

# VLA News

## May 2021

## President's Letter

by Kevin Unrath

### Table of Contents

#### Articles

[President's Letter](#)  
[Public Libraries](#)  
[Scholarship & Awards](#)  
[VLA Website Membership](#)  
[NELA Newsletter](#)  
[editor](#)

#### Sidebar

[Back Issues](#)  
[Meet Your Leaders](#)  
[Library Jobs & Subs](#)  
[AmazonSmile](#)  
[ATTN: Gmail Users](#)

### Back Issues

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

[VLA News back issues](#)

### Meet Your

I'm excited to invite you to ***Emerging Energized***, the Vermont Library Association's 126th annual (and 1st virtual) conference! With ten sessions focused on advocacy, youth services, anti-racism, ebooks, avoiding burnout, and more, the conference planning committee hopes there will be wonderful sessions from which to choose for all.

The conference sessions will be spread out over five days in order to allow for more flexible attendance for members who may have commitments some days. Our opening speaker on Tuesday, May 25th is Emily Bernard, Vermont author of the award-winning *Black is the Body*. Our keynote speaker on Wednesday, June 2nd is Ryan Dowd, author of *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone*, who will focus on avoiding burnout as you work to serve all patrons effectively.

To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference>. To register for the conference, fill out the form at <https://middlebury.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpdeqsrioqHd2Ue3dtNpOZiMQsPqara9IZ>. Note that you will need to register and be a VLA member by May 21st in order to attend, but the conference is FREE for members this year! All sessions, including section meetings and the annual business meeting, will be held on the Zoom platform.

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Vermont Library Association  
PO Box 803  
Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:  
Website: [www.vermontlibraries.org](http://www.vermontlibraries.org)

## 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 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:**

[Kevin Unrath](#)

**Vice**

**President/President Elect:**

[Michael D. Roy](#)

**Past President:**

[Amy Olsen](#)

**Secretary:**

[Marie Schmukal](#)

**Treasurer:**

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### **Section Representatives**

#### **College & Special**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation)

Twitter: [twitter.com/@VLALib](https://twitter.com/VLALib)

Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association)

# Public Libraries & Advocacy

by Barbara Ball

## **Update from the VLA Public Libraries Section and the Government Advocacy Committee**

The VLA Public Libraries Section and the VLA Government Advocacy Committee are excited to offer a presentation on June 3rd at the VLA conference, **From Montpelier to Town Hall** by EveryLibrary Executive Director John Chrastka. If you aren't familiar with EveryLibrary, they work to "help public, school, and college libraries win bonding, tax, and advisory referendum, ensuring stable funding and access to libraries for generations to come."

John Chrastka's bio, from [everylibrary.org](http://everylibrary.org) is as follows:

*EveryLibrary's founder is John Chrastka, a long-time library trustee, supporter, and advocate. Mr. Chrastka is a former partner in AssociaDirect, a Chicago-based consultancy focused on supporting associations in membership recruitment, conference, and governance activities. He is a former president and member of the Board of Trustees for the Berwyn (IL) Public Library (2006 – 2015) and is a former president of the Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) multi-type library system. Prior to his work at AssociaDirect, he was Director for Membership Development at the American Library Association (ALA). He is a member of ALA as well as the Illinois Library Association (ILA), and the American Political Science Association (APSA). He was named a 2014 Mover & Shaker by Library Journal and tweets @mrchrastka.*

This is an exciting time of possibilities for Vermont libraries. **From Montpelier to Town Hall** will offer us tools to achieve as many of these possibilities as we can. Along with petitioning our towns for annual funding for each of our public libraries (which is always critically important), there are some other opportunities working their way through both the Vermont and federal legislatures. At the state level, the Vermont bill formerly known as S.26 ("An act relating to the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont and the Department of Libraries") was rolled into S.115 ("An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws") and is being reviewed by the Committee on Appropriations. If this bill passes, an extensive study of Vermont's libraries will ensue, looking at what our libraries do, what they do well, and how they can do better. This bill is not focused on increasing library funding, but if it passes and the working group is able to complete its study of our libraries' strengths and needs, it will certainly present the research in support of how Vermont libraries can best support our communities.

At the federal level is the Build America's Libraries Act, which was introduced by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders among others. This act would fund upgrades to our nation's library infrastructure to address challenges including COVID-19, broadband capacity, natural disasters, and accessibility barriers. This legislation would pave the way for improved (or even new) library facilities in underserved



**Libraries Section  
President:**

[Chenfang Yang](#)  
Organizes  
workshops and  
assists college and  
special librarians.

**Membership &  
Outreach Chair:**

[Susan Larson](#)  
Maintains  
membership  
roster.

**Public Libraries  
Section President:**

[Barbara Ball](#)  
Organizes  
workshops and  
assists public  
librarians.

**Trustees &  
Friends**

**President:**  
[Adriene Katz](#)  
Organizes  
workshops and  
assists library  
trustees.

**Committees**

**Government  
Relations Chair:**

[Margaret Woodruff](#)  
Assists libraries  
with connections  
to legislators.

**Intellectual  
Freedom Chair:**

[Mary Danko](#)  
Assists librarians  
with challenges to  
library materials  
and issues related  
to patron privacy.

**Scholarship &  
Awards Chair:**

[Lisa Milchman](#)  
Oversees VLA  
awards and  
scholarships.

**Vermont Library  
Conference Chair:**

communities across Vermont and the country.

A tool developed by the VLA Public Libraries Section will assist libraries in our advocacy efforts. These customizable posters are professionally designed and relate to different strengths held by our public libraries and the varying roles they may play in their community. Examples of two of these posters are as follows:

Other posters pertain to library programming, e-resources, libraries of things, and more. These posters can be customized with your public library's name and stats, and used to garner public attention to the role Vermont's public libraries play daily in helping Vermonters to connect, learn, and excel. A final line will be added to these posters, telling supporters what to do to support their library.

