

## VLA News - August 2013

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#### Back Issues

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

### President's Letter

Greetings VLA membership! This past year, under the leadership of Debbie Gadwah-Lambert, was an exciting one for our organization. The VLA saw growth and change in its structure with the addition of a new section and two committees.

The Technical Services Section (formerly the Cataloging Round Table) serves all aspects of technical services, including but not limited to cataloging, acquisitions, and collection maintenance. Like VLA's other sections, the Technical Services Section is led by a president, Christine Webb from Fletcher Free Library, and is charged with hosting events throughout the year, as well as ensuring that sessions at the Vermont Libraries Conference (VLC) will have content relevant to technical services. The new Scholarship Committee, led by Scott Murphy of Milton Public Library, will ensure that librarians throughout Vermont have access to funding for continuing education and professional development through scholarships and grants. The VLA has set aside funding for this, and the committee is currently working on application guidelines. Finally, the Inclusion Committee, led by Kat Redniss of Brownell Library, is charged with providing resources and addressing issues that concern diverse and underserved patron populations. Their VLC session on Outreach and Access to Under-served Populations with representatives from Outright Vermont, COTS, and the Howard Center was a great success. With all the accomplishments of the past year, I look forward to the year ahead and all the work we will do together.

Thank you for attending the VLA Annual Meeting in May at Saint Michael's College. Then incoming, now current ALA President, Barbara Stipling was inspirational, and it was wonderful to meet so many librarians from across the Green Mountain state. As I mentioned in my speech, I believe in the value of professional organizations. They are so important for the vitality of our profession, and enable us to share knowledge and resources to further the goals of our mission as libraries. Throughout next year, the VLA will focus on strategic planning. I want to address membership concerns and benefits. I also want the VLA to reach out to librarians. I want to see our organization create communities that facilitate information sharing between librarians and our libraries.

#### VLA News Back Issues

#### **Substitute Pool**

The Vermont Library Substitute Pool is booming!

Subs/Temps/Volunteer s Signed Up: **54** 

Availability of Pool by County:

Addison - 16
Bennington - 8
Caledonia - 6
Chittenden - 30
Essex - 3
Franklin - 8
Grand Isle - 8
Lamoille - 12
Orange - 9
Orleans - 5
Rutland - 12
Washington - 21
Windham - 10
Windsor - 14

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

The Vermont Library Association is *your* professional organization and I encourage you to get involved! There are several ways you can join in the fun--volunteer to serve on a committee, go to a section event, attend a board meeting, write an article for this very newsletter, recruit a new member, or just get in touch with other VLA members. An association is only as strong as its membership.

Please feel free to contact me (or a committee chair) if you would like to get more involved or just want to talk about the VLA. I can be reached at: Amber Billey, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 05405. Phone: 802-656-8568. Email: <a href="mailto:amber.billey@uvm.edu">amber.billey@uvm.edu</a>. It's going to be a fabulous year!

### Vice President's Letter

I am honored to have been elected to serve on the VLA Board as Vice President. This is a very exciting time for me and I am very much looking forward to playing an active role in the association. I did want to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not met, but whom I greatly look forward to meeting! When I began my educational career, I never thought I would become a librarian, so I attended Trinity College to get my bachelor's degree in social work. I spent six years in the field, but in 2004 after the birth of my second daughter, I left the working world to stay home and enjoy every possible moment with my girls. Then in 2007, as fate would have it, I was offered a position as Library Director here at the Highgate Public Library. I was not sure at the time if I could pull off being a "real live librarian," what with my background being in social work and not library science, but amazingly, my degree has been a huge asset. In 2009 I finished up my work through the Department of Libraries and received my Public Librarian certification.

