



VLA News - January 2011

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Conference 2011

A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone. ~Jo Godwin

Mark your calendars for the 117th Vermont Library Conference, **Something To Offend Everyone**, Tuesday, May 24th, 2011 at St. Michael's College in

President's Letter

Welcome to the modern reincarnation of the VLA News. In this first edition, you will find a call for membership renewals (all memberships expired December 31), a letter from Vice President/President-Elect Joe Farara, information on the substitute and volunteer pool hosted by VLA, a program on videoconferencing which VLA co-sponsored, news from Section and Committee leaders and much more. Make sure you opt-in to receive the VLA News directly to your email by [signing up on the VLA website](#) or check the line on your [2011 membership renewal form](#).

It's hard to believe that my term as President is half over. One of the disadvantages of having an all volunteer organization is that we are all volunteers. All the VLA leaders have (at least) another job which pays their bills. That means that some great projects that VLA would like to do take longer because our own libraries are changing automation systems, are short-staffed due to budget cuts, etc., etc. But, one of the benefits is that the VLA leaders know what the members are going through. Some of the VLA leaders, like me, have even worked as the only librarian in a small school, public or special library.

In November, I attended the [Vermont FiberConnect](#): The Library Link Summit. The librarians who attended have a wonderful opportunity to bring fiber-optic internet connections into their libraries. Many of these libraries would be the only place in their town with a high-speed internet connection and could therefore offer many services unique to their area. The idea is to get fiber into

Colchester, VT

This year's keynote speaker is Joe Raiola, Senior Editor of [MAD Magazine](#) and long-time First Amendment champion!

Keep an eye out on the [Vermont Library Conference Website](#) for more information as it comes available!

NELA Update

NELA Annual Conference is coming to Burlington this year!

[Navigating the New Normal](#)
October 2-4, 2011
Sheraton Burlington

Mark your calendars and join us for an exciting slate of programs co-sponsored by the VLA!

Check out the [NELA website](#) for more information. [Become a member](#) of NELA get a discount on the conference, as well as many other great benefits!

TOEC Save The Date

The 2011 Town Officers' Education Conferences (TOEC) will be held in April. The dates and locations are:

Wed. 4/6:
[Hilton Hotel](#), Burlington

Thu. 4/7:
[Johnson State College](#)
& nbsp;

Wed. 4/20:
[Lake Morey Resort](#), Fairlee

Wed. 4/27:
[Holiday Inn](#), Rutland

Watch the mail for conference details and registration packets.

the libraries and schools in rural areas, in order to build demand for connections to individual businesses and homes. In some cases, the town is so small and out of the way that if the library does not sign on for the fiber connection their town will be bypassed. Without these libraries, no one will get an opportunity to build out fiber into the community. In all cases however, the libraries will have to pay quite a bit more for their internet if they want a fiber connection. Some librarians and trustees at the conference were excited by the chance and knew that they could find what they needed to make it work. Others were distressed, and even angry. They believed that they would never find the resources to make a project like this come to life and no one understood their situation.

This is an example of where VLA can help. VLA does more than put on an annual conference. The major work of VLA is the connections that can be made for our members. VLA connects librarians to other librarians. We can help you find [substitutes and volunteers](#) to run the desk while you work on a project. We have [lists of librarians who will act as mentors](#) to help you through a daunting process. You can [join the VLA listserv](#) which allows you to reach out to librarians around the state to obtain a solution to your problem.

VLA is also working on connecting communities to their libraries. Vermont has a wonderful tradition of small, independent libraries. However, that has made it hard for us to find the time and means to draw in non-users and advocate for our libraries. VLA is working on a state-wide multimedia advertising campaign for Vermont libraries of all types during [National Library Week](#) in April 2011. As a lead-in to the campaign, we will partner with [Vermont School Libraries Association](#) (VSLA) to support a state-wide [Snap Shot Day](#). Libraries could do their Snap Shot Day any time in the late winter to early spring. The information produced can be used by individual libraries to support their budget proposals, advertise their services and celebrate National Library Week. It also can be used for VLA's campaign. Watch for more information in a couple of months.

