

VLA News

May 2020

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Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You

President's Letter

by Amy Olsen

Dear VLA members,

There has been so much uncertainty and confusion over the past few months and libraries certainly are not immune to it. The listservs are alight with questions, sharing of ideas and concerns. As I write today, we are beginning to learn more direct information to base our decisions on. In my best moments I say: "Be gentle with ourselves. Allow for adjustments. We're all inventing the wheel." Other times I think: "If I can just make the best, potentially bad, decision possible..."

Closing our buildings and changing the ways we offer services in our communities has been difficult. It was heartbreaking to concede that libraries are not essential under the context of "Stay Home, Stay Safe." However, I cannot stress enough that we remember that we ARE essential in our communities even if we are not open in the physical sense. As we move forward, the roles we play in recovery will be critical.

It's time to begin leveraging the partnerships we've nurtured in our town government, with our patrons, and with other organizations to demonstrate our value. Libraries are trusted institutions and librarians are leaders. Use your spheres of influence to communicate and to make sure that you are part of your community's recovery conversations.

I have heard from some of you that you're feeling that the public perception of your library is that you're not filling a role. Remind your public that you may not be able to provide the same kinds of traditional library service they are used to, but you are upholding the tradition that libraries are integral to enhancing community resiliency. This pandemic is not an exception to that.

Almost every day I find a new, small way to respond to community needs, and I gain inspiration in learning what other libraries throughout Vermont and the country are doing. Please continue to connect and share resources and ideas with each other, and also make those stories visible so that we can advocate for each other. Please continue to lift each other up as we all try to make the best decisions for our own libraries. We all have strengths and we all have challenges, but we are also the best support for each other.

This is my last newsletter to you as president of the Vermont Library Association. It has been an honor to be your president, and I am grateful to the true team that is the VLA board. As we move forward, as we continue to organize within VLA, as we try to fill open VLA positions, as we continue to grow our membership and make VLA more vibrant and efficient, I thank you all for your continued support.

I have found comfort in the quote from Dr. Jon LaPook, chief medical

can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

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

Employers: 43
Substitutes: 82

Libraries with access to pool:

Addison 2
Bennington 1
Caledonia 1
Chittenden 11
Essex 0
Franklin 3
Grand Isle 1
Lamoille 2
Orange 2
Orleans 1
Rutland 1
Washington 7
Windham 2
Windsor 9

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

Addison 27
Bennington 8
Caledonia 16
Chittenden 57
Essex 10
Franklin 22
Grand Isle 14
Lamoille 26
Orange 18
Orleans 7
Rutland 11
Washington 30
Windham 14
Windsor 14

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the

correspondent for CBS news: "And finally, I just want to remind people that even though this is a very bumpy road, it will have a beginning, a middle, and an end...there are lots of really smart people everywhere around the globe who are working on this, trying to come up with vaccines and drugs. We are going to get through this. It's going to be a bumpy ride, but we're going to get through it together."

Stay safe,

Amy Olsen
VLA President
Director, [Lanpher Memorial Library](#)
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Vermont Library Association
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Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib
Instagram: instagram.com/vlplib
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

VLA Website

by Jessamyn West

Hello from the web team. We have transitioned the VLA website over to a new web host. This shouldn't cause any problems, but there are a few things we could use your help with:

- If you are someone who had a login so you could edit the website, you may need to reset your password or get a new login. Please email jessamyn@gmail.com if that's the case.
- If you notice content, especially an image on an old post, is missing, please notify us.
- If there's something you'd like to see on the website, either error correction or adding new content, send an email to vermontlibrarieswebmaster@gmail.com.

This has been a long, strange year already and we've been making a lot of changes. If there's any way we can help you, don't hesitate to contact us.

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College & Special Libraries

by Christie Silkotch & others

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 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:
[Amy Olsen](#)

**Vice
President/President
Elect:**
[Kevin Unrath](#)

Past President:
[Cindy Weber](#)

Secretary:
[Marie Schmukal](#)

Treasurer:
[Susan Smolinsky](#)

Section Representatives

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

Membership Chair:
[Amy McMullen](#)
Maintains
membership roster.