Highgate's programing and library usage has grown so much through the years and we have become well known for our "out of the box" thinking, which for anyone who knows me, I take as a HUGE compliment. For me, creating new, innovative, and exciting programs for my community is the most rewarding piece of my job. Libraries have become so much more than just books over the past few decades. We truly are the hubs of our community. I see my job as one where I need to work my hardest to fill gaps in services within my town, so that members of my community can thrive. I cannot tell you how many wonderful ideas I have gotten from fellow librarians over the years. This is what I love about Vermont's public libraries, we are always willing to share ideas and to help each other when issues arise. I have no one other than the fabulous Jane Napier to thank for my creative spark. It was her enthusiasm and love for what she did that I admired so. When I saw the fun that she had doing her job, I wanted to make sure that each and every day was fun and full of "sparkle" when I walked through my library doors. I bring this enthusiasm and positiveness into everything I do, and I so look forward to bringing it with me as I begin a new adventure with the VLA board! If you are ever in Highgate, stop on in! We may be little but we accomplish BIG things here:)

Liza L. Comiskey, Librarian Highgate Public Library <u>Directory</u>). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

#### **Executive Board**

President:
Amber Billey

Vice President/Presiden t Elect:

Liza L. Comiskey

Past President:
Deborah GadwahLambert

Secretary: Sarah Costa

Treasurer: Wynne Browne

Section Representatives

# College & Special Libraries President:

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians. Daisy Benson

### Public Libraries President:

Organizes
workshops and
assists public
librarians.
Lydia Willoughby

Technical Services Section President:

Organizes
workshops & assists
technical services
librarians
Christine Webb

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www.highgatelibrary.wordpress.com

## Secretary's Letter

I started working in libraries as an undergraduate student, where I moonlighted in Special Collections and other research libraries before graduating and promptly starting an MLS program with the University of Illinois. I love information literacy, technology, cooking, and martial arts, but haven't figured out how to combine the four...yet. I am thrilled to be serving as VLA's secretary for this term.

Sarah Costa sbjackman@gmail.com

### Co-editors' Letter

To begin, Debbie and I must thank Helen Linda for all the past VLA newsletters she created. We greatly appreciate the assistance and training she provides as we begin co-editing the *VLA News*. We hope to continue to build readership and to make this a newsletter that is valuable to you, the VLA member. To do so, we want to hear from you. What subjects would you like to learn more about? What great ideas would you like to share? We know Vermont librarians have a lot to contribute, so please consider this your place to speak.

Here's who we are:

Janet: I have worked in public libraries since I began as a volunteer page at age thirteen. After earning my MLS at University of Pittsburgh, I worked at libraries in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Georgia. As a virtual reference librarian for Tutor.com, I provided reference service for public and academic libraries around the country. Acting as a trustee for my local library provides with me yet another perspective. As I start my new job as Adult Services Librarian at Rutland Free Library, I am delighted to be a Vermont librarian!

Debbie: I am the Public Library Director at the Fairfax Community Library. Previous to this position, I worked at the Haston Library in Franklin and was Director at the Montgomery Town Library. I hold a Master's Degree in Education and the VT Certificate of Public Librarianship. Before becoming a librarian six years ago, I was an herbalist and a full time mom, and before that, a teacher. My mother was a public library director so I guess it's in my blood and I got here eventually!

Thank you to our contributors and readers. We look forward to feedback so please contact us at

Trustees
President:
Organizes
workshops and
assists library
trustees.
Laurel Stanley

vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com.

Janet Clapp and Debbie Landauer VLA News co-editors

# Trustees Convenor from DOL:

**Christine Friese** 

### Youth Librarians President:

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians. Heather Grev

#### **Committees**

Archivist:
Paul Carnahan

Awards Chair:

**Grace Greene** 

VTIib
Representative to
the Board:
Christine Friese

# Government Relations Chair:

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

# Selene Coluburn

Intellectual

Freedom Chair: Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy. Ray Brior

Membership & Outreach Chair:

# **Membership Committee**

The <u>Vermont Library Association</u> (VLA) values your membership and is dedicated to you and Vermont's libraries. As a VLA member you can opt to receive the *VLA News* (over 300 members do), subscribe to the listsery, be a member of any of our sections and/or committees at no additional cost, have voting privileges at the annual meeting, be eligible to hold a VLA officer position, receive discounts to VLA events (including the conference), and receive a 20% tuition discount to Drexel University. VLA supports continuing education, researches salary guidelines, and provides information to librarians, trustees, and employers. VLA officers represent our members on the <u>American Library Association</u> Council and the <u>New England Library Association</u>.