And of course you can make connections at conferences. The next [Vermont Library Conference](#) will be at St. Michael's' College in Colchester on May 24. VLA is also assisting the [New England Library Association](#) (NELA) with their conference in Burlington, October 2-4, 2011.

What connection can VLA make for you? Please contact

Sub Pool Update

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

Subs/Temps/Volunteers
Signed Up: **68**

Potential Employers Accessing
It: **28**

Availability of Pool by County:

Addison - 20
Bennington - 12
Caledonia - 18
Chittenden - 39
Essex - 11
Franklin - 23
Grand Isle - 12
Lamoille - 16
Orange - 25
Orleans - 7
Rutland - 13
Washington - 29
Windham - 18
Windsor - 24

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

Membership Is Due

VLA memberships expired in December 2010. We invite you to join and/or renew today. Simply [print the form from our website](#) and send it with your check to the address noted on the form.

Your membership will support efforts to promote libraries, literacy, and intellectual freedom. You, as a member, will receive discounts to VLA events, including the VLA Conference in May, discounted tuition to Drexel, and the opportunity, if you choose, to receive the VLA e-newsletter and/or converse with other librarians through the listserv.

Please explore the [VLA website](#) to learn more about VLA's efforts to support you

me or your other [VLA leaders](#) with questions, suggestions or feedback.

Sincerely,



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

Vice President's Letter

Even though I'm only a few months into my tenure as the Vermont Library Association's Vice President, I've been struck by the energy and dedication of my board colleagues. Whether they are planning conferences, implementing professional development opportunities, providing collaborative efforts among libraries, or tackling First Amendment issues, all matters are approached with a great deal of care and commitment. Despite the group's often frenetic pace, everything is handled with enormous amounts of good humor, which no doubt contributes to the quality and scope of the VLA's initiatives.

As Marti Fiske and I begin our respective transitions, I plan to carry on the good work she and her predecessors have established. In addition to the organization's traditional promotional and advocacy roles, I look forward to enhancing our collaborative efforts with the [Vermont School Library Association](#) (VSLA) and the [Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries](#) (VCAL). I'm also eager to hear about other possible initiatives from our membership, so please feel free to [share your ideas with me](#). Libraries are in the midst of an exciting time in their histories, and I'm eager for all of us to be part of their transformation.

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

and your library.

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 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:

[Marti Fiske](#)

Vice President/President-Elect:

[Joseph Farara](#)

Past President:

[John K. Payne](#)

Secretary:

[David Sturges](#)

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.

[Charlotte Gerstein](#)

Public Libraries President:

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Editorial

A weekend Professional Badge to the [New York Comic Con](#) (NYCC), the largest comics industry convention on the east coast, only costs librarians \$10! NYCC considers librarians industry professionals. Can I justify why this is right and good? Yes. Was I still incredulous? Definitely. I had never heard of a formally recognized relationship between the comics industry and libraryland.

Better still, Professional Badge holders get in early! That's right, while the other tens of thousands of geeks waited in line for hours, I got to prowl the show floor with mere hundreds while it was still clean and fresh-smelling and I had room to do cartwheels. Unbeknownst to me when I bought the ticket, comic cons also have educational panels. Taking a gander the schedule I noticed much to my slack-jawed delight that NYCC had a whole slate of programs just for librarians.

They had panels on collection development to different age groups and interests. They had panels on justifying the addition of graphic novels and fighting censorship of collections. There was a round table discussion on graphic novel librarianship and an [American Library Association](#) (ALA) booth where librarians had their [picture taken together](#). Fans who love their library also had their pictures taken; the [folks in costume](#) were awesome!

I went to most panels and here are a few of the things I learned:

- 1) Comics, graphic novels, and manga are not a genre; they are a format. There are graphic stories in every literary genre. If we think of them as a format, it may help us to incorporate them better.
- 2) The average age of comics readers is thirty. That's right, most users of this format are adults. We must stop thinking of them as kid's stuff and collect vigorously for adults, too.
- 3) Libraryland can have a sustained global relationship with the comics industry, just as we have with book publishers and vendors. Librarians need to show comics vendors not only why we matter to them, but that they matter to us. We must be the same champions of graphic novels that we are of non-graphic books.

