

# VLA News

## November 2017

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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 Joy Worland*

Coming off of a terrific three days at the NELA conference, I'm thinking about what a treat it was to have that level of a conference so close to home: to learn, socialize, and to show off Vermont a little bit. I know there was some high-quality ice cream enjoyed, and although I didn't go on the pub crawl, how could people who like that sort of thing not have a good time doing that in Burlington?

Vermont was well represented in content, also. One of the most informative sessions I attended was presented by Jillian Hinchliffe, from the Norwich Public Library. She spoke about ways to help the public be discerning consumers of media. Patrons at all types of libraries are asking more and more about how to identify fake news. It can be a little intimidating to leap into that arena, as it's just not something you want to get wrong! Jillian had some very practical suggestions and tools to help librarians feel more confident about this. One was to partner with colleges or universities, inviting professors or graduate students from relevant fields to do a presentation at your library. She also left us with some links to library pages that advise on evaluating sources and content. One is at Castleton State University: [http://libguides.castleton.edu/evaluating\\_news](http://libguides.castleton.edu/evaluating_news). Another is from a public library, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore: <http://www.prattlibrary.org/research/tools/index.aspx?cat=90&id=4735>. Thanks, Jillian, for this informative presentation, and thanks also to Charlotte Gerstein, for creating the Castleton page.

I had already been thinking a lot about creating (or reinvigorating one that may have existed at some point) a mentoring program for VLA. Talking with some NELA board members gave me some suggestions for how that could work, either through modeling our program on theirs, or encouraging Vermonters to be more involved in the existing NELA one. If you have ideas about mentoring and/or interest in being or having a mentor, please get in touch. And stay tuned for more information about how we can make this work in our state. There is a lot of knowledge and expertise in Vermont libraries, but we are also often quite isolated from each other for reasons of geography, small staffs, and more. We will only do better work if we can figure out a robust, systemic method to support each other.

There is a new edition of the "Advocating for Better Salaries Toolkit," created by the APA Salaries and Status of Library Workers (SSLW) Committee. (<http://ala-apa.org/files/2010/02/2017-ALA-APA-BETTER-SALARIES-TOOLKIT-6th-ed.pdf>). The document is fairly long, but is divided into four parts: building your case for better salaries, pay equity, unions, and speaking out. As we approach the season to champion our library budgets and our own compensation and benefits

## Substitute Pool

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

Employers: 32  
Substitutes: 53

Types of Employers:

Public: 28  
Community: 1  
Academic: 1  
School: 1

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

Addison: 13  
Bennington: 7  
Caledonia: 9  
Chittenden: 19  
Essex: 5  
Franklin: 12  
Grand Isle: 6  
Lamoille: 15  
Orange: 9  
Orleans: 6  
Rutland: 11  
Washington: 16  
Windham: 11  
Windsor: 12

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

## 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

to trustees and select boards, there is much useful language and information in this document to support furthering the cause of living wages for librarians and treating our field as a profession with many well-trained and highly skilled employees.

VLA will be updating its strategic plan in the upcoming months. As one step in that process, I would love to hear from VLA members about what they want from the association. What do you think Vermont needs most in its state association? What helpful things are we currently doing that we should be sure to continue? What new things could we do that would help you be a better librarian? If you have thoughts about this, please send them to me at [vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Joy Worland  
VLA President  
Library Director, [Joslin Memorial Library](#)  
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Vermont Library Association  
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# Vice President's Letter

*by Cindy Weber*

## Government Relations Committee and Engage

In the past, the Vermont Library Association's Government Relations Committee was tasked with preparing an annual legislative agenda, keeping abreast of state and national legislation, advocating for the importance of Vermont libraries to our elected officials, making an impact on legislative decisions, and enhancing communication regarding funding and legislation among all interested parties. Unfortunately, the committee had not accomplished much in the past two years and subsequently dismantled due to lack of leadership and concrete direction.

In recent months, three of your VLA board executives have come together to revitalize the Government Relations Committee. Past VLA President Margaret Woodruff, VLA Treasurer Shara McCaffrey, and myself have met several times and are in the beginning stage of creating a plan of action. First on the list will be to jump in fully committed to the American Library Association's Engage Initiative, an advocacy tool which began with the migration from an older platform created in 2007 to the new platform in 2014.

