



VLA News - November 2011

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Librarian Learning Lunches

Do you ever feel like it takes a regional or national conference to see your Vermont colleagues at other institutions? Let's change that. Join us for lunch to informally chat with your academic library colleagues, hear what others are working on, and get fresh ideas

President's Letter

Perhaps the cruelest aspect of natural disasters is how quickly they can be forgotten. Once a storm passes and the sun comes out, it's easy to feel that all is again well. But, as anyone who's borne the brunt of destructive weather knows, it can be a long, frustrating road back to normalcy.

Vermont will be dealing with the physical and financial ramifications of Hurricane Irene for some time to come. Another certainty will be how our libraries will be remembered for their service both during and after the crisis. The [Department of Libraries](#) performed yeoman's work in keeping people informed as the storm battered the state, and they regularly alerted people - and continue to do so - about disaster relief opportunities.

Individual libraries met the challenge by serving as impromptu community centers. Extended hours, access to telephones and the Internet, children's programming; all of these efforts offered neighbors a clean and safe respite from what was going on around them. As floodwaters receded, librarians helped their patrons deal with heartbreaking personal situations by providing assistance in filling out [FEMA](#) and insurance forms, connecting people to essential government services, and similar forms of support. Librarians care for, and commitment to, their communities couldn't be clearer.

Now we must look after each other. A number of librarians across the state suffered personal property damages as the result of Irene, and their losses will not be covered entirely by private insurance or governmental assistance. To provide additional support to them, the [Vermont Library](#)

to bring back to your own library. Mark your calendars for the first *Library Learning Lunch*:

When: Friday, Nov. 18th at 12pm

Where: UVM, Davis Center, Mt. Mansfield Room, Library Table

Why: To meet with other VT colleagues and share ideas

Who: Any academic/special librarian who will be in the area that day

Feel free to stay as long or as short as your schedule allows. See you at lunch! For more information or questions please email [Selene Colburn](#) or [Andy Burkhardt](#).

Irene Stories

VLA would like to start collecting stories about Hurricane Irene, documenting and providing access to the Vermont experience.

- How was your library affected? Was there damaged? Did you open for extra hours? Did you help folks fill out FEMA paperwork? What else?
- How you were affected by Irene. Was your personal property damaged? Were you helped by your local library? Did you help a neighbor? What else?

Please send your stories to [Helen Linda](#) with your name as you would like

[Association](#) launched the [Librarian Relief Fund](#). Contributions can be made online at:

DONATE NOW THROUGH **Network for Good**

You can also send a check:

Vermont Library Association
Attn: Librarian Relief Fund
P.O. Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

Thank you for all your continued good work. Because of your efforts, Vermont libraries remain essential community resources.

Sincerely,



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

Vice President's Letter

Like many small public libraries in Vermont, and all over the country, faced with ever decreasing budgets, we are getting more creative and seeking collaboration when it comes to programming at the library. Successful grant writing and generous funders have long provided a good portion of the programs for all ages at the [Alice M. Ward Memorial Library](#) in Canaan. This year the library applied for and was granted up to \$1,400 from [Hunger Free Vermont](#) to present their six-week series [The Learning Kitchen](#).

Formerly known as Cooking for Life, this program was successfully held in Canaan many years ago and enrollment for this year's program went quickly. This program combines nutrition education with hands-on cooking experience. The series is in place for three groups: low-income parents, at-risk youth, and at-risk teens transitioning into independent living.

In Canaan, we held the youth series where participants are given the skills to make nutritious food choices, get hands-on healthy food preparation experience, and take home a bag of groceries after each class to practice their new skills at home with their families.

it displayed, as much detail about your location as you feel comfortable sharing, and your permission to use all or part of your story on the VLA website or in the VLA news.

Librarian Relief Fund

The VLA is accepting both online and mailed donations for the [Librarian Relief Fund](#). Won't you help a fellow librarian in need?



Or mail your check to:

Vermont Library Association
Attn: Librarian Relief Fund
P.O. Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

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: **122**

Potential Employers Accessing It: **33**

Availability of Pool by County:

Addison - 31
Bennington - 14
Caledonia - 28
Chittenden - 68
Essex - 13
Franklin - 29
Grand Isle - 18

The curriculum is frequently reviewed and updated to provide engaging activities with sound nutritional information and recipes. Hunger Free Vermont provides the program host with an educator's kit including curriculum materials, an easy to follow educator's and chef's guide, and plenty of participant workbooks with activities and recipes. The Learning Kitchen website is full of forms and more information.