**Public Libraries
Section President:**
[Loona Brogan](#)
Organizes
workshops and
assists public
librarians.

Hi all,

What a strange new place we find ourselves in compared to our last newsletter. This pandemic has only exemplified what makes our state such a great place to live. Through the hardship, I hope this finds you feeling supported in your home, work, and community.

I find it so heartening to see how all of our libraries are stepping up to support not only teaching and learning, but also needs for health information, enrichment, distraction, and mental health support. Somehow, libraries only continue to become more and more essential.

But as great as our libraries are, please take care of yourselves first. We are playing the long game here—take each day for what it brings and be forgiving. My thoughts to you and your loved ones; may you stay healthy and well.

Best,
Christie

C&SL Section Announcement

We are still looking for someone to join the College & Special Libraries section leadership for a two-year term starting in May.

Watch the VTCSL and VTLIBRARIES listservs for another call for volunteers with more details. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me and/or Chenfang for more details.

Community College of Vermont

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hartness Library partnership between Community College of Vermont and Vermont Tech. Together, our library team provides resources and services to VTC and CCV students, faculty, and staff, wherever they happen to be located throughout the state. As a largely distributed library system, we were well-positioned to continue our operations while social distancing. During the COVID-19 crisis, our librarians and staff are working from home, but we are continuing to serve our community virtually, with extended chat reference hours, telephone and email service, and drop-in Zoom clinics for faculty who need extra support while transitioning to online teaching. Although interlibrary loan services are largely on hold around the state, we are continuing to fulfill book requests by mail twice a week, following recommended guidelines for disinfecting books and for allowing returned items to sit for several days before handling. We have always provided robust online resources and services in addition to high-volume circulation and ILL by mail, and we are continuing to leverage our partnership to build on these services and plan for a future that will be deeply impacted by this crisis.

-Eileen Gatti

Marlboro College

Update on the Rice-Aron Library of Marlboro College

As you may have seen in the news, Marlboro College will become affiliated with Emerson College in July 2020 and the campus is closing in June 2020. Interested tenure-track faculty and students will be joining Emerson College in the fall 2020 semester pending the official signing of a merger agreement. The campus, including the library building, is currently for sale, and a representative college committee has begun reviewing proposals to make a recommendation to the trustees. It's not likely that the library staff will know the result of the sale before our employment ends at the end of June.

In the library, many faculty-selected materials are ready to be transferred to Emerson's Iwasaki Library, but a majority of the circulating collection will

Trustees & Friends

President:

[Dana Rozycki](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Committees

Government

Relations Chair:

Vacant

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Intellectual

Freedom Chair:

[Mary Danko](#)

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

Scholarship & Awards Chair:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

Oversees VLA awards and scholarships.

Vermont Library

Conference Chair:

[Cory Stephenson](#)

Roundtables

Inclusion Chair:

[Bridget Stone-Allard](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations.

Personnel Chair:

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

VLA Sub Pool

Coordinator:

[Nancy Tusinski](#)

Technical Services

Chair:

(inactive)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Youth Librarians

President:

[Caitlin Corless](#)

remain in the library to be assessed by whoever buys the campus. The hope is that an educational institution will purchase the campus and utilize the collection. We are pleased to say that the college archives and many of our special collections, including the Kipling collection and the Plans of Concentration, will be housed at the University of Vermont's Special Collections. Many thanks to Chris Burns and the UVM Special Collections for taking on these collections! Give them time, but if you or any of your patrons are looking to research progressive higher education, send them to UVM.

We are working hard to get our borrowed interlibrary loan materials back to lending libraries. Many will likely be coming to you directly from our patrons, so thanks in advance for your flexibility in processing the returns.