Engage is a grass roots advocacy tool that allows state chapters to create an advocacy website, communicate with its members, and rally its members to calls of action. The state chapters define issues that they wish to tackle, divide each issue

information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

### **Executive Board**

**President:**

[Joy Worland](#)

**Vice**

**President/President**

**Elect:**

[Cindy Weber](#)

**Past President:**

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

**Secretary:**

[Kelly McCagg](#)

**Treasurer:**

[Shara McCaffrey](#)

### **Section**

#### **Representatives**

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

**President:**

[Alana Nuth](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

#### **Public Libraries**

**Section President:**

[Jennifer Lee Murray](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

#### **Technical Services**

**Section President:**

[Stacey Knight](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

#### **Trustees & Friends**

**President:**

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

#### **Youth Librarians**

**President:**

[Adele West-Fisher](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth

into specific time-limited campaigns, and define the engagement or call to action for each campaign by the mode of communication, i.e. "write a letter" or "sign our petition." Members will be better informed of any legislative actions that may be coming down the pike and will be able to directly communicate with their legislators. The use of this tool can greatly improve the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.

We are very excited about getting this powerful advocacy tool up and running. It will take some time, but once it is operable, we will better be able to tackle the tasks assigned to the Government Relations Committee. Stay tuned for the progress on this valuable project.

Sincerely,

Cindy Weber  
VLA Vice President  
Library Director, [Stowe Free Library](#)  
[vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com)  
[802-253-6145](tel:802-253-6145)

Connect With Us:

Website: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org>  
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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VLAlib>  
Instagram: <http://instagram.com/vlalib>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5172256/profile>

# Public Libraries Section

*by Jennifer Murray*

## Using the Edge Assessment to Evaluate Tech

In 2015, the South Burlington Library was the first in Vermont to contract with the Edge Initiative. It's an interesting tool that might be useful to other public libraries, especially those that are looking for compelling messages about technology in libraries for presentations to various city stakeholders.

The Edge Initiative is an assessment tool that allows public libraries to measure public technology access and usage against national benchmarks. Assessing this local data, the software offers an action plan with recommendations on how to implement improvements and streamline service.

Pricing for Edge is based on budget, running from \$250 and up annually. Membership gives a library access to a toolkit that includes various web trainings about doing the assessment and using the data. Joining over time allows libraries to compare their success in providing public access technology services and resources over time.

After filling in a detailed survey, Edge sends the library an evaluation which contain details about library progress and a national peer comparison report based on library size. Finally, Edge makes recommendations for action plan items which can be included in updating strategic plans and in developing annual personnel goals. While this process may sound like it only applies to middle and large-sized libraries, the Edge page notes that "more than 51 percent of libraries that have participated in Edge serve communities with populations of less than 15,000 residents." Just reviewing the benchmarks that they use could be helpful in determining technology goals for individual libraries.

South Burlington Library discovered this year that they had lost some ground, due in large part to personnel changes and because the Tech4Tomorrow group that offered classes for them changed location. The library's action plan for 2018

librarians.

### **Committees**

#### **Archivist:**

[Paul Carnahan](#)

#### **Awards Chair:**

[Lisa Milchman](#)

#### **VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:**

[Tom McMurdo](#)

#### **Government Relations Chair:**

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

#### **Inclusion Chair:**

[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

#### **Intellectual**

#### **Freedom Chair:**

[Angele Mott Nickerson](#)

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

#### **Membership & Outreach Chair:**

[Christine Porter](#)

Maintains membership roster.

#### **Personnel Chair:**

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

#### **Scholarship Chair:**

[Jami Yazdani](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

#### **Vermont Library Conference Chair:**

[Jeannette Bair](#)

#### **VLA News Editor:**

[Janet Clapp](#)

#### **Webmasters:**

[Sarah Costa](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

includes adding back in those structured classes, using web analytics to evaluate its online presence, linking to online resources for job seekers, promoting digital inclusion...every library receives a long and detailed list of activities to focus on that will improve information services for the public.

If you decide to participate in Edge, the key factor to relevant comparisons and recommendations is filling in the worksheets using the same criteria year after year. Like the annual statistics, when different people fill out the survey in consecutive years, they interpret the questions differently. Making notes regarding each answer on the survey is helpful so that those following you can answer consistently.

