



# VLA News - August 2011

## Table of Contents

### Articles

[President's Letter](#)  
[Vice President's Letter](#)  
[Editorial](#)  
[Intellectual Freedom](#)  
[Youth Librarians](#)  
[2011 VLA Awards](#)  
[VLA Calendar Project](#)  
[NELA Conference 2011](#)  
[Membership](#)

### Sidebar

[Central VT Librarians](#)  
[Back Issues](#)  
[Sub Pool Update](#)  
[Meet Your Leaders](#)  
[ATTN: Gmail Users](#)

## Central Vermont Librarian Meet & Greet - Distance Learning & Drinks

Come to Montpelier's Black Door (44 Main Street, Montpelier) on August 5th at 5:00 for a summer gathering of academic librarians. This will be a chance to meet some new faces in Central Vermont's academic

## President's Letter

My conference experiences usually follow a predictable pattern. I get to enjoy the company of colleagues. I learn about new technologies and how my library might make use of them. I eat a lot of food.

Rarely, though, do I find myself reflecting on the remarks of the keynote speaker, and certainly not long after the conference has ended. Joe Raiola's "The Joy of Censorship" at the recent Vermont Library Association Conference was that rare occurrence. Whenever I'm out for a walk, I find myself going back to examples used by Raiola in his presentation and find that I'm not always certain where I stand on them. As someone who considers himself something of an absolutist when it comes to the [First Amendment](#), this equivocation is both curious and a little thrilling. Even though I've yet to find my way on these issues, I'm grateful for being presented with material that challenged my assumptions and made me consider them in new ways. I'd like to extend my thanks to Jane Napier and her colleagues on the Conference Committee for scheduling such a provocative and meaningful topic as the centerpiece of this event. It further illustrates the Vermont Library Association's longstanding and essential commitment to preserving the full scope and measure of the First Amendment.

As I begin my tenure as President of the [Vermont Library Association](#), I'd also like to thank my predecessor, Marti Fiske, for providing me with such a solid grounding in this

libraryworld, and catch up with friends. Spouses and friends welcome.

If you have any questions contact [Larraby Fellows](#) or [Susan Whitehead](#).

## Back Issues

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

[VLA News Back Issues](#)

## Substitute Pool

The [Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#) is booming!

Subs/Temps/Volunteers Signed Up: **107**

Potential Employers Accessing It: **31**

Availability of Pool by County:

Addison - 29  
Bennington - 14  
Caledonia - 24  
Chittenden - 58  
Essex - 13  
Franklin - 28  
Grand Isle - 16  
Lamoille - 23  
Orange - 30  
Orleans - 10  
Rutland - 18  
Washington - 38  
Windham - 21  
Windsor - 30

Check out all the [VLA Employment Resources](#)

## Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer

organization's many ins and outs. She has been extraordinarily helpful and thorough over the past year, and even managed to maintain her keen sense of humor despite my frequent dimwitted questions. I look forward to building upon her many achievements.

Sincerely,



Joe Farara  
VLA President  
Faculty Librarian, [Johnson State College](#)

## Vice President's Letter

The Carnegie Foundation of New York reported in the mid 1990's that roughly 35% of children in the United States entered school without the skills necessary for learning to read. Early literacy has long-term effects. In Louisa Cook Moats book [Speech to Print: Language Essentials for Teachers](#), it is reported that the U.S. Office of Technology has estimated that 25% of the adult workforce is unable to meet routine requirements of today's workplace because they cannot read well enough.

In 2010, the [Department of Libraries](#) (DOL) and the [Vermont Center for the Book](#) (VCB) partnered to combat this issue. Vermont's [Early Literacy Initiative](#) is a statewide initiative to introduce very young children, their parents and caregivers to the best practices for early literacy. This initiative is funded by the [Winnie Belle Learned Fund](#) of the [Vermont Public Library Foundation](#) through the generosity of Dr. Burnett Rawson with assistance of a Henderson Grant through the Vermont Center for the Book.

In round one 30 Vermont libraries participated in the program that combines the principles of the [American Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read @ your library](#) initiative and the Vermont Center for the Book's Mother Goose programs. This fall round two of ELI will start with even more Vermont libraries making the

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:**  
[Joseph Farara](#)

**Vice President/President Elect:**  
[Deborah Gadwah-Lambert](#)

**Past President:**  
[Marti Fiske](#)

**Secretary:**  
[Heidi Steiner](#)

**Treasurer:**  
[Wynne Browne](#)

### Section Representatives

#### **Youth Librarians**

**President:**  
Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.  
[Kat Redniss](#)

#### **College & Special Libraries**

**President:**  
Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.  
[Andy Burkhardt](#)

#### **Public Libraries President:**

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.  
[Lucinda Walker](#)

#### **Vermont Library Trustees Association Convenor from DOL:**

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.  
[Michael Roche](#)

commitment to improve their story times and provide parents and caregivers with important early literacy research. By working with parents and caregivers, librarians can have a direct impact in supporting early literacy development in children.