We will miss all our Vermont library colleagues and hope we'll see you somewhere in the future. Please reach out before June 30th if you have any questions! library@marlboro.edu

-Amber Hunt

University of Vermont

- UVM Libraries continue to provide research and reference support to our campus community and all citizens of the state. Most faculty and staff are working remotely, and we can be reached by phone, chat, or email; please see individual library websites for details (Howe Library contact information (library.uvm.edu); Silver Special Collections Library contact information (specialcollections.uvm.edu); Dana Medical Library listed below).
- Dana Medical Library is still open during the pandemic, but we have migrated all of our services online. We continue to support students, faculty, staff, clinicians, and researchers from our homes across northern Vermont. Please see the Dana Medical Library homepage (dana.uvm.edu) for more information about resources and services.
- Peter Spitzform, electronic resources/acquisitions librarian in Howe Library, retired as of April 1. In his words, he had a "great run" and was with UVM for almost 21 years. His candor and good humor will be missed!
- Laura Sobel was appointed the position of electronic resources/acquisitions librarian in Howe Library, effective March 9. Laura is already well known to staff and respected amongst her colleagues; she supported Dana Medical Library as a reference and instruction librarian and was later hired as collections support librarian last April.
- Nancy Fawley, director of information and instruction services in Howe Library, accepted a position as library director at Gwynedd Mercy University in Gwynedd Valley, PA. We already feel her absence but are excited for this next step in her career, which is a great fit for her experience.
- Laura Haines, who normally works at Dana Medical Library as a research and instruction librarian, has taken a new position as interim director of information and instruction services at Howe Library. Laura will provide day-to-day leadership of the department until a new, permanent, director is hired.
- Dana Medical Library has a new library support specialist. Jack Roberts started on April 20th. He works with our main desk staff providing front line support for all of our patrons. Starting in a new job in the middle of a pandemic is tough, but Jack is very excited about working at UVM.
- Our essential workers have remained on site, monitoring facilities and diligently scanning materials to support teaching and learning. Here is a video about our early scanning efforts (from before the physical library closed) <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofVermont/videos/20035947473>

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Archivist:
[Paul Carnahan](#)

VLA News Editor:
[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:
[Tessa Johnson](#)
[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
vacant
Represents Vermont in the national organization.

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

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:
[Jason Broughton](#)

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 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](#).

[4161](#). Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Vermont Historical Society

On April 13, a month after Governor Phil Scott declared a state of emergency because of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Vermont Historical Society Library launched a website to collect Vermonters' impressions of the crisis. The site, "COVID-19 Archive: Images and Stories from Vermont," serves as a repository to which Vermonters can submit stories, essays, poems, short videos, and screenshots of emails and websites that capture the experience of living through COVID-19 in Vermont. The site can be accessed at covid-19.digitalvermont.org.

-Paul Carnahan

Christie Silkotch
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Science and Data Librarian
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Friends and Trustees

by Dana Rozycki

As I am sure we all know, the Trustees and Friends Conference has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 21, 2020. The site will still be the Killington Grand Resort Hotel in Killington. The date should be at about peak foliage, so this will be a beautiful time to enjoy the area.

Before the conference was postponed, members of the VLA Friends and Trustees Section, Dana Rozycki and Adriene Katz, had been working with Lara Keenan and Joy Worland at the Vermont Department of Libraries on the lineup of speakers and seminars, and we hope to roll out the great program schedule as the time comes closer.

One element that we hoped to emphasize at the conference was additional networking. The results of the VLA Friends and Trustees survey showed that networking with peer groups was the number one thing respondents wanted, and we hope to maximize this in some new ways.

In the meantime, please encourage all your Friends and trustees to join both VLA at vermontlibraries.org and the LibTrustFriend "listserv" mailing list at libraries.vermont.gov/services/news/listservs.

For now, the best venue for networking and idea-sharing remains the trustees and Friends listserv, LibTrustFriend. The listserv is an excellent but vastly underused resource, and I'd really like to see more people posting with ideas, questions, and suggestions. I believe it would be especially interesting if Friends and trustees shared examples of how they continue to advocate for their libraries during the times of service disruptions.

Dana Rozycki
VLA Friends and Trustees Section President
Friend, [John G. McCullough Free Library](#)
drozycki@rocketmail.com
914-235-3630

Scholarship & Awards

by Lisa Milchman

What a crazy time! I would not have thought, several months ago, that when I sat down to write the May submission for this newsletter that this is how I would start, rather than with my usual excited exclamations about the impending Vermont Library Conference and the granting of awards and recognitions. Yet here we are.