Sometimes a state library will pay for a year of Edge for all their public libraries so that the state can compare services nationally and locally. According to Lara Keenan, the Edge Initiative is not a project the Department of Libraries is actively moving on. They explored it back in 2014-2015, and it is part of the larger discussion the department continues having around how to assess our communities' needs and evaluate services.

For more information about Edge, go to <http://www.libraryedge.org>. The Edge team contact information is located under "About Edge."

Jennifer Lee Murray  
VLA Public Libraries Section President  
Director, [South Burlington Community Library](#)  
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[802-652-7076](tel:802-652-7076)

## College & Special Libraries Section

*by Alana Nuth*

We are pleased to announce that registration is open for the 2017 College & Special Libraries fall program!

### **Let's Get Together: Projects, Strategies, and New Approaches That Worked (Or Didn't!)**

2017 VLA College & Special Libraries Section Fall Program

November 17, 2017

St. Michael's College

Colchester, VT

Registration is open through November 10, 2017 at the following URL:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-college-special-libraries-section-fall-program-tickets-38436956973>

The full program is available here and we are excited to announce a free yoga session before the conference begins! Kristen Hinds of the St. Michael's College Library will be teaching a yoga class for all interested attendees! Check out the schedule and registration site for more information.

We would also like to share the following announcements about recent hires and retirements in academic libraries throughout the state:

#### Johnson State College

After serving as library director for twenty-five years, Joe Farara has retired from Willey Library. Raymond Brior is currently serving as interim director. The library staff is now functioning at 100% status, after three years at 80%.

#### University of Vermont

Christie Silkotch joined the University of Vermont's Bailey/Howe Library in July as

## Representatives

### ALA Councilor:

[Marti Fiske](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

### NELA

#### Representative:

[Steve Picazio](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

science & data librarian. She previously worked at Johnson State College as the instructional services librarian. In addition to a subject liaison role to various science departments, Christie will also be leading the libraries' efforts to support campus data initiatives.

#### Vermont Technical College & Community College of Vermont

Bonnie Lord will be joining Hartness Library as librarian/site coordinator on the Vermont Technical College Williston campus. Bonnie graduated from Valdosta State University in Georgia with a Masters of Library and Information Science.

Alana M. Nuth

VLA College & Special Libraries Section President

Collections Development Librarian, Bailey/Howe Library, [University of Vermont Libraries](#)

[alana.nuth@uvm.edu](mailto:alana.nuth@uvm.edu)

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## ATTN: Gmail Users

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# Friends & Trustees Section

## President's Message

*by Nancy Mark*

As a trustee of a Vermont library, I have been reading with interest the informative articles that are being sent to each of us, as trustees and friends, from Lara Keenan, Vermont library consultant for governance and management. As our VLA section president, I am taking this opportunity to thank Lara for her commitment to each of us and to the libraries we serve. If you haven't had a chance, please take a look at the article in Lara's message of October 19, "Trustees and Friends Meet and Greet," by Lisa Peet (*Library Hotline* 12/21/15), which contains some valuable ideas for helping each of us work to sustain and enrich our local library. And I know you will also enjoy reading "The Art of Trustee Advocacy," by Fred Stielow (*Library Hotline* 8/17/15) from Lara's October 13 email. The author of this article reminds us of our responsibility to preserve and promote our libraries and their democratic roots and as a trustee himself, cites his own relevant experience.

I am already looking forward to the next articles! I trust you will as well.

Nancy Mark

VLA Friends and Trustees Section President

Trustee, [Castleton Free Library](#)

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## Vice President's Message

*by Adam Bortz*

We have just held the 2017 Annual Vermont Library Trustee and Friends Conference at Champlain College in Burlington. Those who were there had plenty of opportunity to be educated and get questions answered. If you have any feedback to the conference, please feel free to let me know and I will pass it on to the other members of the committee.

In the meantime, I am on the committee for the VLA conference next May and would appreciate your recommendations for friends & trustees who attend it.