In July the ELI advisory committee met and the subject of continued communication on early literacy with Vermont libraries was discussed. Several committee members have volunteered to start an online ELI Newsletter that will begin this fall. Suggestions and submissions to this newsletter may be sent to Deborah Gadwah-Lambert at [award\\_canaan@vals.state.vt.us](mailto:award_canaan@vals.state.vt.us).

Deborah Gadwah-Lambert  
VLA Vice President / President Elect  
Director, [Alice M. Ward Memorial Library](#)

## Editorial

By the numbers, it looks like we've got really great participation in the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#) (see sidebar). I can't be happier that the [Vermont Library Association](#) (VLA), [Green Mountain Library Consortium](#) (GMLC) & [Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries](#) (VCAL) collaborated to start this service, and as the joint volunteer, personally delighted by its continual growth.

The Vermont Library Substitute Pool began as an experiment in collective unconsciousness. John Payne at VCAL, Stephanie Chase at GMLC, and myself at VLA were all ruminating at the same time on some way to provide a substitute hiring service in Vermont that was low key but still provided a vehicle for employers to be connected to potential subs and temps they might not know were available otherwise. About five or six people sat down to those initial meetings and the Vermont Library Substitute Pool was born.

That was three years ago and the structure and method of the project has not changed. Maybe it's working fine as it is, but we haven't heard any evidence about the program's efficacy one way or the other. If you have had a connection through the VLSP, please email me and let me know! If you have tried, either as an employer or a potential employee, to make connections and it's not working for you, we want to know that, too. How do you like the

**Vermont Library Trustees Association representative to the VLA Board:**

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

[Laurel Stanley](#)

**Awards Committee Chair:**

[Grace Greene](#)

**Archivist:**

[Paul Carnahan](#)

**Department of Libraries Representative to the VLA Board:**

[Christine Friese](#)

**Committees**

**Editorial Committee:**

VLA News editor and VLA website co-webmaster.

[Helen Linda](#)

**Government Relations Committee Chair:**

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

[Debra Bullock Spackman](#)

**Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair:**

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

[Gail Weymouth](#)

**Membership Committee Chair:**

Maintains membership roster.

[Cindy Weber](#)

**Personnel Committee Chair:**

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

[Shara McCaffery](#)

**Vermont Library Conference Chair:**

[Jane Napier](#)

**Representatives**

**American Library**

format? Are we asking enough questions and the right questions? What would you change if you could? Are there any barriers you feel to using this program? What would make it easier?

The program is only good if it works, so let me know if it's working (and let me know if I have permission to share your stories in an upcoming VLA News). You can email me at [vermontlibrarieswebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrarieswebmaster@gmail.com). If you are signed up on any end of the Vermont Library Substitute Pool, tell someone! Though I post about it frequently, I'm still hearing that people don't know about it, so spread the word!

Helen Linda  
VLA News Editor/Editorial Committee Chair  
[NETSL](#) Vice President / President Elect  
Systems & Tech Services Librarian, [Goddard College](#)

## Intellectual Freedom

“If you want to know something, ask a librarian; if you really NEED something done... ask a VT Librarian!” That is the way the Director of the [Association of American Publishers Freedom to Read Committee](#) Judy Platt introduced her legislative update on the [Free Speech Protection Act](#) to a dozen or more of the most prominent US and international Civil Liberties groups in June and July 2010.

The [Free Speech Protection Act](#) passed by the House, intended to address the alarming increase in libel tourism or use of foreign courts in countries with weak libel laws to undermine U.S [First Amendment](#) and chill speech, had no teeth. It was referred to the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) and [Senator Patrick Leahy](#) appeared to be stalling it. As VT constituents, Judy Platt asked if VLAIFC would explain to Senator Leahy how libel tourism was impacting Vermonters access to vital information because of intimidation. Try finding [Alms for Jihad](#) in a VT library.

To my surprise Leahy's staff contacted me immediately and we worked jointly on language for a new bill co-authored by Alaska's [Senator Jeff Sessions](#). [The Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage \(SPEECH \) Act](#). The bill won

**Association Councilor:**

Represents Vermont for the national organization.

[Nancy Wilson](#)

**New England Library Association****Representative:**

Represents Vermont for the regional organization.

[Kip Roberson](#)

**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](#).

bipartisan and unanimous support of the Senate Judiciary Committee, followed by unanimous support in the Senate July 19 and July 27 the House also passed it unanimously. Obama signed it into law in August. Senator Leahy credits VLA for their work.

