

VLA News

August 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!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to

President's Letter

by Michael D. Roy

What a difference a year can make! A year ago we faced a great deal of uncertainty about what the future would hold and how much longer we would have to continue to live and work with the enormous challenges of this terrible pandemic. And while we are in no way completely out of the woods, with the uncertainty surrounding the Delta variant and with some of our most vulnerable fellow citizens unable to get vaccinated, it does feel like we have turned a corner and can turn our attention to rebuilding and learning from this experience. It is with this context that I want to share some of the important work that the Vermont Library Association has in the works.

- **Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont.** The state of Vermont has legislated that the state library form a working group on the status of libraries in Vermont (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT066/ACT066%20As%20Enacted.pdf>) that will inform how the state supports our work. The working group will be chaired by our State Librarian Jason Broughton. VLA is charged with naming individuals to serve on this group. VLA Vice President/President-elect Kelly McCagg will represent the VLA board. We are currently accepting nominations for two positions representing college and university librarians and one position representing library trustees. If you (or someone you know) are interested in serving, please contact me (mdroy@middlebury.edu) by August 15, and we'll add you to the list of those being considered. Please include your name, your role, and your reason for wanting to serve.
- **Continuing our First Thursday Series.** Past President Kevin Unrath will continue his role as convener of our popular First Thursday series, which will remain online for this year. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please reach out to Kevin (kunrath@shelburnevt.org).
- **Listening Tours.** Now that we are (for the time being!) allowed to gather in person, we are planning to organize a set of listening tours across the state to help us better understand how VLA can best serve your needs and interests. Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming chances to meet with fellow library workers and representatives from the VLA board. If you are interested in helping to organize such an event in your region, please let us

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:
[Michael D. Roy](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Kelly McCagg](#)

Past President:
[Kevin Unrath](#)

Secretary:
[Barbara Ball](#)

Treasurer:
[Lisa Milchman](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section President:
[Chenfang Yang](#)
Organizes workshops and assists college

know via this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZsR4vb9ARzGnrue-xOqYf-O2oYIBRGQb4YbCJBhrg40/viewform?edit_requested=true.

As a volunteer and member-run organization, the Vermont Library Association needs its membership to be active in order to thrive. We're hoping to continue the long tradition of VLA being a vibrant part of its members' professional lives and to be a vital resource for all of us working in libraries across Vermont. Please be in touch to let us know what you need from VLA, and also how you might like to get involved.

Michael D. Roy
VLA President
Dean of the Library, [Middlebury College](#)
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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](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

Public Libraries

by Dana Hart

Greetings! It is a pleasure to write to you for the first time in my role as president of the VLA Public Libraries Section. This year your vice president is Susan O'Connell, director of the Craftsbury Public Library. Over the coming year, the VLA Public Libraries Section will continue our work on the VLA public relations campaign and will begin a series of library site tours across Vermont. If you have additional suggestions on how the section might support you and your library, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us (dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org and director@crafstburypubliclibrary.org).

Last year the VLA Public Libraries Section rolled out an advocacy campaign in the form of five customizable posters (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/advocacy>). The goal of this campaign is to communicate what Vermont public libraries, collectively, achieve for Vermonsters, as well as to highlight specific contributions from public libraries at the local level. Each poster is designed to be easily editable, so public libraries can personalize the poster by inserting their own statistics. This year, we will make five new posters available to public libraries. While the posters are available for use at any time, this year we will also make a push for libraries to use the posters leading up to Town Meeting Day, in an effort to drum up some interest and support statewide.

The VLA Public Libraries Section will also organize two regional library tours this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. In October, several libraries in the Northeast Kingdom will offer tours (if you are a NEK library and want to be included, please email Susan). The libraries will be within short driving distance of each other, and the tours will be staggered, so you can make a day of it. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather again in person, learn from each other, and be inspired by

and special librarians.

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Susan Larson](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Public Libraries Section

President:

[Dana Hart](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

VACANT

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Committees

Government Relations Chair:

[Margaret](#)

[Woodruff](#)

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:

VACANT

Oversees VLA awards and scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference

Chair:

VACANT

Roundtables

Inclusion Chair:

some beautiful library buildings, both historic and recently renovated. Stay tuned for a date and more information on the Northeast Kingdom tours, coming soon.

This is an exciting time for Vermont's public libraries. The majority of us are getting back to our regular hours and operations after a year and a half of pandemic restrictions. But for many libraries, this is far from a return to "business as usual;" we're reopening with expanded services, or improved Wi-Fi, or any number of positive changes that grew out of serving our communities in creative ways during a time of crisis. Combine this with the ARPA grant funding currently being disbursed through the Vermont Department of Libraries, and we have a lot of good news to share. I encourage everyone to shift the conversation from being about "returning to normal" to being about improvement and growth. We have demonstrated, yet again, that libraries are vital to our communities, and we can only benefit from communicating this value loudly and proudly.

