



VLA News

November 2015

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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

President's Letter

by Virgil Fuller

Happy fall VLA members! I have just returned from another fabulous conference put on by the New England Library Association (NELA). It's always so great attending professional conferences and seeing colleagues from not only your own state, but from other states as well. I know I speak for many of us when I say I return from these gatherings full of new ideas and energy. Following are some of the sessions I attended:

Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries: Using the Aspen Institute Dialogue Report in your Community, which was presented by the amazing Maureen Sullivan, who is also a facilitator for the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS). This report would be extremely helpful for those libraries who are considering doing strategic planning. To read the report and to find out more about it, head on over to <http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/report>.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the annual banquet on Sunday night and was able to hear Vermont's own Archer Mayor speak. For those who have not heard him speak, I highly recommend it!

I represented Vermont at the chapter leaders forum, which is an opportunity for leaders from each New England state to come together and share what their states are doing. The other states were thrilled about all the positive things happening here in Vermont, including our very successful Passport to Vermont Libraries program, our wonderful annual conference, and our booth at Vermont Comic Con to name a few!

VLA's very own webmaster and passport committee member Jessamyn West presented the passport program as part of the Ignite session. To see her presentation go to www.librarian.net/talks/nela15 and choose to view as a pdf or as a PowerPoint.

Some of the other Ignite presentations included how to put on a successful teen art show; Classic Connections which is being done as a collaboration between the the Charlotte public and school libraries and introduces classical literature to teens; and a library that is creating podcasts to help preserve its town's history. If you would like to check this project out, head on over to flpresents.blogspot.com. Another great idea was how one small town librarian turned Louisville Free Library's how-to festival into a manageable small scale project. To see what what was done at the Louisville Free Library head on over to www.lfpl.org/how-to.

I attended many other sessions as well and would be happy to talk about the conference further if you would like to know more!

Speaking of NELA, VLA's Membership & Outreach Chair Helen Linda, NELA President Deb Hoadley and myself are excited to announce that starting in January 2016 VLA members will

website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

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

Employers: 26
Substitutes: 43

Types of Employers:

Public: 24
Community: 1
Academic: 1

Availability in pool by county:

Addison: 14
Bennington: 1
Caledonia: 6
Chittenden: 23
Essex: 2
Franklin: 14
Grand Isle: 8
Lamoille: 12
Orange: 7
Orleans: 3
Rutland: 2
Washington: 17
Windham: 4
Windsor: 5

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

also get to become NELA members for just an additional \$20. This will give you all the more reason to renew your VLA membership in the coming year. Being a member of NELA myself there are many benefits of joining, such as discounted rates to their annual conference, as well as scholarships and grants. Stay tuned for more details about this as they become available.

James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, will retire at the end of this year. Many state library associations, including VLA have sent letters to President Obama urging him to pick somebody who is up-to-date with the emerging changes in libraries, and someone who is willing to be a leader in the worldwide library community. Our hope is that the next Librarian of Congress will not only provide the leadership libraries need, but will work to make libraries and the Library of Congress better for us all. To read the letter crafted by VLA Vice President Margaret Woodruff and myself go to www.vermontlibraries.org/librarianofcongressletter2015.

VLA officially wrapped up the Passport to Vermont Libraries program on September 1. I would first like to thank our hard working committee: Jessamyn West, Joy Worland, Amanda Perry and Nancy Tusinski for all their work making sure the program moved along smoothly. I would also like to thank all the libraries in the state who participated and made sure all who visited their libraries felt welcome. All the participants that we have heard from had just the best things to say! We are truly lucky to have so many great librarians and libraries in this state. Lastly, I would like to thank all the patrons who drove countless hours to the various libraries. Without them, we would not be able say that this was one of the most successful programs that VLA has ever sponsored. We announced the statewide winners in late September and they are as follows:

Adult: Emily Ahtúnan of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library (visited 170 libraries)

Young Adult: Ariana Cioffi of the Springfield Town Library (visited 59 libraries)

Child: Torynce Hathaway of the Castleton Free Library (visited 48 libraries)

Wild Card (random drawing of all participants): Noah Jones of the Whiting Library (visited 17 libraries)

I was able to hand deliver each winner their prizes in October. To see pictures, head on over to the Passport to Vermont Libraries Facebook page. Congratulations all, we can't wait to do this program again next summer!

