



VLA News August 2015

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Back Issues

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

President's Letter

by Virgil Fuller

Happy August! I hope everyone's summer reading programs have been going great and hopefully are well attended. Summer started off with a bang for those of us at this year's Vermont Library

Conference in May. We had a great turnout and a tip of the cap should go to our hardworking conference committee, chair Jessica Summer, past president Toni Josey and everyone else involved, for putting on a truly unbelievable and unforgettable day. I was especially impressed with our keynote speaker, Scott Bonner, library director of Ferguson Municipal Public Library. I have heard from many folks that he may have been the best keynote speaker they have heard at any conference! The conference also gave the opportunity to those libraries participating in the Passport to Vermont Libraries program to pick up their passports and posters from our awesome committee. It was great seeing so many librarians excited about this program and we can now say that 100 libraries around the state have signed up!

The passport program has continued to be a huge success with patrons from all over the state visiting numerous libraries. We even had one patron say on Facebook that she has visited 104 libraries - quite the accomplishment!



(Photo courtesy of Emily Marie Ahtúnan)

the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

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

Employers: 26
Substitutes: 43

Types of Employers:

Public: 24
Community: 1
Academic: 1

Availability in pool by county:

Addison: 14
Bennington: 1
Caledonia: 6
Chittenden: 23
Essex: 2
Franklin: 14
Grand Isle: 8
Lamoille: 12
Orange: 7
Orleans: 3
Rutland: 2
Washington: 17
Windham: 4
Windsor: 5

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

Another patron created a video based on her passport experience which you can watch here:

<https://www.facebook.com/emilymarieahtunan/videos/o.420789181428118/1458042474515127/?type=2&theater>. We are happy that patrons young and old have been having fun with this program and are able to see all the wonderful things Vermont's libraries have to offer. Remember to keep encouraging your patrons to keep getting stamps until September 1!

I am very happy to announce that four Vermont librarians were chosen to be a part of the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) taking place at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, MA from August 3-7:

Margaret Woodruff of the Charlotte Library
Angela Bernard of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library
Amy Wisehart of the Hartland Public Library
Joy Worland of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library

I know all four will come back to Vermont full of fresh ideas and ready for any leadership opportunities that may (or may have already) come their way. All four were awarded scholarships from VLA that will cover their room and board for the week. If you see any of these lucky participants be sure to congratulate them on a job well done!

On behalf of the entire VLA board I would like to wish Past President Amber Billey the best of luck in her future endeavors. She recently accepted a metadata librarian position at Columbia's Butler Library. She dedicated three years of her time to our board, and for that and all she accomplished during that time we will forever be thankful and indebted.

Respectfully submitted,

Virgil Fuller
VLA President
Library Director, [Chelsea Public Library](#)
vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com
[802-685-2188](tel:802-685-2188)

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/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256

Past President's Letter

by Toni Fortini Josey

I had such a great time at the 2015 Vermont Library Conference in May and look forward to next year's conference. It was a pleasure to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of our colleagues across the state. Take a moment this year to consider who among your colleagues and community you would nominate for the Sarah C. Hagar Award, Trustee of the Year Award, or the Green Mountain Award. Consider your own work and research in the coming year, and submit a conference program proposal or poster session proposal for VLC2016.

As I begin my last year on the board, I've already considered how I can transition back on. This is such a great group of people who are committed to supporting Vermont's libraries and the people who keep them running. Please consider becoming an active part of one of our sections or committees. I think you'll find it to be personally and professionally rewarding.

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:
[Virgil Fuller](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Past President:
[Toni Josey](#)

Secretary:
[Kelly Tomaseski](#)

Treasurer:
[James Allen](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section President:
[Laura Crain](#)
Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries Section President:
[Kevin Unrath](#)
Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services Section President:
[Kelly McElligott](#)
Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees President:
You?
Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

This summer we say goodbye to librarians Amber Billey and Lydia Willoughby, a wonderful couple who have done so much for Vermont libraries since moving here in late 2011. They jumped in with both feet, joining the VLA board (Amber as executive vice president/president-elect and Lydia as Public Libraries Section vice president), being active participants in their sections, and presenting at section workshops and our state conferences. Their volunteer work with Rural Libraries Unite (RuLU) supported communities throughout Vermont. I am so grateful for what they have given to this association and our state. Please join me in wishing them well as their careers take them to New York.