Dana Hart

VLA Public Libraries Section President

Director, [Islesley Public Library](#)

dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org

Government Relations & Advocacy

by Margaret Woodruff

Government & Advocacy

As members of the Vermont Library Association, you are valued advocates for library matters at the local, state, and national levels. We on the VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee welcome your suggestions and feedback as we try to promote and invite support for libraries and the communities they serve in Vermont.

We hope that you and your library have taken advantage of the American Recovery Plan Act funding that has been made available to us. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Vermont Department of Libraries for coordinating and managing the ARPA-IMLS library grants. What a great opportunity for Vermont libraries!

As State Librarian Jason Broughton mentioned in a recent phone meeting, there are even greater potential benefits coming to libraries with the introduction of the Build America's Libraries Act. The act is currently under consideration in the Senate Budget Committee, chaired by Senator Sanders. Here are some of the key points regarding this bill that you can use when contacting legislators:

- Libraries are crucial to achieving digital and educational equity and expanding economic opportunity.
- The Build America's Libraries Act would provide \$18 million to repair and upgrade public library buildings around Vermont.

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
Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Archivist:

Paul Carnahan

VLA News Editor:

Janet Clapp

Webmasters:

Tessa Johnson
Jessamyn West

Representative

S

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

- This funding would make a huge difference for libraries in Vermont. [You can briefly mention an example or two of needed upgrades in your library building.]
- In total, the Build America's Libraries Act would provide \$5 billion for library renovation and construction nationwide. We urge the Senator's support to include this funding in the upcoming budget resolution and reconciliation.

If you are able to voice your support for this measure, please consider joining the action alert through this link: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries>. This will send a message to all the members of the Vermont delegation, and we update the message as the situation changes.

Please share with your library contacts in your community and beyond as well. Joining the Vermont Library Association helps with these advocacy efforts. If you're not a member, you can sign up today: <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership>.

Library Garden Network

Thanks again to all who signed on for the Plant-a-Seed kits through Slow Food Vermont. I hope that your gardens are flourishing, despite the somewhat unstable weather that some areas of the state are experiencing. If you were unable to plant seeds this year, please consider including them in library and community garden plans for next year. There will be an informal meeting of those interested in continuing the conversation about library gardens and seed libraries in late August. If you haven't already contacted me, please do let me know if you and your library would be interested in joining us.

Slow Books

Slow Food USA has launched a new campaign to highlight books! Slow Food Books is a curated list of books and resources that speak to Slow Food values. We hope to connect readers with food writing that inspires thought and discussion about the food you love, diverse food cultures, historical foodways, food justice, and the joy of eating. You can learn more about the Slow Books program here: <https://slowfoodusa.org/books>.

In addition, Vermont library communities are invited to participate in the upcoming Slow Food USA network-wide read-along of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. From the Slow Food USA website (<https://slowfoodusa.org/join-our-2021-network-wide-read-along-braiding-sweetgrass-by-robin-wall-kimmerer>): "Looking at the interconnectedness of humans and nature offers many parallels to the questions the Slow Food movement also asks about how we can be part of better food systems — which in turn are often better for the environment and nature as well ... The Slow Books team will be hosting a virtual "train the trainer" session on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 5:30 p.m. CT. In this session we will offer pointers for hosting an online book discussion, suggestions for how the text relates back to Slow Food ideals, along with ideas for future reading on similar topics that the book addresses." To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nvQzb6TaSXS60lrE6WWMUg.

If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact me!
Margaret Woodruff, margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org,

Margaret Woodruff (she/her)
VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair
Director, [Charlotte Library](#)

the Board:
[Jason Broughton](#)

margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org
802-425-3864

Jobs & Subs

For library jobs:
[VLA Job Postings](#)

For library subs:
[Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#)

Planning a purchase on Amazon.com? Consider using the Amazon Smile program and select the Vermont Library Association to receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. Visit smile.amazon.com for more details.

ATTN: Gmail Users

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To finish reading the issue, scroll to the bottom of the message and click the link:

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[Other mail](#)

Membership and Outreach

by Susan Larson

Membership

The Vermont Library Association (VLA) is an all-volunteer organization, with membership open to everyone. We couldn't operate without your support. Renew your membership and encourage others to join. The online application is on our membership webpage: <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership>

VLA membership is rolling, which means renewal occurs annually on the date of your payment (versus the first of the year). Dues currently range from \$25 to \$50 for individual memberships and from \$50 to \$100 for organizational "bundle" memberships. VLA members qualify for extended membership at a reduced rate in the New England Library Association (NELA). Library students qualify for ALA/VLA joint membership. See the complete details on the membership webpage.

Outreach

Connect with VLA on our social media pages.
Facebook at [VTLibraryAssociation](#)
Twitter at [@VLAlib](#)
Instagram at [vlablib](#)
YouTube at [VermontLibraries](#)

Send us your news! Email Susan at members@vermontlibraries.org with news about your library, so that we can consider sharing it on social media.