In the coming year we plan to make being a member even better and easier. Keep your eyes peeled for online membership enrollment and new benefits. If you have any questions about your VLA membership benefits, you can <u>visit our website</u> or <u>contact me directly</u>. All of your VLA board members are available and willing to help you in any way possible.

Helen Linda

VLA Membership & Outreach Chair

Systems & Tech Services Librarian, Goddard College

### **Public Libraries Section**

Starting August 1st, I will be the Director at the Pierson Library in Shelburne. A true Vermonter, born and raised in Chittenden County, I have spent a lifetime connecting community members of all ages with a wide variety of resources. Previously, I worked in an independent bookstore, taught high school English, served as a librarian and events coordinator at VSAC, and worked most recently as a librarian at the Essex Free Library. In addition to being a resource-and-community-enthusiast, I also serve on the Artistic Direction Committee for the Essex Community Players, work as Lead Foley Artist for the BTV Radio Players, serve as Special Projects Chair for the GMLC, and enjoy all things Sci-Fi and geek-related.

Lara Keenan

Vice President of the Public Libraries Section

larakeenan@gmail.com

Maintains membership roster. Helen Linda

#### **Personnel Chair:**

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

**Shara McCaffery** 

Scholarship Chair: Scott Murphy

Vermont Library
Conference Chair:
Jessica Summer

#### VLA News Editors:

<u>Debbie Landauer</u> Janet Clapp

#### Webmasters:

Helen Linda Jessamyn West

#### Representatives

#### **ALA Councilor:**

Represents Vermont for the national organization. Charlotte Gerstein

## NELA Representative:

Represents Vermont for the regional organization.

Nancy Tusinski

# ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please note your VLA News has been clipped by the mail service.

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### Youth Librarians Section

Greetings from Killington, Vermont! I am so excited to be a part of the Vermont Library Association and getting to know all of you wonderful librarians that I have had the pleasure of meeting as well as making new friends throughout the state! I have worked at Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington since 2007, with a part time position growing into being the Head of Youth Services! Our Summer Reading Program is in full swing and I can say that we are really "Digging Into Reading"! Please contact me if you have been or wish to be involved with this wonderful group and I welcome members with questions, input, comments, etc.! Stay tuned for more information about what we have in store for CAYAL coming soon...

Heather Grev President of the Youth Librarians Section heather@sherburnelibrary.org

### **Conference Committee**

I am the Youth Servces Librarian for both the Jeudevine Memorial Library in Hardwick and the Winooski Public Library. I grew up in North Carolina, but defected to New England for college and haven't looked back.

I'm also the new chair for the Vermont Library Conference, and we'd love to hear from more people who would like to volunteer on the committee, and please let us know what topics you'd like to see in breakout sessions for next year's conference.

Jessica Summer Chair, Vermont Library Conference jessica.l.summer@gmail.com

### **Awards Committee**

I'm thrilled to return to the VLA board, this time as chair of the Awards Committee. I can't think of a better gig than hearing about – and celebrating! – the marvelous work that librarians and library trustees do in this state. The next time someone you know does something extraordinary, take just a moment and drop me a line. Let's use the good news to remind our communities what librarians do for them, and to thank them for what they do for us!

Amy C. Grasmick Chair, Awards Committee Director, Kimball Public Library, Randolph Amy@KimballLibrary.org

The 2013 VLA awards were presented at the Vermont Library Conference on May 21. Lisa Von Kann, former longtime director of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, received the Sarah C. Hagar Award which recognizes outstanding service in and significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Lisa was nominated by a wide range of people

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for her encouragement and support of colleagues, students and staff; her thoughtful, intelligent and highly persuasive way of presenting an argument, and her willingness to jump into new endeavors and try new things.