Respectfully submitted,

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Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation

Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib

Instagram: instagram.com/vlalib

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256

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

Executive Board

President:

[Virgil Fuller](#)

Vice

President/President

Elect:

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Past President:

[Toni Josey](#)

Secretary:

[Kelly Tomaseski](#)

Treasurer:

[James Allen](#)

Section

Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section

President:

[Laura Crain](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries

Section President:

[Kevin Unrath](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services

Section President:

[Kelly McElligott](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees President:

You?

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

President:

[Nicole Westbom](#)

Organizes workshops

Vice President's Letter

by Margaret Woodruff

“Help You Help Us:” As we finish up our strategic planning survey in Charlotte, I am astounded and dismayed by how little some in our community know about us. We are happy to have a large percentage who frequent the library and are familiar with all of our offerings; those who don't darken our doors or hop on our website are surprised when they discover the broad reach of collections, including downloads and ILLs, the variety of programs and the wealth of resources available to them. It is my job to make this problem go away. In a larger sense, I think this is also the job of the Vermont Library Association: we need to make everyone, from the governor in the State House to the preschooler in the classroom, excited and informed about all our libraries have to offer. But VLA can't do it alone; we need the voices and enthusiasm, the vim and vigor, from all current library supporters: staff, volunteers, trustees, friends and community members, to make this happen. I'd like to propose that VLA help in this endeavor by providing the materials, talking points, bookmarks, whatever it takes to help you help us raise the visibility of our libraries in the Green Mountain state. Please join me with your ideas to get the ball rolling...

Nominations & elections: Call out to all committee chairs! Please send your recommendations to the committee as soon as possible. Could you please send along your suggestion, along with his/her email so that I may contact the representatives? I hope to schedule an online meeting sometime in November.

Treasurer: Still looking to fill this slot for the coming year. The sooner a candidate steps forward, the sooner she or he can begin shadowing our current treasurer and avoid a steep learning curve in the spring. If you've got a passion for numbers, spreadsheets and budgetary matters, please consider this!

Margaret Woodruff
VLA Vice President
Director, [Charlotte Library](#)
vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com

For the Love of Vermont's Libraries

by Emily Marie Ahtúnan

Picking up my first Passport to Vermont Libraries book and stamp at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, I had little idea how my summer would be transformed by participating in VLA's inaugural year of the passport program. Initially, I thought I would visit a few libraries and ended the summer having visited 170 libraries throughout the state.

The approach I took when visiting a library was to ask the librarian, "What's the most unique, quirky or interesting thing about your library?" Since we all know libraries are the keepers of books, I wanted to get a glimpse into the stories of the libraries and the stories of the keepers of the stories! The stories I heard were as rich and varied as each library and community.

Here are some of the things that I saw and heard about. Incinerating toilets. Grist mills. A cistern. Card catalogues. Seed libraries. Vegetable gardens. No indoor plumbing. A hostel. Continual fundraising. Full endowments. Community libraries. Academic libraries. Public libraries. Carnegie libraries. A library located in a strip mall. A spotted leopard gecko. A honey bee infestation. The movie *Beetlejuice*. A suffragette. The Free Masons. Vermi-composting. A famous yo-yo master. A wrong turn into Canada. A stagecoach stop. The "Domes of Yosemite." A model for Norman Rockwell. A community Christmas party

and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Amy Grasmick](#)

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Government

Relations Chair:

[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:

[Amanda Perry](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual Freedom Chair:

[Ray Brior](#)

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

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Helen Linda](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:

[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:

[April Shaw](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:

[Jessica Summer](#)

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

with an operating fireplace. A blue cat and a prominent New York art museum. 1800's diving helmets. 3D printers. Friezes. Locked cases. Rooms made from vaults and safes. Maker spaces. Clawfoot bathtubs as reading places. A library planning a zombie apocalypse. Disintegrating rubber bands. Posing as a pinhead library superhero. Glass floors. Turrets. Stained glass windows and ceilings. Dumbwaiters. Dewey or not Dewey. Date stamps. Library lore. Arrowheads and woolly mammoths. A peace pole. Opera houses. Dairy month. A town with no zip code. An eggplant. The pond that ran away. The 45th parallel.

Every library was generous with its time, telling me stories and history. How could I have been anything other than an enthusiastic participant in the Vermont Library Association's Passport to Vermont Libraries program? If they bring it back next year - don't hesitate to get your Passport to Vermont Libraries, it will be a gift to yourself!