In February 2011 we worked closely with Leahy's staff again on the [Patriot Act Sunset Extension Act](#), thanking him for the enhanced protections under section 215 for libraries WHILE continuing to press for the inclusion of Booksellers. Yesterday, Leahy filed an amendment co-sponsored with Republican [Senator Rand Paul](#) that will extend expiring provisions until 2015, but includes a 2013 sunset on NSLs, expands oversight and accountability under FISA, a higher standard for section 215 orders including booksellers and strikes the 1 year waiting period for non-disclosure orders. Still not good enough but we are baby stepping to significant reforms.

In September 2010, VLAIFC and [ACLU](#) co-sponsored a [Banned Book Week](#) event in conjunction with the [Brattleboro Literary Festival](#). Despite torrential rains the event was well attended and received. Special thanks to Trina Magi and Jerry Carbone for their work on the event. Plans are in the works for another event for 2011 in conjunction with [NELA Conference](#) in Burlington.

Chris Finan, author of [From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act](#), President of the [American Booksellers Foundation for Freedom of Expression](#) and member of the media collation and [Freedom to Read Foundation Board](#), will be the 2011 John Swan Lecturer to be held in Killington. Chris credits VLA for successfully sounding the alarm about the dangers of the USA Patriot Act.

I wish to end with a note of caution. I recently visited several VT public library websites that had links on their homepage to "Common Sense Media" as a guide for parents. I urge you to read [Fear Factor: Children's Book Version : Common Sense Media Gives Censors a New Tool](#). Published by SLJ.

Gail Weymouth  
VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair  
Director, [Sheburne Memorial Library](#)

## Youth Librarians

Hello, hello from the Youth Librarians Section. We are so excited to get 2011-2012 started. I, Kat Redniss, am returning for Round #2 as President, and this year I am joined by the wonderful, bright, and very motivated Amy McMullen of Hartland Public Library as Vice President. Amy and I met to discuss our platform for this year. We hope you will enjoy the offerings we've got in store. While no official dates are set, here is an overview of what's we're planning for all of you. We are planning one large meeting/workshop day with a focus on Youth Programming and Advocacy for Teens in Libraries. Our three key words for children's programming: FRESH, EASY, CHEAP. We want to bring vibrant, engaging ideas that are simple and inexpensive to implement and utilize in your libraries. Also, we want to bring teens, yes, real-life teens in to talk about their experiences with libraries, literacy, leisure, and life! We hope through these involved and candid discussions, librarians will feel more comfortable with the Young Adult populations in their libraries, and take steps to increase offerings for them in the collection and in programming for teens and tweens. Additionally, Amy and I are also planning on doing regional technology workshops, partnering with local cable stations to provide training on movie-making, filming, and other promotional tech and media services. We know it's a struggle sometimes to drive all around the state, so our hope is to reach a wide scope of libraries through offering workshops scattered geographically around the state.

We would love feedback, comments, questions, suggestions. Feel free to contact either of us. We are truly looking forward to a great year of dialogue and learning. Thanks in advance for being a part!

Kat Redniss  
VLA Youth Librarians Section President  
Young Adult Librarian, [Brownell Library](#)

Amy McMullen  
VLA Youth Librarians Section Vice President  
Youth Librarian, [Hartland Public Library](#)

## 2011 VLA Awards

The annual VLA Awards were presented by President

Marti Fiske at the [Conference](#) at [St. Michael's College](#) on May 24 in front of an audience of several hundred enthusiastic librarians and trustees. Although no [Sarah Hagar Award](#) was given this year, the awards committee was so impressed with the nominations for trustee of the year that they couldn't narrow it down to just one, so chose two winners.

Susie Martin of the [Roger Clark Memorial Library](#) in Pittsfield was honored for almost 40 years of service on the Board. In Pittsfield, being a trustee is a bigger job than in many towns, because the trustees run the library as well as govern it. Pittsfield is an all-volunteer library, so Susie has not only helped make policy and planning decisions, but has also regularly staffed the library herself. As Marion Abrams, trustee and writer of the nominating letter says, "Susie has done everything to make our cherished all volunteer library run; from making certain important library organizational standards were upheld and guiding new volunteers, to helping young patrons write their own names on their cards. I expect we have only an inkling of the work she has done."

The second trustee award went to the entire board of the [Morristown Centennial Library](#) (Sue Sargent, chair) for their extraordinary work in starting a much-needed addition and renovation for the library. Twenty years in the making, this project has had many bumps in the road, and is far from complete. However, due to the diligence, patience and bravery of the Board, the outside is now finished and renovations on the inside have begun. Mary West, the library director said, "Because of their hard work and bold action, the Board of Trustees of the Morristown Centennial Library deserves the credit for making this dream a reality."