The 2013 Trustee of the Year Award went to Ruth Botzow, trustee and former board chair at the Solomon Wright Public Library in Pownal, VT. Since 2004 when Ruth was elected to the Board, Ruth has been universally respected for her vision, her thoroughness, her attention to detail and her endless energy, all of which have benefited the library immensely.

The Green Mountain Award was given to Jane Napier, formerly of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier and now living in Texas. The Green Mountain Award is given only occasionally, to someone who has done something extraordinary in the state.

In 2009, the Vermont Library Association was at a crossroads because the expense of running the annual conference was becoming untenable. Jane took the two-day conference at an expensive conference center, and trimmed it down to an exciting one day, volunteer-run affair at Saint Michael's College. Her plan kept the most popular and informative parts of the conference while reducing the overall cost by 80%. As she liked to say, we now have a conference for the cost of the afternoon snack served at the conference center!

Grace Greene Past Chair, Awards Committee

# **ALA Councilor Report**

Report from ALA Annual 2013, June 27-July 2 in Chicago. Significant and relevant conversations and events fell into these categories:

#### Affordable Care Act and Libraries

President Obama, in a video message, spoke directly to ALA Council about libraries' potential role in rolling out the Affordable Care Act. ALA is partnering with the US Department of Health and Human Services and Webjunction to help library staff prepare to help patrons learn more about new health insurance options. Beginning October 1, uninsured Americans will have the opportunity to choose from a menu of competing, affordable health insurance options. About 7 million people are expected to sign up for coverage in the new marketplaces. The need to use online portals for this process is likely to bring people into libraries looking for computer access and support. Library staff will need to be prepared to offer assistance.

#### For more information:

http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blog/prescription-finding-healthcare-information

www.ala.org/tools/affordable-care-act

#### **Declaration of the Right to Libraries**

One of Barbara Stripling's first initiatives, "Libraries Change Lives" is about increasing public understanding of the value of libraries. It grows out of the threat to school libraries from layoffs of school library staff and other threats to library funding. Stripling's campaign called "America's Right to Libraries" developed a Declaration for the Right to Libraries "to serve as a strong public statement of the value of libraries for individuals, communities, and our nation." Stripling is encouraging libraries and other groups to hold signing ceremonies "where community members, organizations, and officials can visibly sign and stand up for their right to have vibrant school, public, academic, and special libraries in their community." The plan is for the signed scrolls to be presented at a national summit in spring 2014. A toolkit will be provided for the signing ceremonies. For more information and PDF copies of the Declaration: <a href="http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries">http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries</a>

#### Privacy and government surveillance and transparency

ALA Council passed a "Resolution on the Need for Reforms for the Intelligence Community to Support Privacy, Open Government, Government Transparency, and Accountability," after much discussion of whistleblowers Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden and the recent revelations of NSA surveillance of citizens. You can be assured that your professional association takes much care to go on the record to support the principles of privacy and government transparency.

ALA launched a new website "ALA Liberty" which includes civic engagement resources and a Privacy Toolkit. ALA is encouraging librarians to facilitate local public dialogues and educational sessions on government surveillance and transparency. For more information and resources:

www.ala.org/advocacy/privacyconfidentiality

Also remember that ALA provides resources for "Choose Privacy Week:" chooseprivacyweek.org

#### **Digital content**

ALA continues to provide leadership and representation in working with publishers toward affordable access to e-content. You can read a summary of the activities of ALA's Digital Content Working Group here: <a href="https://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/article/ala-future-libraries-digital-content-and-ebooks">www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/article/ala-future-libraries-digital-content-and-ebooks</a>. Also, an E-Content Supplement to the June 2013 \*\*American Libraries is available online at <a href="https://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/issue/e-content-digital-supplement-iune-2013">www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/issue/e-content-digital-supplement-iune-2013</a>.

#### **Digital Literacy**

ALA launched <u>DigitalLearn.org</u>, a new online hub for digital literacy support and training. The "Help Learners" section will be of most use for library staff training users.