Emily Marie Ahtúnan

Winner of the adult category of the [Passport to Vermont Libraries](#) contest

by Ariana Cioffi

Hi! My name is Ariana Cioffi and I'm from the Springfield Town Library, Vermont. I did the Passport to Vermont Libraries program this summer. I went with my mom and my grandmother. I won in the Young Adult category with 59 stamps. I had a lot of fun! I am on a swim team so before all of the away meets, we would stop at the libraries in that area. One of my favorite libraries was the Saint Johnsbury library because of all the artwork. There were sculptures and paintings that were really beautiful! It also had cool staircases. The Derby Line library was also one of my favorites! It had a crooked line of tape representing where Vermont ended and Canada began. They told us if people were from Vermont they had to park on the Vermont side and walk in. If people were from Canada they had to park on the Canadian side. Border patrol officers were driving by as we were there! The library in Manchester was very, very, very nice! It was brand new and it was HUGE! It had a big barn-like door that was as big as the building! It also had a fireplace that works in the winter! The Bennington library was awesome. It had a black cat named Pete. They also had a really cool reading and researching room. In that room they shut off the light and showed us this pretty skylight. The people were very nice and kind. The library in Guilford was very cute. It was 300 square feet! The librarian there was very nice and she told us the story of the library. She said there was a woman and she was very into books so in her will she gave the town \$1000 to buy books for a library but the town had to build the building and the building only cost \$300 in 1892! South Burlington was also a good one to visit as the people were so kind and it was so big with LOTS of books (and comfy chairs)! At all of the libraries my mom asked what year it was built. Most of them were between 1890-1902. At every library I took a picture, and I sat in a comfy library chair. I like the ones with head cushions the best! This was a great learning experience and I had an AWESOME summer doing this with my mom and grandmother! We met so many wonderful people! We hope to do it again next year!

Ariana Cioffi

Winner of the young adult category of the [Passport to Vermont Libraries](#) contest

Friends & Trustees Section

by Howard Burrows

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Saturday, November 7 we will hold our annual conference at Main Street Landing in Burlington. The theme this year will be "Try Something New!" A team of volunteers (three trustees and four friends) participated in a planning meeting back in August. As in the past few years, this meeting has largely been wrangled together by the Department of Libraries (Amy Howlett, Mara Siegel, Michael Roche, and Rob Geiszler). Several keynotes and opportunities to learn about STEAM, maker spaces, community partnerships, forming efficient relationships between board,

Webmasters:[Jessamyn West](#)[Heidi Steiner](#)[Burkhardt](#)**Representatives****ALA Councilor:**[Amy Wisehart](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA**Representative:**[Karson Kiesinger](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

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friends, foundations, and staff... Please view the agenda--and register to attend: libraries.vermont.gov/services/public_libraries/trustees.

In planning for this conference, I had a chance to visit with Amy Garmer, Director, Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries (<http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/participants/details/220/Amy-Garmer>). She has just published *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries* (csreports.aspeninstitute.org/documents//AspenLibrariesReport.pdf), a detailed look at opportunities that each element of a community can make to react to the challenge. In addition to helping us plan for this conference, it should be useful for any strategic planning committee as an aid to setting the direction for the future. Amy also introduced me to David Hallenbeck of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association (www.nhlta.org). New Hampshire still has the trustee association separate from their ALA chapter. Their website has significant lists of resources and activities that we could bring to the Green Mountains. For example, look at the sponsors that they put together for their annual meeting!

Which inspired me to look into the history of our trustee and friends organization. Paul Carnahan, librarian at the Leahy Library at the Vermont Historical Society and our VLA Archivist sent me a number of early records on the formation of the then separate Vermont Library Trustee Association. It was founded in 1965 at a time when most librarians in the state did not hold MLS degrees; trustees pretty much did everything including accessioning and deaccessioning books! At one time the VLTA had over 200 members, but changing responsibilities and increasing costs of separately joining VLA and VLTA seems to have made it difficult to sustain the two organizations and they merged under VLA. I think this is a good thing, but looking at the activities of the New Hampshire group it is clear that there is much we can accomplish as a section as we continue to grow (again).

And for us to begin to appreciate economies of scale it is important that we do grow. We suggest that every board and friends group designate an ALA/VLA delegate to attend the conference in Burlington on November 7-- and to join VLA as individual trustee members to work with this section.