Once again, a few people have made a big difference. Libraries in Vermont are thriving, not because they have big budgets and plenty of staff, but rather because they have dedicated and hard working trustees and librarians.

Grace Greene  
VLA Awards Committee Chair  
Youth Services Consultant, [VT Department of Libraries](#)

## VLA Calendar Project

**Raise Funds for Your Library with VLA Calendar**

### **Project: Begin Taking Orders Now!**

Raise awareness and cash at the same time with our beautiful VLA 2012 Vermont Public Libraries Calendar! The time to advertise is now! Production is underway... the calendar is going to be great!

The VLA 2012 Calendar:  
Sings libraries' praise.  
Will help you fundraise.  
Has gorgeous photo displays.  
Keeps track of your days.  
Even follows the moon's phase!  
...It's a calendar that works in so many ways!

Links for two pdfs are below – an info/order form for libraries, and a flyer/order form to print out and post for your patrons, friends, relatives, etc....

[VLA 2012 Calendar - For Libraries](#)

[VLA 2012 Calendar - For Patrons](#)

Fill in the top circle of the advertising flyer with your selling price, we recommend \$15-\$20. Remember that roughly \$8.50 will go towards production and shipping costs and your library pockets the rest. At the bottom of that flyer, write who the checks should be made out and given to (your library or your Friends group).

We recommend ordering a small stock for the library to sell after the order deadline. Chances are you'll get lots of additional interest after you can show a sample copy, especially in November and December. When you've got all the forms and checks you think you'll get, fill out the order form for libraries. To reserve your calendars, place your order by September 15. Calendars will be shipped at the end of October.

Questions?

Write [mkdesign@gmavt.net](mailto:mkdesign@gmavt.net) or [marti@williston.lib.vt.us](mailto:marti@williston.lib.vt.us)

Marti Fiske  
VLA Past President  
Director, [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library](#)

## **NELA Conference 2011**

From Sunday, October 2nd – Tuesday, October 4th,

the [New England Library Association](#) (NELA) will hold their [Annual Conference](#) in cooperation with the [Vermont Library Association](#) at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington. Since this is a joint venture, VLA members may register for the Conference at the member rate. All VLA members are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity, whether you attend for only one day or all three!

The Conference features an exciting line-up, with more than 50 individual sessions on a wide variety of topics including an opening keynote from [R. David Lankes](#), author of [The Atlas of New Librarianship](#), and a Tuesday Post-Conference from [WebJunction](#) and other partners addressing the increased demand on libraries for job-related assistance.

In addition to three days of great sessions, each meal at the Conference includes a presentation by a well-known author. There will be more than 100 exhibiting companies and the Opening Reception of the exhibit hall on Sunday afternoon serves as the first social event of the Conference. On Monday night, [Burlington City Arts](#) will host the NELA Reception and Games, followed by a Dine-Around in downtown Burlington.

It's sure to be a wonderful Conference at one of the most beautiful times of year in our great state. Be there to welcome other New England librarians to Vermont! Visit the Conference webpage and register today: [www.nelib.org/conference](http://www.nelib.org/conference)

Heidi Steiner  
VLA Secretary  
[NELA](#) Conference Committee Member  
Distance Learning Library, [Kreitzberg Library](#)

## Membership

The [Vermont Library Association](#) (VLA) values your membership and is dedicated to you and Vermont's libraries. As a VLA member you can opt to receive the VLA News (285 of our 351 members do), subscribe to the listserv, be a member of any of our sections and/or committees at no additional cost, have voting privileges at the annual meeting, be eligible to hold a VLA officer position, receive discounts to VLA events (including the

conference), and receive a 20% tuition discount to [Drexel University](#). VLA supports continuing education, researches salary guidelines, and provides information to librarians, trustees, and employers. VLA officers represent our members on the [American Library Association Council](#) and the [New England Library Association](#).

Speaking as the VLA Membership Chair and a VLA member since 2003, I have found my participation in VLA rewarding and enjoyable. The conferences are a great opportunity to learn about new trends and ideas in the library world, to refresh and rejuvenate, to mingle with colleagues, and to embark on new library-related relationships.

If you have any questions about your VLA membership benefits, you can [visit our website](#) or [contact me directly](#). All of your VLA board members are available and willing to help you in any way possible.

Cindy Weber  
VLA Membership Committee Chair  
Tech Services Librarian, [Dorothy Alling Mem. Library](#)

**Don't Forget to Visit Us on the Web!**

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

Vermont Library Association, PO Box 803, Burlington, VT 05402