Many teaching resources about digital and media literacy are available from the US government at <a href="Onguardonline.gov">Onguardonline.gov</a>, including a comprehensive brochure for kids called "Heads-Up: Stop Think Connect."

The Federal Trade Commission offers many more resources at <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/youarehere/pages/parents">www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/youarehere/pages/parents</a> and teachers. <a href="https://html">https://html</a>

I encourage you to join ALA if you are not already a member. You can join at <a href="www.ala.org/membership/joinala">www.ala.org/membership/joinala</a>. There is important work to do on behalf of American libraries, please support this work! Also, the Freedom to Read Foundation is doing important work to preserve First Amendment freedoms. More info is at <a href="www.ftrf.org">www.ftrf.org</a>

#### Some other resources from ALA 2013:

ALA provides video of many of the speakers from the conference on YouTube.

The American Association of School Librarians announced its 2013 Best Websites for Teaching and Learning, websites that "foster the qualities of innovation, creativity, active participation, and collaboration. They are free, web-based sites that are user-friendly and encourage a community of learners to explore and discover." <a href="https://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-websites/2013">www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-websites/2013</a>

Charlotte Gerstein
ALA Councilor, VT Chapter
Reference & Instruction Librarian, Castleton State College

## **NELA Representative**

I began my library work at the age of eight with a date stamp purchased from the local stationery store and my sister's books. It wasn't until the year 2000 that I began my formal work in libraries, at the Topsfield Town Library in Topsfield, MA as Assistant to the Circulation Department Head. After moving to Vermont in 2007, I accepted the position of Adult Services Librarian at the Springfield Town Library in Springfield, VT. In 2011, I had the exciting learning experience of being a NELLS (New England Library Leadership Symposium) participant. Currently I am serving the community of Weathersfield, Vermont as the Director of the Weathersfield Proctor Library after accepting the position in the spring of 2012. I am looking forward to serving as NELA's Vermont Representative and getting to know both the Vermont Library Association and the New England Library Association organizations better.

Nancy Tusinski lefthandedlibrarian@gmail.com

The New England Library Association is proud to announce that three librarians from Vermont have been chosen to attend the 2013 New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS.) Founded in 2002, NELLS is an intensive one week symposium for early to mid-career librarians, library staff members, Friends and trustees. This year's program will be held July 29-August 2 at the Rolling Ridge Conference and Retreat Center in North Andover, MA. As in past years the Symposium will be led by nationally-known library leadership trainer and the Immediate Past President of the American Library Association,

Maureen Sullivan.

Vermont participants are

Barbara Ball, Director of the Windsor Public Library in Windsor, VT.

**Debbie Landauer**, Public Library Director of the Fairfax Community Library in Fairfax, VT.

**Lydia Willoughby**, Reference Librarian at the Hartness Library System of the VT Technical College in Randolph Center, VT.

**VLA Past President Marti Fiske** of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library in Williston will be attending the Symposium and serving as a Mentor for the participants.

The Vermont Library Association has been a partner with NELA throughout the history of the NELLS program. VLA supports the Symposium with contributions, works with NELA to promote the program and select participants, and offers scholarship support to individuals selected to attend. This year's NELLS is the fifth time the Symposium has been held; previous classes have occurred in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2011.

# Improving Disability Accommodations in Libraries

By Jae Vick

The Census Bureau estimates that 18.7% of the U.S. population is disabled. Statistically, close to one in five people who enter your library will have a disability of one kind or another.

Disabilities may be physical, intellectual, mental, or a combination. This includes the deaf and blind, people in wheelchairs, people with autism, Down syndrome, fibromyalgia, traumatic brain injury, obsessive compulsive disorder, cancer, etc. Veterans make up a significant population of people with disabilities. Some disabilities are easy to see, and some are invisible. Our patrons, employees, and volunteers are equally likely to be disabled. It is unlikely that you will know the extent of a person's disability just by looking. For example, I often surprise people in the grocery store by getting up out of my wheelchair to reach something on a tall shelf. They would likely be even more surprised to meet me the next day walking down the street with my cane.