Toni Josey
VLA Past President
[@ToniJosey](mailto:vermontlibrariespastpresident@gmail.com)

College & Special Libraries Section

by Laura Crain

Save the Date! And Call for Proposals

What's New Under the Sun
Thursday, October 29, 2015: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Judd Hall, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT

This one-day conference will feature presentations from academic librarians from around the state. Find out about how our various college and university librarians are tackling new and old challenges in our libraries and adopting inventive strategies to reach our students.

We are currently seeking proposals for this event. Length of presentation: 15 minutes to 45 minutes. Potential topics include: what's happening with DDA in your library; finding the right mix of ebooks/print books; interesting things that circulate; building redesigns; instruction; social media; reference; working with faculty; working with students; student workers in the library; archives and special collections; budgets; pretty much anything under the sun....

Please consider presenting – your contributions will make this a great day to network and get new ideas. Email proposals to: Laura Crain lcra@smcvt.edu

Laura Crain
VLA Colleges & Special Libraries Section President
Associate Director for Collection Services
[Saint Michael's College Library](#)
lcra@smcvt.edu
[802-654-2388](tel:802-654-2388)

Technical Services Section

by Amber Billey

VLA Technical Services Section Hosts NACO Training

On June 9, 2015, seven librarians from around the state attended a one-day workshop to enhance their skills to create name authorities records for the Vermont Name Authorities Cooperative (NACO) Funnel Project. The workshop was sponsored and hosted by VLA Technical Services. Training was lead by Ohio NACO Funnel Coordinator, Sevim McCutcheon, Catalog Librarian at Kent State University.

**Youth Librarians
President:**

[Nicole Westbom](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Amy Grasmick](#)

**VT Dept. of
Libraries**

**Representative to
the Board:**

[Tom McMurdo](#)

**Government
Relations Chair:**

[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with 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:**

[Helen Linda](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:

[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:

[April Shaw](#)

The Vermont NACO Funnel Project consists of cataloging librarians from University of Vermont, Middlebury College, Goddard College, Marlboro College, VTLib, and the VT Historical Society who work together to contribute name authority records to the national authority file maintained by the Library of Congress. Many of the names contributed by the VT NACO Funnel represent local authors, corporate bodies, families, places, events, and historical persons.

Participating librarians in the June workshop include: Terry Simpkins (Middlebury), Tom McMurdo (VTLib), Hannah Martin (UVM), Helen Linda (Goddard), Rachel Gravel (Marlboro), Dan Saulean (UVM), and Amber Billey (UVM). Thanks to everyone who attended the workshop!

Friends & Trustees Section

by Howard Burrows

Note the new section name! Thirteen members (six trustees and seven Friends) attended our planning meeting on May 19 during the Vermont Library Conference in Burlington and we agreed to add Friends to the section. For now, we have formed a leadership circle to discuss a new section description that will include Friends. We will elect the new section president and vice president from this group. In the interim, I will continue as the contact person, serving as immediate past president. Several people responded to my call to action from the last VLA newsletter, but were not able to attend the planning meeting. It is not too late to join the planning circle; anyone interested in helping should let me know. We suggest that every board and Friends group designate an ALA/VLA delegate to work with this section.

The section's next project is to work with the Vermont Department of Libraries to plan the annual the Trustee and Friends Conference on November 7. What would you like to see at this meeting?

For those who attended the Vermont Library Conference, Scott Bonner was the keynote speaker. He was a new librarian in Ferguson, Missouri just at the time of the racial tensions after Mike Brown was shot by police. The theme for the keynote was #whatlibrariesdo. Scott took lessons learned in library school and applied them when unrest in his community was at its peak. What libraries do is to provide a community center; this became critical as the schools were closed. What libraries do is to provide cultural literacy; the library offered a School for Peace to inform everyone how to be effective during the height of their frustrations. And finally, what libraries do is to promote lifelong learning for everyone; an art show "Hands Up Don't Shoot" allowed everyone to focus on the roots of the tensions to move beyond them. Can we bring these three elements: community center, cultural literacy, and lifelong learning to our Friends and Trustees Conference? How might such a focus change our local bylaws and strategic plans? What did we learn in Vermont in our own crisis during Hurricane Irene? Much has been done to improve the digital response to emergencies; might we compare notes and use such technology to increase local library's effectiveness as a community center, not just during crisis but throughout the year?

