to share some of that experience with you now.

Sean Leahy: At this year's ACRL Conference in Baltimore, Alan Carbery and I had the good fortune to run a workshop on longitudinal information literacy assessment. During the three-hour workshop, we invited participants to take part in the "assessment loop" that our teaching librarians team performs each semester. The workshop had two primary goals. First, we gave participants the opportunity to engage directly with authentic student artifacts—that is, work produced for their class rather than developed and delivered by librarians separate from what is assigned in class. In doing so, we wanted to expose our colleagues at other institutions to the unique value of using authentic student work for assessment purposes. Second, we then asked participants to use their assessment findings to revise and improve their instruction so they could get experience with "closing the assessment loop." While the workshop was largely framed by the context at Champlain, we invited participants throughout to draw connections to and share insights from their own institutions and information literacy programs.

Alan and I have had the chance to share the results of our assessment efforts in forums like this in the past, but this was our first opportunity to present our IL program as a part of a workshop. We loved the idea of working within this format, as it felt as though we were inviting our colleagues from different institutions into the collaborative space we've cultivated at the Champlain College

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Library. For us, this workshop was as much about communicating our assessment process as it was about sharing how our values as a team shape and are shaped by that process. Although the content we prepared highlighted the nuts and bolts of our process, the questions raised by participants throughout helped highlight some of the more intangible aspects of our assessment work that are not always captured in the documentation of our approach. It was gratifying to be able to share our work with colleagues from other institutions, and we received valuable insight from the participants as they engaged with important aspects of our information literacy program. If any of this is of interest, we encourage our Vermont colleagues to get in touch with us with any questions.

Beth Dietrich: Congratulations to Alan and Sean for their rewarding experience leading academic librarians through the process of meaningful information literacy assessment. I encourage you all to seek them out at the ACRL-NE conference in Burlington on May 12 where they, as well as many of our other Vermont colleagues, will be presenting. (<http://conference2017.acrlnec.org>)

Beth Dietrich
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Friends & Trustees Section

by Nancy Mark

The Friends and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association hopes to see you at the upcoming conference "Let Your Voice Be Heard." The event will take place at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington, Vermont on May 18. One highlight of the conference will be the announcement of the VLA Trustee of the Year Award. We will also have a chance to meet as a section...a perfect opportunity for you to "let your voice be heard." Please bring your questions, your suggestions as well as your expertise to share with fellow friends and trustees.

Registration is on the VLA website (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2017>).

We look forward to sharing this important day with you. Your voice matters more than ever.

Nancy Mark
VLA Friends & Trustees Section President
Trustee, [Castleton Free Library](#)
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[802-468-5479](tel:802-468-5479)

Scholarship Committee

by April Shaw

The VLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the first round of Continuing Education Grants has been awarded to Amanda

Merk of the Wilder Memorial Library and Mount Holly Town Library. The grant will help her attend her first regional conference at NELA in October. Congratulations, Amanda!

VLA Continuing Education Grant

The Vermont Library Association Board wishes to promote professional librarianship in Vermont and to encourage involvement in professional development among its members.

VLA has created the VLA Continuing Education Grants. These grants will award the recipient up to \$250 for a continuing education program such as an educational conference or an applicable course.

Applications are accepted twice a year and priority will be given by monetary need, library involvement, and leadership and commitment to Vermont libraries. Please see below for the application and deadline information. Grant recipients will be required to write a brief account of their continuing education opportunity for the *VLA News*.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be an active VLA member
- Must live in Vermont and/or work in a Vermont library and
- Must not have received a scholarship from VLA in the past 2 years.

The application is available at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/VLAContinuingEdAppRevised1216.pdf>.

Deadlines:

March 1st (with winners notified on April 1st)
August 1st (with winners notified on September 1st)
Thank you!

April Shaw
VLA Scholarship Committee Chair
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Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

How time does fly! It feels as if I was just writing to solicit nominations for VLA awards and now the time to announce those awards is almost upon us. I hope that all who are able will take the time to attend the Vermont Library (Un)Conference on Thursday, May 18 in Killington and celebrate not only our worthy award winners, but the everyday accomplishments of you and all your colleagues. More than ever, this yearly exchange of ideas, resources, and support is paramount to dealing with the challenges that we all face in providing excellent service to our patrons, in small and large towns, throughout our state.

The conference also provides the opportunity to applaud notable individuals in our VLA community that are celebrating a milestone – either through retirement or by earning their MLS. Speaking of which, if you know someone who is retiring, or who has retired in the last year and is a member of VLA, please send their names (and library) along to me as soon as possible.

I would also like to thank my new committee members - Nancy Mark, Trustee of the Castleton Free Library and Vice Chair of the Friends and Trustees Section of VLA, and Prudence Doherty, Public Services Librarian at Special Collections at UVM, for stepping up to the responsibilities of being on the Awards Committee. Their contributions to the awards process is invaluable and much appreciated.

Happy spring to all and look forward to seeing you at VLC on May 18!

Lisa Milchman
VLA Awards Committee Chair
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New England Library Association

by Karson Kiesinger

NELA 2017 Diversity Summit will be Wednesday, July 26 at Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, MA: An exciting day of presentations and discussion on diversity in libraries and librarianship. Keynote Speaker: Loida Garcia-Febo, an international librarian and consultant, researcher, speaker and writer of topics such as human rights, access to information, advocacy, diverse populations, new professionals and continuing professional development. She is president of Information New Wave, an international charity seeking to enhance the education of minority groups in the USA and in developing countries.

The NELA Annual Conference "Recharge 2017" will be October 22-24 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel. Conference website: <http://conference2017.nelib.org>. Registration will open midsummer. First time attendees can apply for a scholarship: <http://conference2017.nelib.org/new-attendee-scholarship>. Application deadline: June 30.

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