While libraries are often better about accessibility than other public facilities, it sometimes seems like libraries wait for a visibly disabled patron to come to the library and request accommodation before they act. This approach is problematic for a number of reasons. The disabled community is diverse, and not all of us are easy to spot. Disabled patrons should not have to ask in order to be accommodated. Increasing access is an ongoing undertaking. Accessibility is best approached as something that can better serve all of our patrons, volunteers, and staff. Rather than reacting to specific interactions with disabled people, plan ahead for the possibility that anyone coming in your door could require some kind of

accommodation.

Given the wide variety of impairments it may seem daunting for a library to try to prepare for every possible accessibility need. Conveniently, many of the accessibility changes a library can make can benefit many people, and these are often changes that can benefit able patrons as well. In fact, rather than using the false dichotomy of able versus disabled people, it is more useful to think of ability and disability as being a spectrum, with individuals being located in different places on that spectrum throughout their lives, through illnesses and injuries, pregnancies, family crises, and through the physical, mental, and emotional experiences of aging. People all over the spectrum will come into your library, and can benefit from a few easy changes in the library.

Here are just a few ways that improving the access for one population of disabled people can help other able and disabled people.

#### Make aisles wider.

 Aisles that are wide enough for a person in a wheelchair to pass are also easier for a person using a walker or a cane to walk through. Wide aisles help book carts pass smoothly and enable patrons to avoid tripping over obstructions, such as children sitting on the floor or overflowing end-cap displays.

#### Establish clear signage with large letters and good contrast.

 This seems like a little thing, but it makes a big difference for people with low vision, people who are color-blind, as well as the deaf and hard of hearing (so they don't have to ask for verbal directions), and it can help some people with autism and other sensory processing impairments feel secure and oriented.

## Provide information at circulation and reference in both verbal and written formats.

 This accommodates the hard of hearing, those with low vision, and those with memory impairments or processing issues, as well as able patrons and volunteers who might need reminding.

#### Provide ample and comfortable seating.

 Good seating can make a real difference. There are many people, like me, who cannot stand for long periods of time or sit on hard chairs. Parents with children, pregnant women, and elders are often grateful for the seating.

Accessibility improvement need not be a chore or even a threat to your library's budget, but an opportunity to engage thoughtfully with the needs of your patrons, volunteers, and employees, and provide better services for the able and disabled alike.

Jae Vick is a recent graduate of Indiana University's School of Library and

Information Science, with a focus on medical librarianship and digitization, nd a passion for reference work. She is currently looking for a position in these areas that would allow her to work from home.

### Resources On...WordPress

Many of us use WordPress for our library websites. Jeremiah Kellogg, Library Development Consultant with the Vermont Department of Libraries, has assisted many small libraries to create websites using WordPress. Jeremiah is always happy to help and he offered some suggestions for resources. WordPress offers its own support page (en.support.wordpress.com) and a tutorial page (learn.wordpress.com). He also recommends YouTube. Because WordPress changes quickly, books became outdated. They may also focus more on the subscription version rather than the free version that many of us use. However, he did look at an edition of WordPress for Dummies that appeared to be "comprehensive and informative." I use WordPress: The Missing Manual (2013) by Matthew MacDonald and find the details and tips useful. If you would like to recommend a particular website or book about WordPress, please let us know and we will mention it in a future newsletter.

Janet Clapp
VLA News Co-editor

## Tip of the Month

Ever feel like a hamster on a wheel repeating the same things over and over when you train new volunteers, substitutes and/or staff? You can eliminate some of the need for this by creating a collection of documents that explain basic procedures in your library.

Include a page of opening and closing procedures, how-to's for checking library material in and out or any other common task, a contact list for reaching library staff if needed, and even a list of passwords a substitute might need in order to do the job.

The blog Good Ideas from VT Public Libraries has additional ideas and some examples of orientation packets, volunteer release forms, and more. Check it out at this link.

Don't Forget to Visit Us on the Web! <a href="http://www.vermontlibraries.org">http://www.vermontlibraries.org</a>

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