Best wishes,

Adam Bortz

VLA Friends and Trustees Section Vice President

[adambortz@aol.com](mailto:adambortz@aol.com)

**Past President's Message**  
by Howard Burrows

Trustee Board Training

We have in Vermont a new management team in the Vermont Department of Libraries. One very good thing that has come out of this is a somewhat new approach to trustee training. The state has hired Lara Keenan, former librarian at Pierson Library in Shelburne, to be the consultant on governance and management. In that role, she is visiting trustee boards across the state, seventy so far out of the 180+ boards. At her visit to Brattleboro last Saturday, we spent two hours in the morning as the Brooks trustees, and then invited regional friends and trustees to share pizza and attend an afternoon session with Lara. Both sessions were excellent and brought up many common sets of questions. It provided an occasion to meet other library people in our county/region and provided a chance to discuss regional opportunities.

Vermont Library Statutes

In her recent presentation to the Brattleboro board of trustees, Lara Keenan's first slide was entitled: Why do libraries exist? As an answer she cited Title 22 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated (VSA Title 22: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/22/003>). In case you are rusty on this, chapter 3 of title 22 concerns public libraries. Article 67 states the general policy in two parts: (a) describes why the Vermont General Assembly declares public libraries to be essential to the state; (b) (added just 20 years ago) outlines the use of public libraries as community centers. (I love this state!) In part it reads: "Community centers may serve as forums and exhibition areas for the exchange of ideas that encourage the growth of artistic, educational, literary, and scientific knowledge as well as the intercultural understanding of the Vermont citizenry." Wow!

Trustee/Friend Trade Union

I hope when you read this you have already attended this year's Annual Vermont Library Trustee and Friends Conference (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/2017-annual-vermont-library-trustee-and-friends-conference>). At last year's conference there was strong interest in addressing the deterrent effect imposed on library trustees when they participate in the general affairs of their own library well outside their role as trustee (such issues as avoiding inadvertent breaches of Open Meeting Law, avoiding discussing "policy" with library staff during checkouts, advocating positions not shared by the board as a body, etc.). The Vermont secretary of state is to attend our conference this year to listen to our experiences. Not entirely in jest, perhaps we should consider forming a trade union to highlight the many constraints and curtailments we "suffer," trustees as unpaid state officials, and friends as members of a nonprofit organization. I'm accumulating a list of these, not least of which are the constraints on our rights as citizens to lobby for political action. Please send other examples if you think of them; it is still possible (likely) that we can find other solutions short of paying dues to a trade union.

(Note: these thoughts are mine, not necessarily shared by the section as a whole; speak so you can hear...)

Howard Burrows  
VLA Friends and Trustees Section Past President  
Trustee, [Brooks Memorial Library](#), Brattleboro  
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[603-630-0012](tel:603-630-0012)

*Editor's note: If you do not receive the articles Lara Keenan sends, you can sign up for the trustee email list by contacting her ([lara.keenan@vermont.gov](mailto:lara.keenan@vermont.gov)) with your name and the name of your library. That information is on the state library's trustee and friends resource page, which has many useful links:*  
<http://libraries.vermont.gov/services/public-libraries/trustees>

# Technical Services Section

*By Stacey Knight*

## Birdie Award

It is time to award the second biennial Birdie Award to recognize an outstanding individual in the field of technical services. The Birdie Award was created in 2014 in memory of Birdie MacLennan, a librarian at UVM who went above and beyond to share her knowledge and skills with the Vermont library community.

Although many technical services tasks happen behind-the-scenes, they are the backbone of the library. Who has gone above and beyond in the technical services area in your library? Now is the time to give them the recognition they deserve. Please email your nomination to [sknight3@smcvt.edu](mailto:sknight3@smcvt.edu). Be sure to include the technical services staff member's name, place of work, and a brief statement supporting the nomination (no more than 250 words). Deadline: March 15, 2018.

## Seeking Vice President

Co-President Wendy Sharkey and I are still seeking a vice president for the Technical Services Section. If you are interested and want to chat about this opportunity, please email Stacey at [sknight3@smcvt.edu](mailto:sknight3@smcvt.edu) or Wendy at [catalog@bfl.org](mailto:catalog@bfl.org).