This was a long three months. Way back on May 4 and 5, I took the opportunity to attend the American Library Association Legislative Day in Washington DC with State Librarian Marti Reid and a member of the Vermont School Library Association Anna Bolognani. The back of our name tags listed three essential issues for Congress: the first was to encourage the Appropriations Committee to fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the major source of federal monies for local libraries, and to fund the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) (<http://www.districtdispatch.org/tag/lsta/>); the second was for privacy to pass real PATRIOT Act reform in which we were successful and the Freedom Act is advanced through committee (<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/06/you-did-it-usa-freedom-on-its-way-to-the-presidents-desk/>); the third was to add support for school libraries to the Every

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:
[Jessica Summer](#)

VLA News Editor:
[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:
[Jessamyn West](#)
[Heidi Steiner](#)
[Burkhardt](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
[Amy Wisehart](#)
Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA Representative:
[Karson Kiesinger](#)
Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

Child Achieves Act and again we achieved success as the Senate amended the Act through the bipartisan Reed-Cochrane proposal (<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/07/victory-for-school-libraries-as-senate-passes-education-bill>). The three of us visited the offices of Senators Sanders and Leahy and Congressman Welch; in addition we got to see Bernie Sanders speak on the floor of the Senate. I encourage anyone to attend this session next spring; this year there was even money available from ALA if it is your first Legislative Day.



There will be a significant effort to increase the VLA membership by trustees and Friends from across the state before the November annual Friends Trustees Conference. If you are reading this, please help recruit at least one delegate from your local Friends group and one from your board of trustees for individual VLA membership (not institutional memberships so each can participate in VLA leadership activities).

Howard Burrows
VLA Friends & Trustees Section Immediate Past President
ghburrows@comcast.net
[603-630-0012](tel:603-630-0012)

Membership Committee

by Helen Linda

Joint Memberships Are In The Works!

We are excited to be working on joint membership opportunities for the 2016 membership year, including:

Joint Student Membership Program with the American Library Association (ALA) - This program allows full and part-time students in a traditional or distance program of study or certification in MLS/MLIS, NCATE, or LTA programs who have never been a member of either organization to join ALA and VLA for one low price of \$38.00 for up to five years. This special dues rate is designed to help students access the benefits, networking, and career

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resources that come with membership. Student members are also given the best rates for conference registration, often at discounts as high as 75 percent off. Student members are eligible to serve on committees, run for office, and participate actively in the work of the association.

Joint membership with the New England Library Association (NELA) - This joint membership would allow any member of VLA to join NELA for an additional \$20. Currently New Hampshire is the only state with a joint membership, Massachusetts is hot on their heels, and we'd like to be the third! We haven't worked out the details yet, but keep your eyes peeled toward the end of the year as we announce these great joint offers.

As always, we're working hard to bring you the most for your membership dollar. Please let us know if you have ideas for additional membership benefits you'd like to see.

Helen Linda
VLA Membership & Outreach Chair
Systems & Technical Services Librarian, [Goddard College](#)
vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com

Scholarship Committee

by April Shaw

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

The VLA Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the VLA Continuing Education Grant. This grant will award the recipient up to \$500 for a continuing education program such as an educational conference or an applicable course.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and priority will be given by monetary need, library involvement, and leadership and commitment to Vermont libraries. 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 two years.

To apply, please fill out the application form (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee/vla-continuing-education-grant/>), and provide all requested documentation listed on the application.

Application deadline: Rolling deadline. Applicant will be notified within one month of application receipt by committee.

April Shaw
VLA Scholarship Committee Chair
Reference Librarian, [Hartness Library, VTC](#)
ashaw@vtc.edu

Inclusion Committee

by Amanda Perry

The VLA Inclusion Committee has newly reformed! Joy Worland of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Margaret Woodruff of the Charlotte Public Library, and I held our first meeting in April. We decided that the mission of the committee needed an update.

The VLA Inclusion Committee will advance awareness and improve service to a wide range of often underserved populations in Vermont by aggregating and disseminating resources related to collection development, literacy, the digital divide, and social services.

The primary project we're focusing on is finding or creating a self-assessment tool on inclusive practices. Allowing librarians to assess current practices and be matched with resources will assist in improving service to all Vermonters. We'd be delighted to have you join us!