Howard Burrows
VLA Friends & Trustees Section Immediate Past President
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by Nancy Mark

I am excited about my new role as vice president of the Friends & Trustees section of the Vermont Library Association. This summer, Passports to Vermont Libraries booklets in hand, my husband and I visited 35 libraries in our state. After leaving each library and returning to our car, I found myself saying, "That's my favorite!" Indeed, each library demonstrated a commitment to providing a welcoming space for facilitating learning for children and adults alike, to embracing innovation and to maximizing opportunities in order to best serve their communities. I look forward to connecting with many of you at the upcoming annual conference on November 7.



(Nancy visiting Gilbert Hart Library, Wallingford)

Nancy Mark
VLA Friends and Trustees Section Vice President
Friend, Castleton
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College & Special Libraries Section

by Laura Crain

CSL's Response to the revised NEASC standards draft

On October 21, the VLA College & Special Libraries section submitted a letter to the board of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) regarding the most recent draft of the NEASC *Standards for Accreditation*. Our concern was primarily the significant reduction of the library's role in the draft. The draft eliminates the standard devoted to libraries and fails to recognize the vital role of librarians and library services in student outcomes. While the draft acknowledges the importance of research and information literacy, it does not account for the services and skills provided by librarians and libraries necessary to reach those standards.

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) New England's president along with other members met with the staff of NEASC and followed up with a written statement suggesting specific changes to the current draft. The directors of the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries also submitted a letter of concern to the NEASC board. Thus far in the revision process, NEASC has received a number of responses specifically regarding the elimination of the old Standard 7 on libraries. The outcome of the ACRL New England meeting with NEASC staff made it clear that the old Standard 7 would likely not be reinstated but that key functions of libraries and librarians could be included in Standards 4, 6 and 7. We remain hopeful that NEASC will accept the feedback of the various library organizations and individuals and revise the draft to include our suggestions.

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by Beth Dietrich

CSL's "What's New Under the Sun" Event

The College & Special Libraries section had a great turn out for their fall event "What's New Under the Sun" at Vermont Technical College on Thursday, October 29th. The topics ranged from innovative orientation strategies to cataloging unique items to libraries working with Wikipedia (gasp!). We heard about the challenges and ultimate successes of converting an old restaurant into the library for the recently established Northeastern Baptist College. We also heard from our colleagues at Hartness Library who have been able to embed themselves in an impressive number of courses by using their learning management software as a gateway to reach students where they are. The most important theme that emerged from our program was the ways in which librarians are uniquely situated to help students understand the inherent inequality within research and scholarly output and to assist students in finding the "missing voices." Overall, it was an informative and eye-opening day.

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Technical Services Section

by Kelly McElligott

Heads down...keep working

As a previous technical services librarian and now one by process of elimination, I know that we (technical services) keep our heads down and continue cataloging.

But right now for just a few brief moments, I want everyone not just some of you...but EVERYONE to look around at your library, colleagues and previous colleagues. Now ask yourself...Who stands out? Who has made an amazing difference to your library in the technical services area? Who do you think of when you hear Birdie MacLennan's name?

Technical services librarians are often overlooked but they do so much for our libraries. They catalog all the materials, they do book and A/V repair, they fix any cataloging errors, and so much more. I cannot even attempt to list all the tasks they do on a daily basis.

The Technical Services section of VLA would love to honor an outstanding librarian that exceeds expectations, shines above the rest and above all is a stellar technical services librarian by giving out the Birdie Award. Please email your nomination to kmcelligott@stowelibrary.org. Be sure to include the technical services librarian's name and a brief statement supporting the nomination (no more than 250 words).

Kelly McElligott
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Public Libraries Section

by Christine Porter

As hard as it is for me to believe, last month marked my one year anniversary as a Vermont librarian. Prior to coming to Windsor, I had served as a youth services librarian and then director of a small library in central Pennsylvania. Coming to Windsor was a fairly easy transition because my previous library was very similar in many ways. And I was grateful for the easy transition despite having to learn the job without my predecessor. My first year was met with many rewards, as well as exciting challenges. Sadly, this isn't always the case for people starting a new position. I met someone recently who felt overwhelmed by having to be the "jack of all trades" at their new library after coming from a large city library where each staff member had a specialty. That is when I realized that being a new librarian in an unfamiliar setting can be daunting. I've been looking back to see what went well during my transition, what I have learned, and what could have made my experience even better.

The things that I did that helped me tremendously were getting to know my community, my staff, my volunteers and also my building, and all of its quirks and charms. I read the local newspapers as much as possible, I talked to the people coming in the doors and learned about what was important to them, and I got to know the skills and experiences of my board members and other volunteers. By learning about what was important in the eyes of our residents, our library was able to offer relevant programming and take a role in building and strengthening the community.