Instagram Initiative

We would like to feature every Vermont library on our Instagram page. Please email Susan a photo of the exterior of your library. We will also share it on Facebook with a link to your webpage and/or Facebook page. It's best to shoot your photo horizontally, versus vertically, for sharing on these social media platforms.

Susan Larson, MLIS
VLA Membership & Outreach Committee Chair
members@vermontlibraries.org

Friends & Trustees

Are you a member of your library's board of trustees or Friends group? If so, thank you for all you do for your library! Become part of the larger Vermont Friends and trustees community by volunteering to serve as president or vice president of the VLA Friends & Trustees Section!

Contact VLA President Michael D. Roy (mdroy@middlebury.edu) if you are interested or have any questions.

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

New England Library Association

by Amy Williams

NELA Emerging Leaders Virtual Cohort has three Vermont librarians attending: Amy McMullen, Loren Polk, and Sarah Camille Wilson. Congratulations to being admitted into this awesome program!

There will be TWO! Emerson Greenaway Awards given this year-- stay tuned!
www.nelib.org/emerson-greenaway-award

NELA 2021 conference

"Play It Your Way!" Choose the adventure that works for you.
<https://nela2021.godaddysites.com>

September 1st (virtual): Advocacy
September 14th (virtual): Diversity
October 1st (virtual): Leadership/ Management

Registration now open!
Fees for the virtual stuff:
NELA member - \$20 per event or \$50 for all three!
Non-NELA member - \$40 per event OR \$110 for all three!

Oct 18th IN PERSON!!! At Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

How will the in-person piece look, you ask? Good question! This will be a scaled back one-day event. Current capacity restrictions at Holy Cross limit our event to 100 total people, including attendees, speakers, and vendors. NELA hopes that limit will be increased by October, but given the current limitations, NELA is limiting in-person sessions to only one speaker.

Registration fees for the in-person stuff:
NELA member - \$95
non-NELA member - \$145

Hope everyone's enjoying the summer!

Amy Williams, MLIS
VLA Representative to NELA
Assistant Director, [Rutland Free Library](#)
vt@nelib.org
amy@rutlandfree.org
802-773-1860

ALA

by Jessamyn West

I attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference this past June as your Vermont Chapter Councilor. I mostly went to council meetings. This was the

last conference that will be held entirely virtually. Later conferences will, health climate permitting, be held in hybrid fashion, so if you've wanted to attend but can't hack the travel, you may want to look into them. I've written up a longer report about the governance activities which took place which you can read online here.

<https://www.librarian.net/stax/5230/>

Jessamyn West
VLA Chapter Councilor
[Vermont Mutual Aid Society](#)
jessamyn@gmail.com
[@jessamyn](#)

News from the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB)

by Jason Broughton & Janette Shaffer

ARPA Money

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) designated \$200 million in pandemic response funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Grants to States program. The Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) has received \$2,135,819 in ARPA funding, of which it will make up to \$980,587.07 in grants available to public libraries to make one-time purchases through the ARPA Grants to Public Libraries for Equipment and Supply Purchases program (https://libraries.vermont.gov/ARPA2021_PublicLibraries). The application deadline is August 9, 2021 for a planned disbursement of funding by October. The department invites you to sign up for a listserv dedicated to discussions about ARPA and other grants. Feel free to sign up and swap ideas [there](#). For specific grant questions, refer to the FAQ page (libraries.vermont.gov/ARPA_FAQ), submit the question form (libraries.vermont.gov/node/10284), or join an open office session.

Geographic Names

State Librarian was asked by CNN to give viewpoints on the Negro Brook situation and the term Negro: "Why so many geographic sites in the US still have racist names" - www.cnn.com/2021/07/11/us/racist-geographic-site-names-trnd/index.html

Vermont Department of Libraries Welcomes New Consultant for Special Populations / ABLE Library Director

The Vermont Department of Libraries is pleased to announce that we have hired Karen Gravlin as the Consultant for Special Populations. In her role, Karen will also head up the ABLE Library. She started on Monday 7/19/21.

Karen holds a bachelor's degree in English from Florida Gulf Coast University, and a master's in Library and Information Science from Florida State University. She has worked for the Lee County Library System in Lee County, Florida, for almost nine years. During that time, she has worked in almost every position, including library page, circulation assistant, reference librarian, and most recently, branch manager. Prior to her time in libraries, Karen worked in public schools. Because her father was in the military, she grew up all over the world. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.

Please contact Karen for any questions or needs regarding the ABLE Library or serving special populations: karen.gravlin@vermont.gov or 802-272-4912.

Jason Broughton, State Librarian / Commissioner of Libraries
Janette Shaffer, Assistant State Librarian for Advancement
Vermont Department of Libraries
<http://libraries.vermont.gov>
Jason.broughton@vermont.gov
Janette.Shaffer@vermont.gov

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Try your hand at 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.

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