Amanda Perry
Inclusion Committee Chair
Library Director, [Winooski Memorial Library](#)
aperry@winooski.vt.gov
[802-655-6424](tel:802-655-6424)
[@WinooskiLibrary](#)

New England Library Association

by Karson Kiesinger

As a newly elected member of the board I'd like to introduce myself. Like many of you, my love for libraries started early. Trips to the local university library with my dad were a special treat, including adventures finding books in the basement! A little over a decade later, I was working as a reference assistant at the same library. After completing my MA in English I volunteered overseas, taught, and worked in a law office before earning my MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009. During my time in Pittsburgh, I interned at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main and volunteered in the archives collection of The Andy Warhol Museum. I joined the staff of the Bennington Free Library as the Reference and Adult Services Librarian in 2010, and I'm always learning about Vermont libraries and New England libraries. I'm looking forward to continuing this work as the Vermont Library Association's representative to the New England Library Association (NELA).

Congratulations to the four Vermont librarians selected to attend the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) August 3-7 at the Rolling Ridge Conference and Retreat Center in North Andover, MA. Former ALA President Maureen Sullivan will again lead the symposium, which fosters the mentoring and development of leaders in state and regional library associations. VLA has partnered with NELA since the beginning of NELLS in 2003, and VLA continues to support participants through scholarship contributions.

NELLS 2015 participants: Angela Bernard, Technical Services, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library; Amy Wisehart, Director, Hartland Public Library; Margaret Woodruff, Director, Charlotte Library; and Joy Worland, Head of Library Services, Kellogg-Hubbard Library. VLA Public Libraries Section President Kevin Unrath, Director of Ilsley Public Library, will also attend NELLS and serve as a mentor to the participants.

Registration is available for the NELA 2015 Annual Conference, "Back to the Future: Libraries in 2015." The conference is October 25-27 at the Radisson Hotel Downtown in Manchester, NH. *Register before September 1 for Early Bird rates! For more info: <http://conference2015.nelib.org/welcome/registration>

The NELA listserv is back! This is a regional listserv for discussion of issues facing New England libraries. Get feedback, share ideas, and more! Visit <http://nelib.org/connect/listserv/> for information and instructions to join.

Karson Kiesinger
VLA Representative to NELA
[Bennington Free Library](#)
kkiesinger@nelib.org
[802-442-9051](tel:802-442-9051)

American Library Association

by Charlotte Gerstein

ALA Annual 2015 Highlights and Council Actions

To read more about ALA Annual: ALA Annual 2015 Highlights:

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/alacognotes_annualconf_highlights2015/

Highlights for me

The ALA Annual Conference was in San Francisco June 25-30. Unrelated to libraries or ALA, a highlight of my time in San Francisco was seeing the Pride Parade just two days after the Supreme Court decision to make same-sex marriage a constitutional right. It was a huge community celebration.

A highlight for me at the conference was hearing Gloria Steinem speak. Her family had a nomadic lifestyle when she was a child so she depended on libraries for her early education and was grateful for the uncensored access to knowledge. She still values libraries highly for democratizing knowledge and sees an important role for libraries in bringing about a post-racist, post-nationalist era of peace and understanding. She encouraged her audience to get involved in local and state politics.

ALA Council activities of note

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions

With the conference so soon after the Charleston church shootings where one of the victims was a librarian, racism and gun violence were on our minds. Council passed a "Resolution Denouncing the Systemic Racism that Motivated the South Carolina Shootings" and a "Resolution on Gun Violence:" stating "That ALA, on behalf of its members: deplores the gun violence that materially affects libraries and the communities we serve; and will work with state chapters and affiliates in every way that it can to support legislation that allows the prohibition of the carrying of guns in or near libraries and other educational institutions."

After a positive vote on this in the June 4 virtual membership meeting, Council passed at Annual a "Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries," recognizing the role libraries can play in community conversations about the environment and encouraging ALA and its constituents to work to make more sustainable choices, "to reach our shared goal of vital, visible and viable libraries for the future."

In more library-specific business, Council adopted updated Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights for these sections: Internet Filtering, Labeling Systems, Rating Systems. <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>. Council passed a "Resolution to Improve Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers."

Other ALA news

Scott Bonner, director of the Ferguson Public Library in Missouri and our keynote speaker at VLC in May, was the recipient of the second annual Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity. Bonner was recognized for his efforts to keep the Ferguson library open and support the community during unrest over the death of Michael

Brown. The prize was established by Daniel Handler and ALA in 2014 to “recognize and honor a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact.”

Looking forward, new ALA President Sari Feldman is launching a public awareness campaign called Libraries Transform, with these goals:

- increase support for libraries by showing the transformative nature of today’s libraries;
- elevate awareness of the critical role that libraries and library professionals play in the digital age;
- update the image of libraries and library professionals;
- attract the best and the brightest from all walks of life to grow and expand the profession; and
- influence key decision makers at the national, state, and local levels to generate support for library funding and information policy positions.