[Lucinda Walker](#)

Vermont Library Trustees Association Convenor from DOL:

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

[Michael Roche](#)

Vermont Library Trustees Association representative to the Board:

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

[Laurel Stanley](#)

Awards Committee Chair:

[Grace Greene](#)

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Department of Libraries Representative to the Board:

[Christine Friese](#)

Committees

Editorial Committee:

VLA News editor and posts to VLA website.

[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.

[Rubi Simon](#)

Vermont Library Conference

4) New Jersey librarians rock! They ran, and were on, most of the panels. Their [Graphic Novel Collection Development Workshops](#) wiki covers much of the subject matter I saw and provides scads of collection development guides. Check it out.

If you're looking for an excuse to get down to the city for a weekend, always wanted to go to a comic con, and/or want a different kind of professional development opportunity, why not give the New York Comic Con a try?

Helen Linda

VLA News Editor/Editorial Committee Chair

[NETSL](#) Vice President / President Elect

Systems & Tech Services Librarian, [Goddard College](#)

ALA Midwinter Report

Wiki Leaks, Authors as Library Advocates, and other News from ALA Midwinter

The work of [American Library Association](#) (ALA) Council, [Midwinter 2011](#), went by in a flash under sunny San Diego, California skies. I am pleased to report on the business of our national association as I mark the half way point of my second term as your ALA representative. My goal as I sit through council meetings is to glean helpful and interesting information to bring back to Vermont.

Council meetings include reports from committees and task forces, financial reports, reports of ALA officers, and resolutions from members. The following initiatives are of particular interest:

1) The *Chapter Relations Task Force* has been formed and will be reporting at [ALA Annual](#) in June. This task force arose out of complaints by Chapter Councilors (like me) that ALA does not work as effectively as it could with state chapters. If you have opinions or suggestions to improve the relationship Vermont has with ALA national please [let me know](#).

2) [ALA President Roberta Stevens](#) introduced an initiative called [Our Authors, Our Advocates](#). Authors

Chair:

[Jane Napier](#)

Representatives

American Library Association Councilor:

Represents Vermont for the national organization.

[Nancy Wilson](#)

New England Library Association Representative:

Represents Vermont for the regional organization.

[Kip Roberson](#)

Share The First Issue

While the VLA News is a member-only privilege, we recognize that many of our members haven't heard about it yet! Currently only 1/3 of the membership is signed up to receive VLA News. Help us spread the word by sharing the first issue!

You can spread the good word in a number of ways:

1) Word of Mouth: Talk to your colleagues about the articles and events you see here. If they don't know about it, let them know they can [sign up for VLA News](#) on the VLA Website or by electing to receive it when they [renew their membership](#)< span style="color: #000000; background-color: transparent; font-weight: normal; font-style: normal; text-decoration: none; vertical-align: baseline;">.

2) Forward It: Forward the VLA News to anyone you think might not have heard. This includes members who rarely check email/websites/listservs, past members who may have let their membership lapse, and anyone who you think will

have signed up to film public service announcements about the importance of libraries. We are free to use these PSAs as we wish in Vermont.

[WikiLeaks](#) was the talk of the conference with three resolutions introduced and many committees mentioning it. It's an interesting case of freedom of speech versus protection of classified information. Just the sort of thing that makes our hearts beat faster! The ALA [Intellectual Freedom Committee](#) (IFC) introduced a resolution, which passed easily, that the ALA:

- 1) Commends [U.S. President Barack Obama](#) for establishing the [National Declassification Agency](#) and issuing [Executive Order 13526](#) on [Classified National Security Information](#) and supports and encourages expanded initiatives to reform the U.S. classification system;
- 2) Urges Congress to pass legislation that expands protections for whistleblowers in the Federal government, such as the [Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2010](#);
- 3) Urges the U.S. President, Congress, the federal courts, and executive and legislative agencies to defend the inalienable right of the press and citizens to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and to refrain from initiatives that impair these rights;
- 4) Affirms the principle that government information made public within the boundaries of U.S. law should be available through libraries and the press without restriction.

Resolutions that passed by a majority vote of council included a *Resolution in Support of Requesting Congress to Reintroduce and Vote on the [Dream Act](#)* and a *Resolution on the Removal and Censorship of Artwork from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery*. A *Resolution on Notifying Conference and Meeting Attendees of Hotels Named on the "Do Not Patronize" List* was defeated. Two WikiLeaks resolutions were tabled.