Stacey Knight  
Associate Director for Systems & Metadata  
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[sknight3@smcvt.edu](mailto:sknight3@smcvt.edu)  
[802-654-2402](tel:802-654-2402)

# Youth Services Section

*by Adele West-Fisher*

A gathering in the Northeast Kingdom! Five area librarians and Cass Mabbott met for a delicious breakfast at the new Bread&Butter Cafe in St. Johnsbury, October 19. Although the purpose of the gathering was social, we took some time to share ideas about programming: what worked well, what did not go as planned. It was agreed that getting together on a regular basis is a beneficial activity and we plan to meet again. I hear that there are other groups meeting, also. If you don't mind others joining in, let us know by utilizing the group email [vtjac@list.state.vt.us](mailto:vtjac@list.state.vt.us). Cass and I would be interested, as well as others, I am sure. Thanks to Cass Mabbott, Vermont state library youth services consultant, for attending and taking a few notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Adele West-Fisher  
VLA Youth Services Section President  
Youth Services Librarian, [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#)  
[awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org](mailto:awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org)  
[802-745-1391](tel:802-745-1391)

# Awards Committee

*by Lisa Milchman*

The work of the Awards Committee is enjoyable and satisfying. It is rewarding to be able to acknowledge yearly at the Vermont Library Conference, the incredible contributions that Vermont librarians, trustees, and friends make to the libraries and

communities they serve. I think, however, as with any yearly ceremony, we sometimes forget to recognize the ordinary heroes - those folk that serve quietly and diligently on a daily basis to promote intellectual freedom and the standards of excellent service.

Thus, at the NELA conference I found myself thinking about Theresa Gregory, the former assistant director of the Hartland Public Library who passed away on October 5th. I did not see Theresa often in the day-to-day, but I always could look forward to seeing her at a conference – having lunch and catching up on our lives, and library news, ideas, and programs. She was a quiet and steadfast presence and those of us who did ILL through Web2, could always count on a kind note included in the comments field – prompting us to be grateful for whatever small thing she found worthy to comment on, and always reminding us to have a great day or weekend. I was profoundly touched by her obituary: “Theresa loved Vermont, its compassionate people and beautiful environment. She was passionate about riding and caring for her two horses and for helping others, all the while exhibiting tremendous strength, bravery, compassion and selflessness. She was a fierce advocate for those who needed support and protection.” I did not know that Theresa was ill; it appears as it was her way to be private, that she told very few. Even though she was not obviously a person who sought thanks for her good deeds, I hope that she knew that she touched many lives in the Hartland community and in the Vermont library community at large. I regret that I was not able to tell her how inspirational was her obvious dedication to the core tenets of librarianship.

I hope that, in honor of Theresa, we remember as we go forth in our daily work lives, that even small acts of kindness and advocacy performed with intention have great power to influence the world for the better. While I look forward to celebrating our award winners come next May, in the interim, I ask that on behalf of the Awards Committee and in Theresa’s memory, we take a few minutes out of our busy days to acknowledge and thank the everyday heroes in our lives and libraries.

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

## Intellectual Freedom Committee

*by Angele Mott Nickerson*

Banned Books Week was a success around the state of Vermont with many libraries holding events and readings. I was asked to speak on VPR's "Vermont Edition" (<http://digital.vpr.net/post/how-celebrate-banned-book-week-vermont>) about the history of Banned Books Week and why intellectual freedom is important. It was a great interview which discussed why censorship happens and why libraries are critical to defending everyone's right to read.

As part of the week, six banned book discussion guides were placed on the Vermont Library Association's website: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/ifc>. A lot of time, work, and thought went into these guides and I hope they will be used in libraries around the state.

As winter rolls in, I will be working to select a speaker for spring's John Swan Lecture on Intellectual Freedom. As soon as a speaker is chosen, I will make a public announcement.

Angele Mott Nickerson  
VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair  
Librarian, [a.mott.nickerson@gmail.com](mailto:a.mott.nickerson@gmail.com)

# New England Library Association

*by Steve Picazio*

Thank you to everyone who attended the NELA & VLA Joint 2017 Annual Conference. It was a very successful conference and Vermont libraries were well represented. I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who participated in the NELA games this year.

At the 2017 NELA annual business meeting, election results were announced, including Susan L. Edmonds as the new vice president/president elect, Jean M. Canosa Albano as the new junior director, and Bernie Prochnik as the new treasurer. Debbi Dutcher is the new NELA president and Mary Danko now serves as the past president.

