

VLA News

February 2021

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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!

President's Letter

by Kevin Unrath

I am excited that the Vermont Library Association is partnering with the Department of Libraries and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's Fair Housing Project (www.cvoeo.org/fhp) to present resources and programs in support of Fair Housing Month in April. To quote the Department of Libraries: "As community and information hubs, Vermont libraries are in the unique position to facilitate community-level change on issues of social, racial, and economic justice and to help people become more involved in local decision-making on all issues, including housing."

Visit <https://libraries.vermont.gov/fairhousing2021> to learn more about this great partnership, and also to register for the next happening, which is the VLA 1st Thursdays presentation "Supporting Fair Housing Month at Your Library." Part two of our two-part series "Fair Housing Conversations Beyond Homelessness: Challenges and How Public Libraries Can Be Part of the Solution" will include information about April Fair Housing Month and how to get involved, activity templates, and a panel of library staff from Vermont sharing examples of their activities, resources, and events. You'll leave this interactive session with concrete ideas and supports for implementing Fair Housing Month activities in your library. Part one was a planning session that happened in

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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 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:
[Kevin Unrath](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Michael D. Roy](#)

Past President:
[Amy Olsen](#)

Secretary:
[Marie Schmukal](#)

December.

Thanks for all you do to keep Vermont moving forward, and stay safe!

Kevin Unrath
VLA President
Director, [Pierson 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/vlalib

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

Membership

by Jessamyn West

Hello and happy new year. Just a heads up to say that we're between VLA Membership and Outreach Committee chairs at the moment. I know many of you have memberships up for renewal around now. If anything's not working the way you're expecting, please just drop an email to the VLA members@vermontlibraries.org address and let me know how I can help, and I'll try to get you all sorted. Just a reminder that VLA voted in minor dues increases at the conference last year, so you will see those reflected in most of the account levels. For anyone who might be interested in being part of the VLA Membership and Outreach Committee, feel free to contact me and I can tell you more about it, or Kevin at kunrath@shelburnevt.org to express interest.

Jessamyn West

Treasurer:
VACANT

**Section
Representatives**

**College & Special
Libraries Section
President:**
[Chenfang Yang](#)

Organizes
workshops and
assists college and
special librarians.

**Membership &
Outreach Chair:**
VACANT
Maintains
membership roster.

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

**Trustees & Friends
President:**
[Adriene Katz](#)
Organizes
workshops and
assists library
trustees.

Committees

**Government
Relations Chair:**
[Margaret Woodruff](#)
Assists libraries with
connections to
legislators.

VLA Web Team
ALA Councilor for Vermont
[Vermont Mutual Aid Society](#)
jessamyn@gmail.com
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Public Libraries

by Barbara Ball

In looking ahead towards the 2021 VLA conference, the VLA Public Libraries Section is planning a workshop (or workshops) on sustainability and, relatedly, climate change. As Naomi Klein stresses in *On Fire: the Burning Case for a Green New Deal*, in order to fight climate change, our societies need to not just reduce emissions. We must reduce consumption as well. Vermont libraries are (or can be) at the vanguard of this in the following ways:

1. Shared books, DVDs, and other resources eliminate buying items new or streaming them online.
2. Loanable firewood moisture meters (held by many Vermont libraries) let wood-burning households know which wood is dry enough to be burned for the best heat, the most cost-effectiveness, and the least damaging environmental impact.
3. Snowshoes are loaned by many VT libraries, again eliminating the need for each would-be snowshoer to buy their own pair.
4. Seed libraries assist Vermont gardeners in growing local produce, improving their gardening expertise, and saving seeds for next year. This decreases the cost of food and seeds transported from afar. Plus seeds that are saved here year after year develop into varieties specifically suited for our local Vermont growing conditions.
5. Programs that teach mending of clothing or fixing of bicycles/household gadgets/toys/computers help our resources to last longer, and delay or forego buying new.

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:

VACANT

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.

Technical Services Chair:

(inactive)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Youth Librarians

President:

VACANT

6. Programs on safe bicycle riding and walking can encourage patrons to commute in ways that don't involve a car.

7. Tool lending libraries are a huge sustainability boon for those libraries lucky enough (with space and funds) to have them.

8. Climate change reading and discussion groups help participants dive into the issue, educate themselves, and share this knowledge with others.

How else can Vermont libraries be on the forefront of combating climate change and increasing sustainability in our wonderful state?

On another note, the VLA Public Libraries Section is looking for someone with graphic design skills to help us create a series of posters. We are planning a PR campaign aimed at raising awareness around what Vermont's public libraries achieve collectively, and highlighting local libraries' contributions and successes. We would like to create ten or so promotional posters (all following the same format, and probably text only). Ideally, we would like the posters to be in an easily editable digital form, so librarians can customize them by inserting their own library names and statistics. If this sounds like a project you would be willing to work on, please reach out to dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org. The copy is ready to go, and we're looking forward to making this resource available to Vermont public libraries!

Barbara Ball, MLIS (She/They)
VLA Public Libraries Section President
Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)
barbara@windsorlibrary.org
802-674-2556

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:

[Tessa Johnson](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:

[Jessamyn West](#)

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](#)

Jobs & Subs

For library jobs:

[VLA Job Postings](#)

For library subs:

[Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#)

Tool you can use: Learning Express

by Jason Broughton

Learning Express is a website that provides training for workplace, academic, and job-hunting skills. It's available free to all libraries in the state, whether public, academic, or school. Users can:

- Prepare for and take a practice occupation exam, like the CDL, law enforcement, teaching, and more.
- Work on skills for school, from elementary to college, or practice for the SAT, ACT, or GRE.
- Explore potential careers, based on interest, skills, and future growth.
- Get support for resumes, cover letters, and interviews, or search for jobs and internships.
- Prepare for the GED, or work on math and reading for adults.

The site offers tutorials, practice tests, ebooks, and more. Patrons will just need your library-specific link to create an account. Read more about Learning Express here - https://libraries.vermont.gov/online_library/LearningExpress

Jason Broughton, Librarian Extraordinaire
State Librarian / Commissioner of Libraries

[Vermont Department of Libraries](#)

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New England Library Association

by Amy Williams

Hi all! NELA passed its much-reduced projected budget for 2021. The main impetus is an effort at balance between continuing to provide service and support to state library associations while ALSO maintaining viability. NELA, like

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all organizations this year, is looking at a sizeable loss of income and revenue, and making adjustments as best it can. The extended membership fee to join NELA as a VLA member will remain at \$20; if you can at all, please consider supporting our bigger sister organization. We are stronger together. In lieu of the traditional conference this year, NELA's beginning planning for a few different options. One is 2-4 all-day virtual events with focused themes (for example: advocacy; equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI)...). Currently, planning is also in the works for a smaller, 1-day, in-person conference with the understanding that this is an optimistic idea that may also need to switch to a virtual setting. NELLs and NELLs II leadership intensives are on hold again for this year, so NELA is putting together an emerging leaders virtual cohort to temporarily fill this development gap. More on that to come!

Be well,

Amy Williams, MLS
VLA Representative to NELA
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Edit This Newsletter

Interested in newsletter design or editing? VLA's membership software comes with newsletter possibilities. If you would like to volunteer for the *VLA News*, please contact vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com.

Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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