Copies of all resolutions are available on the [ALA website](#). Please [email me](#) or call [\(802\) 453-2366](#) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

benefit from being a member of VLA.

3) Social Networking: Let people know you're reading VLA News on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Thanks in advance for helping us get the word out!

Nancy Wilson
VLA ALA Councilor
Director, [Lawrence Memorial Library](#)

Intellectual Freedom

Headaches aside – What are libraries?

The return of the VLA newsletter is a cause for celebration for those of us involved in the intellectual freedom in libraries. Everyday brings new threats to our [First](#) and [Fourth Amendment](#) rights and it is critical to have a way to inform our colleagues, governing bodies, friends and users. So we will do our best to offer some food for thought in each issue.

What follows is a variation of a basic primer for libraries and trustees on Confidentiality and Privacy I presented to the [New York Public Library](#) in November. Given the regular turnover in library staff and trustees we experience in Vermont and the number of questions I receive as VLA IFC chair I think it may bear repeating.

Our profession's seminal documents: [ALA's Code of Ethics](#), the [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [Freedom to Read Statement](#) eloquently states our principles and commitment to access and confidentiality. *"We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted."*

Yet without a proper understanding, fundamental appreciation of the principles, and steadfast commitment to translate those principles into everyday practice - they are just a string of words - eloquent, but essentially meaningless.

Take a few minutes and walk away from the piles of work on your desk, the constant worry of overstretched budget and increased demand on stressed staff. Peeling away the layers of activities and headaches, what lies at the core? What is a library? And what role do we all play in American society? Allow me to draw your attention to what everyone of us provide, and what is truly at stake if we allow everyday distractions to take our eyes from the prize.

Stand at the threshold of a library door, if you listen carefully with your mind as well as ears you may hear, WELCOME TO THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS. The library is a physical as well as virtual repository of thoughts, ideas, expression and dreams; of minds - past present and future. Freely sample the wealth of expression, experiment with ideas in relative seclusion, develop them, consider them and decide whether to adopt them as your own, or reject them in search of new ideas. Open inquiry is a prerequisite for the progress, the invention, and the creativity that are the heart and soul of American society. A library is the embodiment First Amendment - the right of free expression and access to that expression.

Privacy is essential to the exercise of that right, open inquiry requires intellectual privacy - the ability to access expression, develop ideas and beliefs away from the unwanted gaze, scrutiny, or interference of others. Libraries are that safe haven. They are the last refuge of unfettered access.

Privacy has many meanings and faces and for each user the importance of privacy changes as their lives change. The user who today may not care if their reading habits are exposed to may find themselves dealing with an issue that they may not be as willing to share with the public tomorrow. It is particularly challenging in Vermont when even in our largest cities it is difficult to remain anonymous.

If libraries are to survive as havens for free and uninhibited access to expression and information so necessary to a democratic society, we librarians must vigilantly guard our user's privacy and freedom of inquiry. We must carefully examine our existing practices and services and thoroughly investigate the potential ramifications of every new service to assure they are in keeping with our professional values and uphold that sacred trust the public places in our care.

Tomorrow when you unlock the library entrance, pause and think of the wonders held within. Do you hear its whisper?

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

College & Special Libraries

In early 2010 C & SL president Charlotte Gerstein reached out to [Vermont School Library Association](#) (VSLA) officers about the transition to college for high school students. Four librarians presented a panel, "What College Freshmen Need to Know," at VSLA's May 2010 Dynamic Landscapes conference. Several VSLA members then attended the C & SL event in June.

Here's what we learned in a nutshell:

Charlotte Gerstein ([Castleton State College](#)) demonstrated Clickers, a classroom audience response system, and shared examples of how it is being used in information literacy instruction to engage students, assess knowledge and get feedback during instruction, and encourage candid participation by allowing anonymous responses.

Daisy Benson ([University of Vermont](#)) spoke about UVM's process to revise general education requirements and efforts to incorporate information literacy.

Sarah Cohen ([Champlain College](#)) shared Champlain's progress implementing assessment of information literacy within courses.