One of the things I wish I had done is sought out and developed relationships with mentors. I have many connections with Pennsylvania librarians that I developed over the years. However, I didn't know how to start making those connections in Vermont, and I didn't ask. Luckily after several months, another librarian reached out to me and introduced me to various listservs, websites, and to VLA where relationships with other peers could be fostered. I attended the annual conference and sat next to strangers and began conversations, which led to gaining knowledge, ideas and friendships.

I also wish I had taken advantage of the continuing education available sooner in my transition. There are classes that I took after almost eleven months at the job that I wish I had taken right away, as there was some information that I received secondhand that I found wasn't always accurate as I learned more in class. Those classes answered a lot of questions about things like the specifics of Vermont libraries and the laws surrounding them, details about the cataloging system we use, among other items.

If you are a new librarian I encourage you to create a professional network. Meet other librarians in your area, go to as many continuing education meetings as you can, sign up for relevant listservs and don't be afraid to put yourself out there and ask questions. If you've been around for a while, and you know of a librarian who is new, I encourage you to reach out to them, say hello and let them know there is a friendly face ready to assist and offer advice. Librarians are a resourceful group of people – and if we take time to help each other, we strengthen the library community as a whole.

Christine Porter
VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President
Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)
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Membership Committee

by Helen Linda

Renewal Postcards Coming in November

Renewal postcards are going out this month, but you don't have to wait! Renew your membership for 2016 today ([review benefits here](#)). We've switched to online membership processing, including the ability to pay via PayPal, which you can do at www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join (don't forget to click the big green button to fill out the membership form before you pay).

If you are a student member or would like to take advantage of joint membership with the New England Library Association, please wait to renew! We're still working out those details and will send an announcement when it's ready. If you have any questions, please let me know at vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com.

Helen Linda
VLA Membership & Outreach Chair
Systems & Technical Services Librarian, [Goddard College](#)
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New England Library Association

by Karson Kiesinger

VLA Southern Meetup – Friday Night Fun!

Library staff representing public, school, and academic libraries gathered at the Bennington Free Library on October 16 for a “Southern Synergy” meetup. It was a small (a baker's dozen including Pete the Cat) but enthusiastic group as you can see in the photo. (Thank you to our photographer, BFL Director Lynne Fonteneau McCann.)

Bennington Free Library staff led tours and enjoyed introducing our neighbors to treasures previously unseen, including our Vermont History Room and children's room. In return, our guests described resources at their institutions we are eager to see for ourselves. Librarians exchanged stories of career paths, common acquaintances, diverse workloads, and of course reading recommendations. Pete the Cat was a big hit! We encouraged other libraries to adopt feline friends by explaining how we handle basic pet care and an active and sometimes talkative kitten.

Everyone enjoyed gathering for a local social library event, and people are interested in attending similar events. A couple of libraries are considering how to handle the hosting aspect, but we emphasized any kind of gathering would work: pot luck, local restaurant, bowling alley, or even a group walk. The goal remains to stay better in touch with our local library siblings, share resources, and have fun!

Speaking of fun, congratulations to our raffle winners:

Berta Winiker, Librarian, Mount Anthony Union High School – pair of tickets to the Bennington Community Theater's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a fundraiser for BFL!

J. James Mancuso, Head Librarian, Northeastern Baptist College – a very stylish and functional VLA tote bag!

I'd like to personally thank the VLA board and VLA Membership and Outreach Committee Chair Helen Linda for answering my questions and helping me just do it! I also want to

thank my library staff for its support, the attendees, and local library staff who gave anning phase and reached out to me via email to express interest even if they were unable to attend. Let's keep talking!



Karson Kiesinger
VLA Representative to NELA
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Editor's Letter

by Janet Clapp

This newsletter is a testament to the continuing hard work and dedication of librarians, library staffers, and library supporters around Vermont. Not only do library workers, trustees, and friends serve their communities, they speak to library-related issues on a national level (the new Librarian of Congress) and a more regional level (NEASC standards). They chair committees and serve as officers for library associations. They encourage collaboration through meetups, mentoring, education, and conferences. Furthermore, they share their ideas and spirit by providing the articles you read in this newsletter. For more inspiration, there are the enthusiastic words of the passport winners, who enjoyed visiting libraries around our state because of what we all do. Kudos to you, VLA News writers and readers, for the roles you play in the Vermont library world!

Janet Clapp
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