We have had 100% attendance at our series thus far. We are fortunate that our library has a nice kitchen and pantry area allowing for such programs, but libraries that do not have these facilities might look into working with another community spot that is better suited. It is a lot of work for staff, grocery shopping and preparing items to go home, but one look at the participant's eager faces makes it more than worthwhile.



Cutting an onion. No tears yet!

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

Editorial

Vermont is purported to have the greatest number of public libraries per capita in the United States -- approximately 175 of them. As a member of the [Vermont 251 Club](#), I have made it my mission to

Lamoille - 29
Orange - 33
Orleans - 10
Rutland - 19
Washington - 44
Windham - 21
Windsor - 32

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 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](#)

visit all of them.

I'm sure there was a time when I didn't know what the 251 Club was but now I can't imagine life without it. Started in 1954, the club challenges its members to adventure through the 251 towns & cities of our great state. 251ers are not about just passing through places and checking names off a list. We stop by, meet folks, shop around, dine, and generally try to feel out what makes each community unique.

Everyone has some sort of mission, something that makes them feel as though they can cross a town off the list. Back when the club was started, 251ers visited every post office and got a stamp. Now people choose their own adventure. My best road trip buddy eats in every town. A fellow librarian has to visit with the whole family. I take pictures of libraries. In towns without libraries I photograph whatever suits me. Some towns are so small that there is nothing with the town name on it save the border marker on the county route.

Without intent, I am documenting every public library in the state. Whenever I tell folks about my "251ing The Library" project, they say I need to share it. So now I am. This is something I do for fun, so I didn't really have the forethought to write down something about every town or take detailed notes. I just remember my favorites. For instance, did you know that both Richford and Bellows Falls have the best thrift store shopping in the state? Are you a fan of taxidermy? I am, and most libraries have at least a handful of taxidermied critters. The most impressive collection I've found so far is at the library & museum in Westfield. It kept me busy for over an hour.

I post my pictures online in a public photo album called [251 Club Evidence](#), organized in the order I visited the towns. A large chunk of pictures are also collected in my [Vermonavigation](#) album from when I circumnavigated the state last summer with the aforementioned road buddy. If you want to see where I have been, check out my [personal map](#) on the 251 Club website. Found a picture of your library in my albums? If you like it and want to use it, feel free.

Helen Linda

VLA News Editor/Editorial Committee Chair

[NETSL](#) President

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

Public Libraries

One of the best parts about being a VLA section head

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 Convener from DOL:
Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.
[Michael Roche](#)

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](#)

is the chance to design programs. I have begun planning next spring's event and would love to hear your ideas for possible topics. The [Librarian as Social Worker](#) program was popular a few years ago and perhaps, in the wake of Irene it could be reconfigured. Other possible themes include:

- E-books - the ins, outs & future impact on rural libraries
- From vent to invent – a chance to vent coupled with real-life solutions
- Library advocacy – with an emphasis on the [Geek the Library](#) campaign

Please email me, [Lucinda Walker](#), with your suggestions. The program will take place in the early spring.

On a personal note: yesterday I noticed that the “Road Closed” sign that's been on my road since August 29th had been replaced with one that reads “Dead End.” Progress of a sort! I'd like to think that someday my road may be replaced, but until then I take great comfort in the fact that so much has been done by so many. Irene dramatically changed our landscape and the lives of our friends and neighbors. The ramifications of this change will be felt for a long time. As librarians we are in the business of providing access to information, but libraries also offer sanctuary from the chaos outside. My guess is that it's the sanctuary that many will need this winter and I know it will be there.

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

Youth Librarians

Hello Youth and Young Adult Librarians of Vermont!

The wonder and amazement coming your way...get ready for it! Kat and Amy are hard at work planning an awesome workshop series and a jam-packed (with only the finest ingredients) day-long conference for you all!