Meredith Farkas and Heidi Steiner ([Norwich University](#)) reported on their efforts to best provide library services to distance education students by assessing and reassessing students' needs and their services. They encouraged learning about your students' needs in particular and working to reduce barriers to access. They experimented with a hybrid approach to providing library resources; not macro—to all users or micro--within a course, but a hybrid--specific to a department or program, trying to overcome a separation of resources offered through the library website versus the course management system. They are using technology such as [Feed2JS](#) and [Drupal](#) for keeping websites current efficiently. They are trying to help students at the point of need, experimenting with micro-instruction in the form of online tutorials, synchronous instruction in the form of web conferencing, and access to librarians through widespread IM widgets, embedding librarians in course management systems and weekend email reference service.

Larraby Fellows ([Community College of Vermont](#)) reported on how and why CCV has moved from in-person instruction to an all-online model. Key components of their online instruction are: information literacy competencies built in to course requirements, video tutorials in short nuggets available on [YouTube](#), an embedded librarian program within courses, use of [LibGuides](#), and use of various online reference points.

Ellen Hall ([Norwich University](#)) reported on her work creating a for-credit informatics nursing course. Her advice: “Know your stuff, know whom you are stuffing, stuff well.” She encouraged attendees to consider the information literacy skills each program’s students might need after they graduate.

C & SL also hosted an "Instruction Update" on June 4th, 2010 at Castleton State College. The event was an opportunity for Vermont instruction librarians to share experiences with new tools, developments and trends. Attendees were from 13 colleges/universities, 4 high schools and the Department of Libraries. The [Instruction Update Follow-Up](#) contains the presentation slides.

[C & SL has a new VTCSL listserv](#), check it out!

Thank you to all the presenters for getting us all to rethink what we are doing and how we are doing it!

Charlotte Gerstein
VLA College & Special Libraries Section President
Reference & Instruction Librarian, [CSC](#)

Public Libraries

In April 2010 the Public Library section held a program titled “Librarian as Social Worker.” The genesis for this program was a conversation I had had with a colleague concerning the recent increase we’d seen in patrons coming to the library in crisis. As librarians we want to help and provide the best and most accurate information for our patrons. But we (and many of our librarian friends) were feeling woefully under prepared to deal with the anguish, confusion and sometimes outright anger that many of our patrons were exhibiting. At one point I described my job as being more “social worker than librarian” and a program topic was born.

The purpose of this program was to give librarians practical knowledge of how to best help patrons who are in crisis, whether they are looking for emergency heating funds, a food shelf or mental health assistance. Each program featured a panel made up of representatives from state and local organizations, [VT 2-1-1](#), [SEVCA](#), [HCRS](#), and [VT AHS](#). Cindy Karasinki from the [Cobleigh Public Library](#) and Amy Howlett from the [VT DOL](#) represented libraries.

The panelists spoke about their specific organizations, the services they offered and the ways in which the public could access them. Librarians shared their stories and offered suggestions to one another on some of the more challenging issues. We also discussed Vermont's move to more e-government and the impact it may on public libraries.

I am working on a program tentatively called "Creative Venting" that will be held in April. Please look for information about it on [VALS](#), [VLA listserv](#), and on the [VLA website](#).

If you are interested in serving as a mentor to a new librarian OR you are a new librarian looking to be mentored, please [email me](#)!

Lucinda Walker
VLA Public Libraries Section President
Director, [Norwich Public Library](#)

Videoconferencing

In order to stay relevant to our communities, the services provided by libraries have to change as technology changes. Videoconferencing is a great way for rural communities to take advantage of high-speed connections and provide a unique service. In September VLA co-sponsored a state-wide videoconference on the possibilities of videoconferencing for libraries. Attendees saw ways in which videoconferencing opens rural communities to continuing education and subject experts. Forty librarians attended via [Vermont Interactive Television](#)'s fifteen locations across the state. Program speakers included the librarians from the Library of Congress and Alberta Canada, and staff from

Polycom and IVCi, providers of videoconferencing equipment and support.

Librarians from the [Library of Congress](#) showed examples of a variety of the Vermont materials available through their [Digital Collection](#) and discussed examples of programs that the Library of Congress could provide via videoconference. The Library of Congress can also assist individuals who are doing research or personalize a program to a library's particular need. All of the Library of Congress services provided by videoconference are free.