The 2018 NELA Annual Conference will be held in Warwick, Rhode Island from October 21-23. I hope to see many of you there.

Steve Picazio  
VLA Representative to NELA  
Head Circulation Librarian, [Kellogg-Hubbard Library](#)  
[spicazio@nelib.org](mailto:spicazio@nelib.org)  
[802-223-3338](tel:802-223-3338)

## Vermont Library Conference

**Request for Proposals**  
**2018 Vermont Library Conference**  
**“Reaching Greater Heights Together”**  
**Friday, May 18 2018**  
**Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT**

Would you like to present a workshop or moderate a roundtable discussion at the 2018 Vermont Library Conference? Submitting a proposal is quick and easy. You will have plenty of time to prepare your presentation after it is accepted.

Don't be shy. Now is the time to share your ideas and your accomplishments. Leading a workshop can be a rewarding experience and it is an impressive addition to your curriculum vitae!

Programs should be either a one-hour discussion, educational or instructional session, or workshop on a topic relevant to libraries in Vermont. Alternately, it may be a twenty-minute short session. Submissions are open to anyone whether or not currently working in a Vermont library.

The conference planning committee will evaluate the content of your proposal for relevance, originality, timeliness, and fit within the theme, “Reaching Greater Heights Together.” The conference will focus on expanding our base of support and improving our collections and services while making libraries more sustainable by working more closely together within our communities, regionally, statewide, and with each other.

Proposals for workshops / discussions should address one or more of the following:

- Open a dialogue on a topic that has arisen to prominence in the past year.
- Provide well-researched information or include presenters with solid qualifications.
- Include diverse representation from different viewpoints.
- Contribute innovative ideas to the future of Vermont libraries.
- Presents strategies for implementing new ideas in small, rural libraries.

- Encourage active discussion.
- \*Workshops are not excluded from consideration for not having a direct connection to the conference theme.

Format for proposals should include:

- A proposed title, format, and length.
- An abstract or very brief description of your topic (suggested 100 words or less).
- Presenters' names, contact information, relevant experience.
- Any special equipment, facilities, etc. you would need to have provided.
- Any fees or expenses required.

**The deadline to submit proposals will be November 25th.**

Please email proposals to Jeannette Bair, Conference Committee Chair, Vermont Library Conference  
[vermontlibraryconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibraryconference@gmail.com)

## The People of Vermont Libraries

### Aldrich Public Library

Renate Gelineau has retired after 17 years as a circulation assistant here.  
Susan Winslow has been hired as the library's new circulation assistant.

### Rutland Free Library

Deb Higgins, circulation supervisor, retired after 43 years at the library.  
Karen McDonnell is the new circulation supervisor.

### Royalton Memorial Library

Marianne Pysarchyk is the new director.

*If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) send to [vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com) and we'll put it in the next issue of the VLA News.*

## NELA/VLA Conference

*by Janet Clapp*



Thanks to the Vermont Department of Libraries for offering grants to cover registration costs for two people per Vermont library! Fortunately, I was one of the two librarians from my library to attend and once again I found the NELA conference sessions informative and inspirational. Talking to vendors and other librarians offers additional perspectives and support. It was wonderful to see how

many Vermonters were present - we sure seemed like a high percentage of the attendees.

Every session offered something but these were the top three for me:

"Privacy in 2017." Vermont's Jessamyn West gave an entertaining and educational talk about online privacy from both the library and patron angles. Check out her slides, notes, and resources at [librarian.net/talks/privacy17](http://librarian.net/talks/privacy17).

"Community Partnerships 101." Two libraries (Cheshire, CT and Wilmington, MA) gave examples of the many ways they partner with local governments and communities: library ambassadors, preschool fair, townwide scavenger hunt, newcomer reception, townwide yard sale, teen job fair, and more.

"Evaluating Emerging Technology." Library consultant Jennifer Koerber encouraged librarians to remain aware of technologies around us and consider how they might relate to our patrons and our libraries. See her questions to ask and resources to use at [www.jenniferkoerber.com/whati-i-do/resources](http://www.jenniferkoerber.com/whati-i-do/resources).

Whether or not you went to Burlington, many of the presentations and handouts are available at the NELA conference website:

<http://conference2017.nelib.org/conference-presentations-handouts>.

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