Here are some of the details:

Feel like you don't have the resources, equipment, knowledge, and experience to incorporate tech and filming into your library? Well, we have a free, FREE, solution to help. Partnering with local cable access channels, we are offering regional filming workshops

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 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](#).

for librarians. Between November 28th and December 16th, we are setting up workshops at the cable station studios where you will learn how to use equipment, how to film programs and video projects, how to edit, and many more skills. This will also be a great opportunity to see what your local station can offer you! Did you know your local station will probably provide you with all the equipment you need, as well as the editing software to finalize your projects, absolutely free of charge? Also, many local stations are looking for content and would love to air your library events and youth-generated content, helping promote your library and making all the amazing work you do visible beyond the library walls. Hartford is on the schedule for Dec. 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring a lunch and your enthusiasm, [WCAX](#) will provide the rest. Other dates and locations (Chittenden County, Bennington, Bellows Falls, NEK, and others) to follow. Contact [Amy McMullen](#), to register for the Hartford session. This is also a great way to get prepared and excited for the [Collaborative Summer Library Program \(CSLP\) PSA Video Challenge](#).

And, we present to you, our phenomenal partners in Youth and Young Adult Librarianship, the VLA Youth Section Mid-Winter Magic Conference! On Friday, Jan. 27th, from 9:30 am-4:00 pm at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre, join us for an exploration of programs, displays, and approaches that are “Fresh, Easy, and Cheap!” The morning will be filled with a variety of speakers, from art teachers to former teen volunteers, all presenting fresh ideas on how to enrich your youth offerings and environment. And in the afternoon real live teens will be on hand for a discussion-based forum helping us identify what teens are looking for in libraries and how to best provide them with the services, atmosphere, and experience they need and want. The inclement weather date is Friday, Feb. 3rd, 9:30 am-4:00 pm. If you have a laptop, bring it! Also, bring a lunch, a favorite children’s book to work with, and your own “fresh, easy, cheap” ideas to share. Look for an email in the next few weeks with additional schedule and registration info. For now, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Kat Redniss](#). Oh, I forgot to mention...the Mid-Winter Magic Conference is absolutely FREE! We look forward to seeing you all there!

Thanks so much, everyone. We hope you are as excited as we are. Let us know if there is anything else we can help you with. Thanks and best!

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](#)

Personnel

The Personnel Committee currently has two goals for 2012. At the request of Lucinda Walker, the VLA Public Libraries Section President, we will be launching another [Salaries and Benefits Survey for Vermont's Public Librarians](#). The 2012 survey will be especially telling since it will be the first survey since the economic downturn in the United States that will truly reflect the impact on Vermont librarians. Many library boards and select boards are finding ways to trim budgets and this means reducing staff, eliminating benefits, and downgrading qualifications. The outcome of the survey will give us current salary and benefit information and provide a baseline that will help to determine what impact, if any, the current financial situation has had on librarians in Vermont. The results will also help us to determine if the changes in staffing, salaries and benefits have impacted library services. Now, more than ever, our profession needs to advocate for libraries and librarians across the state. I hope when the 2012 survey appears at your library you will take the time fill out the questionnaire and return the results.

The second goal of the Personnel Committee is to revive the mentoring program for Vermont librarians. We will structure the program to pair mentors with special strengths and qualifications and mentees who have specific requests. The VLA Membership Committee and the Personnel Committee will have a table at the 2012 VLA Conference to outline the details of the mentoring program. The program will be available to all Vermont librarians.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, [Shara McCaffrey](#), directly.

Shara McCaffrey
VLA Personnel Committee Chair
Library Assistant, [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#)

VT Calendar Project

Vermont Libraries Pose for Beauty Shots

The [Vermont Library Association](#) is pleased to offer a 2012 wall calendar featuring one glorious Vermont library per county for a total of fourteen months. It's

not too late for your library to join in this fundraising opportunity. Offer these calendars for sale and all profits stay at your library to support your services. This is an easy fundraiser for your Friends of the Library or foundation! The cost to libraries is \$8.50 per calendar. The retail price is set by each library and we recommend \$15-\$20 each. You can start with a small order, say 10 calendars for \$85, then reorder more as your stock runs low (while supplies last). Calendars are available now, contact [Marti Fiske](#) to order.

Your patrons, as library lovers in general and your supporters in particular, will want this calendar even if your library is not featured. And this calendar will make a great gift during the holiday season! Each month (December 2011- January 2013) provides a window into the history and personality of each library with great pictures, stories, and interesting statistics. The 12 x 22 inch format affords plenty of space for writing appointments and includes all major holidays and moon phases.