More info: <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/new-public-awareness-campaign-announced/>

Website: <http://www.librariestransform.org/#because>

ALA Midwinter is in Boston, January 8-12, much closer than usual, so I hope to see lots of Vermonters there.

A featured ALA resource

The Programming Librarian website from the ALA Office of Public Programs has been revamped: <http://www.programminglibrarian.org/>. Sign up for their free newsletter for lots of programming ideas.

Thank you and new Councilor

I am signing out, as my 3-year term as ALA Councilor comes to a close. It was an honor to represent Vermont on ALA Council and a fascinating experience. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and to experience ALA up close and personal. Amy Wisehart has hit the ground running as our new ALA Councilor and I wish her well!

Charlotte Gerstein
ALA Councilor 2013-2015
Reference & Instruction Librarian, [Castleton State College](#)
charlotte.gerstein@castleton.edu
[802-468-6409](tel:802-468-6409)

by Amy Wisehart

I am your newly elected ALA councilor, and I look forward to serving as Vermont’s representative to our national professional organization for the next three years. I welcome your feedback, questions or thoughts about ALA and national initiatives. Please feel free to contact me!

The ALA Midwinter conference will be in Boston next January, 1/8 – 1/12. This is the only ALA conference scheduled in New England for the foreseeable future, so it’s a great opportunity to attend a national conference. Midwinter gatherings are more focused on committee meetings, but there are a lot of program offerings as well, great networking opportunities, and a very large exhibit hall. Registration opens October 1st.

Amy Wisehart
ALA Councilor 2015-2018
Director, [Hartland Public Library](#)
director@hartlandlibraryvt.org
[802-436-2473](tel:802-436-2473)

Awards Committee

by Amy Grasmick

Giving awards is fun!

If you would like to participate in the Awards Committee, please let me know. Our primary task is to solicit and evaluate nominations for four awards: Trustee of the Year, Library Advocate of the Year, Sarah C. Hagar Award, and the Green Mountain Award. One face-to-face meeting a year and a few email conversations are usually enough to get the job done. The committee could especially use members with public relations chops: award winners deserve the loudest possible shout-out. Can you help us turn up the volume?

And so is nominating colleagues!

You don't have to be on the committee to make an award happen. In fact, we rely on VLA's membership to let us know about all of the good work you and your colleagues are doing. No need to wait; although the committee puts out calls for nominations in the months leading up to the Vermont Library Conference, we're happy to receive nomination packets at any time.

Guidelines for nominations are available at the VLA website:

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards/>

Amy C. Grasmick

VLA Awards Committee Chair

Director, [Kimball Public Library](#), Randolph Amy@KimballLibrary.org
[802-728-5073](tel:802-728-5073)

Free Accessories: Public Library Radio

by Loona Brogan

Loona Brogan of the Cutler Memorial Library in Plainfield and Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier has launched a community radio show, Free Accessories, about public libraries at WGDR/WGDH, Goddard College community radio. Airing Mondays from 11:00 am to noon, you can stream the show at <http://www.wgdr.org/listen-live/> or access the broadcast (minus the copyrighted musical interludes, the day after broadcast) on the show's SoundCloud page, www.soundcloud.com/freeaccessoriesradio.

The one-hour weekly episodes will feature discussions with librarians from around Vermont and beyond (or recorded talks given by librarians), a featured musician's profile and a sampling of their work as musical interlude between pieces, book reviews, local library calendars and library programming information, news of interest to the general public from Listen Up, Vermont, the Vermont Library Association, the American Library Association and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. "How to say this author's name" and "Appyness" app reviews will be regular features as well.

If there are topics you invite the producer to explore, please email her at freeaccessoriesradio@gmail.com. We encourage anyone who is willing to have a prerecorded conversation (and final say on the edited version) to provide contact information and list the sorts of things you'd want to discuss. This show is going to be publicized via membership networks and newsletters to not only the Vermont Library Association community but also as possible via ALA, ARSL and other librarian networks. "I'm hoping this

will provide a venue for digital media savvy librarians, in particular, to connect with each other wherever they are." So, of course, the show has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/freeaccessoriesradio>. Please consider "liking" it!

Loona Brogan
Library Director, [Cutler Memorial Library](#)
freeaccessoriesradio@gmail.com
[\(802\) 454-8504](tel:(802)454-8504)

Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803, Burlington, VT 05402