Librarians from the [Short Grass](#) and [Chinook Arch](#) Libraries, members of the [RISE System](#), talked about the benefits that videoconferencing has brought to their rural communities. They described how farmers in their community had pest problem with their crops and through videoconference with an expert across the country they were able to identify and properly treat it. Their videoconference equipment has also been used for medical support group meetings, to provide sign language interpreters and for continuing education. Libraries through Alberta have videoconferencing equipment and are able to connect to each other for continuing education workshops and provide programs to libraries at a discounted cost system-wide.

Staff from [Polycom](#) and [IVCi](#) outlined the equipment and associated costs of a basic mobile cabinet unit or a more intricate studio style arrangement. They also discussed the grants available to assist in funding equipment and the assistance that their organizations could give in obtaining those grants. IVCi showed examples of programs that allow schools and libraries to connect with experts, museums or other organizations at little or no cost.

VLA hopes to partner with the [Vermont Department of Libraries](#) to provide a follow program which on videoconferencing. Watch the [VLA website](#) for announcements.

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

VLA Awards 2011

Call for Nominations

Vermont has a wealth of excellent librarians and trustees and now is the time to be thinking about which ones should be recognized statewide with an award for their extraordinary service. VLA is now accepting nominations for two awards which will be presented at the annual conference in May:

- 1) The 2011 **Sarah C. Hagar Award** which is for outstanding service in or significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Nominees must be working in a Vermont library and a member of VLA.
- 2) The 2011 **Trustee of the Year Award** for achievement by a trustee on behalf of his or her library, either during the previous year or during his/her years of service.

To nominate someone, please send the nominee's name, the name of his/her library, and a letter explaining why this person should receive the award, along with your name, library telephone number and email address by **March 11, 2011** to:

Vermont Department of Libraries
ATTN: Grace Greene
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

If more than one person signs a nominating letter, please designate one signatory as the contact person. Letters of support from community members or colleagues are very helpful to the committee.

Don't delay - write that letter today! Questions?
Please email [Grace Greene](mailto:Grace.Greene@vt.gov) or call [\(802\) 828-6954](tel:8028286954).

Grace Greene
Chair, VLA Awards Committee
Youth Services Consultant, [Vermont Department of Libraries](http://www.vt.gov)

Thank You For Joining

VLA MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRED DECEMBER 31

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

VLA believes in intellectual freedom and backs up our principles with action. We support members who are faced with challenges to the freedom to read, access to information, and other related issues. We administer the John Swan Intellectual Freedom Fund and coordinate a regular lecture series that brings nationally known speakers on this topic to Vermont.

VLA advocates for libraries with local, state and federal government officials, representing the interests of all of our members. You can meet people from all types of libraries to share information and entertainment each year at the Vermont Library Conference. The [Vermont Library Association](#) (VLA), [Green Mountain Library Consortium](#) (GMLC) and [Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries](#) (VCAL) have worked together to provide the Vermont Library Substitute and Volunteer Pool. VLA also supports continuing education programs, workshops, connections for mentor opportunities and lectures throughout the year.

VLA couldn't do it without you! Your membership is vital to the well-being of libraries in Vermont and to your own professional development. VLA is over 400 members strong, and every new or renewed membership means we can accomplish more for Vermont libraries. [Please renew your membership now.](#)

VLA Membership Advantages

- 1) You'll receive a significant discount on your registration for the Vermont Library Conference and other VLA programs.
- 2) Through a collaboration between VLA and Drexel University, VLA members receive 20% off the regular tuition rate at Drexel for the following programs: Master of Science-Library & Information Science (ALA-accredited) and Master of Science in Information Systems. Visit <http://www.drexel.com/vla> for more details.
- 3) We research salary guidelines and provide information to librarians, trustees, and employers.
- 4) VLA officers represent our members on the

American Library Association Council and the New
England Library Association Board.

[Membership Categories & Benefits](#)

For more information on VLA, including the latest
news and contact information go to the [VLA Website](#).
RSS subscription to the site is available.

**Thank you for renewing your [Vermont Library
Association membership](#) for 2011!**

Don't Forget to Visit Us on the Web!

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

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