The Vermont Calendar Project was created to benefit public libraries throughout Vermont. It is the brain-child of Marcy Kass, graphic designer and Trustee of the [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library](#) in Williston. The team includes Andy Duback (photographer), Kathy Bielawa Stamper (writer), both Williston residents, and Marti Fiske (Director of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library and Immediate Past-President of the Vermont Library Association). Seed funds were loaned by the Friends of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library.

Libraries featured in the calendar include: [Lincoln](#), [Mark Skinner](#) (Manchester), [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#), [Brownell](#) (Essex Junction), [Alice M. Ward Memorial](#) (Canaan), [Fairfax Community](#), [Grand Isle Free](#), [Lanpher Memorial](#) (Hyde Park), [Peabody](#) (Post Mills), [Craftsbury Public](#), [Rutland Free](#), [Aldrich Public](#) (Barre), [South Londonderry Free](#) and [Rochester Public](#).



Canaan access center
 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library
 27 Park Street, Canaan, VT 05920
 www.alicemward.org
 (802) 286-7133

... The Alice M. Ward Library seems to radiate its own magic. Among the library regulars looking on the porch are, back row, sitting second from left Virginia, member of the quaint Canaan Historical Society; Jane, Sam and art Stephanie, Antique Librarians; Kaitlyn, a Canaan Moments Reading League member; Cary, Sherry and Jane; Jane, Sam and Sam and Childs; L. Dean Thomas and Jane. Jane Fiske works on a quilt while visiting with friends at the library.

August 2012

- Users: 5,254
- Logins: 7,540
- Books: 13,254
- Checkouts: 2
- Add Books: 138
- Titles: 420
- Catalogs: 6
- New CDs: 0

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2 ^o	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ^o	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 [•]	18
19 [•]	20	21	22	23	24 [•]	25
26 [•]	27	28	29	30 ^o	31 ^o	

The Alice M. Ward Memorial Library was built in 1886 by Harwood Jones. The two-pillar structure appears on the National Register of Historic Places. The new library has served Canaan as a neighborhood stop and gone office. Events were an unexcused absence that it

was a step on the Underground Railroad. In 1918, Alice Ward, wife of local physician Norman Ward, donated the house to be used as a public library. Digitized documents equal the number of residents in Canaan. The library supports

several parties from northeast Vermont and nearby New Hampshire. According to real a requirement and they never change service fees. Actual about what makes the library special, a poster responds "I love the library and I don't, helped out!"



Marti Fiske
 VLA Past President
 Director, [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library](http://www.alicemward.org)

NELA Conference

Successful NELA Conference in Burlington

Despite days of clouds and drizzle, hundreds of librarians from all over New England began arriving in Burlington on Saturday, October 1st for three days filled with learning, networking, and a little Vermont flavor. [R. David Lankes](#) kicked off the conference with

an invigorate keynote on Sunday afternoon titled [Killing Librarianship](#). The video is available online and well worth a watch!

There were presentations throughout the day to meet everyone's interests. From tips for leading change, to using comics to promote visual literacy and storytelling, to learning about the social media presence of the New York Public Library, and much more: ideas abounded! Throughout the conference, roundtable discussions were held in convenient lobby spaces and everyone converged on the Exhibit Hall during breaks for hot drinks and snacks. On Monday night, the group descended on downtown Burlington for the NELA Games and Reception held at [Burlington City Arts](#) in the heart of Church Street, followed by dine-arounds throughout the city.

If you were not able to attend or forgot your clone and did not get to all the sessions you had hoped, presentations and handouts are available on the [NELA Conference](#) site.

Heidi Steiner
VLA Secretary
Distance Learning Library, [Kreitzberg Library](#)

Membership

Just a note to spout off about the [benefits](#) of being a [VLA member](#) and to remind you that you can be as involved as you wish. Of course, being a VLA member provides you with a financial benefit i.e. discounts to programs and events like the [VLA Conference](#) and discounted tuition to [Drexel University](#), but the truly beneficial rewards are non-monetary and intangible. Become involved in a committee, section, or project and you will forge long-lasting professional relationships with like-minded colleagues, finding inner satisfaction with a job well done. Mentor a new librarian and you will ensure that our profession extends beyond time and place. Contribute to the [VLA News](#) and spread the word of good deeds, advocating the values of libraries and librarians. Engage in conversation on the [VLA listserv](#) and relish the opportunity to problem solve and socialize. Realize the benefits of being a member of the [Vermont Library Association](#) and delve into the possibilities. BECOME INVOLVED AND REAP THE BENEFITS!

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