Recognition, spring 2020 style, has taken a different form: a more day-to-day type of gratitude and acknowledgement. When reading the listservs every day or attending virtual meetings, I am struck by the huge amount of thought and care taken on behalf of Vermonters by my librarian colleagues statewide, by Friends and trustees, and by the staff and leadership at the Vermont Department of Libraries. While we may not all always agree on the best means to the end, it is clear to me that for all of us, the goal is determining how to best serve, in our current capacities, our patrons, our communities, and our state. The amount of effort it takes every single day to navigate and even at times, to thrive, in this strange new world is Herculean and for that we all deserve special recognition.

The Vermont Library Association leadership has not given up on the possibility of granting, sometime later this year, those more traditional awards and acknowledgments of milestones. While for now, this has taken a back seat to more pressing concerns, look to this newsletter space, the VLA website, and the various listservs, for the details both on what this potential new ceremony might look like and how to recognize and nominate those above-and-beyond individuals in our Vermont library community.

Until the time that I have more award and scholarship news to share - I wish for all to be well, to stay reasonably sane, to continue to honor your colleagues in their endeavors, and to remember to always help each other find the way through with kindness.

In gratitude,

Lisa Milchman
VLA Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Director, [Norwich Public Library](http://NorwichPublicLibrary.org)
lisa.milchman@norwichlibrary.org
802-649-1184

New England Library Association

by Amy Williams

Greetings, all! Really, the fresh package of NELA news I would have had for you went bad overnight in the refrigerator of COVID-19, and had to be pitched.

Given that, here are a few things that have not changed:

- NELA and New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) joint annual conference is still ON at this point, October 25-27.
- Nominations are underway for the NELA executive board positions of junior director, vice president, and president.
- The proposed Statement of Conduct Policy for NELA events has support and is in the process of being drafted based on available models.

Here are a few things that have changed:

- NETSL annual conference April 17th successfully made the switch to entirely

virtual!

-NELLS II (August 11-13) is being assessed for viability, safety, and desirability. The in-person component is a big part of both NELLs.

-NELA President Jenn Bruneau began a sustained lobbying effort of federal government bodies to speak in support of considering libraries in community relief efforts.

-The 2020 Emerson Greenaway Award presentation is under reconsideration, as it seems more meaningful to be recognized by a gathered group of professional peers.

-The next NELA board meeting May 15 will likely also be remote, as Vermont's Rutland Free Library was to host, but the governor's emergency closure now includes that date.

I hope all are well and safe!

Amy Williams, MLS
VLA Representative to NELA
Assistant Director, Rutland Free Library
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802-773-1860

Haiku of a Closed Library Building

by Amy Williams

"Please come back", it says
"I miss your laughter," it says
"I will wait for you."

Editor's Letter

by Janet Clapp

In these unprecedented times of infectious deadly disease shutting down the world we knew, when it is confusing to know what to do because it is a new world, when we're physically isolated from our colleagues, online communications throughout library land are helpful and welcome. The questions and suggestions library staff around the state post through various library email lists provide not just thoughts and ideas, but the comradery and the reminder that we are not alone.

A special thank you to Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) for coronavirus information (libraries.vermont.gov/covid19), useful resources, and the Vermont Online Library (vtonlinelib.org). Through the VTLIBRARIES email list, State Librarian Jason Broughton forwards the Department of Health updates about COVID-19 to keep us informed about the pandemic's effect in Vermont. Furthermore, he works to clarify guidance for libraries as the governor's orders change. Assistant State Librarian for Library Advancement Janette Shaffer emails daily resources for library staff and users. Although my email inboxes are inundated with messages during these times of extra electronic communication, I value every message from VTLIB and Vermont library staff statewide.

If there is one thing that I hope will carry forward, it is a continuation of the strong sharing and collaboration that has always been a hallmark of the Vermont library world, expressing our unique perspectives and working together for our communities.

Janet Clapp, MLS
VLA News editor
Adult Services Librarian, [Rutland Free Library](#)
vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com

Edit This Newsletter

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