**Vermont Public Libraries' Event Information Now Available on VLA Website**

Do you (or your patrons) want to know what public library programming is happening statewide that you can attend? Is your library planning an event that you'd like to advertise to a broader audience? VLA can help! Programming at Vermont public libraries is now advertised on the VLA website at <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/events>. Events are searchable by county and by library name or town. Now – when most all events are virtual – is a perfect time to check out what other libraries are offering!

If you'd like to advertise your library's event on the VLA website, email your library's name, your county, the event's name, a description, and a link for more information (how folks can register or participate) to [barbara@windsorlibrary.org](mailto:barbara@windsorlibrary.org). The event will be up on the VLA website within a few days (normally within 24 hours). Live Zoom links won't be listed on this site, so make sure you have a link to how folks can attend.

**Lightning Talks on Sustainability**

Come to the VLA conference on May 27th at 2 p.m. to learn what libraries are doing to promote sustainability! As our world must fight climate change by not just reaching zero emissions but also reducing mass consumption, libraries can be at the vanguard by offering shared resources, education on sustainable practices, free seeds, and more. From seed libraries to time banks to resource swaps, come learn what different libraries are doing to promote sustainability in Vermont.

Thank you for all you do for Vermont libraries. We hope to see you at the VLA conference!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ball, MLIS  
VLA Public Libraries Section President  
Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)  
[barbara@windsorlibrary.org](mailto:barbara@windsorlibrary.org)  
802-674-2556

# Scholarship & Awards

*by Lisa Milchman*



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### **Roundtables**

**Inclusion Chair:**

[Bridget Stone-Allard](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations.

**Personnel Chair:**

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

**Technical**

**Services Chair:**

(inactive)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

**Youth Librarians**

**President:**

VACANT

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

**Archivist:**

[Paul Carnahan](#)

**VLA News Editor:**

[Janet Clapp](#)

**Webmasters:**

[Tessa Johnson](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

**Representative**

**S**

**ALA Councilor:**

[Jessamyn West](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

**NELA**

**Representative:**

[Amy Williams](#)

In a year that has looked different in every way – so does the traditional Vermont Library Conference Awards. This year everybody wins!

Our 2021 Recognition Ceremony is designed to celebrate the accomplishments of ALL of us. Submitting a nomination assures that your honoree(s) will be acknowledged and applauded at this year's virtual presentation. This portion of the Vermont Library Conference is open to all, regardless of membership in VLA, and will take place on Tuesday, May 25 beginning at 1:15 p.m. with VTLIB's Joy Worland presenting certificates to newly minted Vermont public librarians and continuing with the acknowledgement of retirees and award recipients.

The nominating process is easy and informal. You tell us WHO, and you get to NAME the award they receive. I hope that everyone will consider nominating a person, persons, or organization that has inspired or cheered them, or otherwise made this crazy year a little less crazy, by filling out this nominating form (<https://norwichlibraryvt.typeform.com/to/pz8gl0RP>). Additionally, if you know someone who has retired in the past year or who will retire before the end of the summer and who has at least 10 years of service to Vermont libraries, please submit their names and the name of the (last) library served via email. Deadline for all nominations is May 15.

In more personal news: I feel that the time has come for me to step down from my role as chair of this committee. Over the past five years, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve in this capacity, first as VLA Awards Committee Chair and then in overseeing the combined VLA Awards & Scholarship Committee (<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards>, <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee>). The opportunity to provide funding for those pursuing educational opportunities and to acknowledge and thank those that make the Vermont library community the amazing, vibrant, and CARING place that it is has brought me a great amount of satisfaction and joy. My profound thanks go to the current members of the committee for their help, support, and always thoughtful insights – Prudence Doherty, Nancy Marks, Margaret Woodruff, and Emily Zervas.

The summer months are a quiet time in the cycle of awards and scholarships and provide a good occasion for handing over the reins to an incoming chair. Please reach out if you are interested, or want to chat more, about this opportunity to serve VLA.

It has been a long year and with no conference in 2020, I especially cannot wait to "see" you all at the conference and on May 25th at the Recognition Ceremony.

Warm wishes,  
~Lisa

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



Represents  
Vermont in the  
New England  
Library Assoc.

**VT Dept. of  
Libraries  
Representative to  
the Board:**  
[Jason Broughton](#)

## Jobs & Subs

For library jobs:  
[VLA Job Postings](#)

For library subs:  
[Vermont Library  
Substitute Pool](#)

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to the bottom of  
the message and  
click the link:

# VLA Website

*by Jessamyn West*

Hello, it's your Vermont webmaster here to just remind you of a few things the VLA website has to offer.

We have a statewide events calendar. Are you putting on programming that you'd like to open to a wider audience? You can add it to our events calendar or promote some of the events already on it to your community.

<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/events>

Want to recommend a presenter or see a list of recommended presenters? This page is for you.

<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/resource-sharing-recommended-presenters-performers-speakers-for-programs>

Remember that Newspapers.com is available for Vermont newspapers through a partnership between the Department of Libraries and Vermont State Records and Archives Administration (VSARA). We've put instructions up for you on how to share this with your patrons.

<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/millions-of-pages-of-vermont-newspapers-freely-searchable-online>

Does your library have a new website? If the link on this page isn't accurate, drop us a note and let us know.

<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/vermonts-public-libraries>

Looking forward to seeing some of you virtually at the conference in May!

Jessamyn West  
VLA Web Team  
ALA Councilor for Vermont  
[Vermont Mutual Aid Society](#)  
[jessamyn@gmail.com](mailto:jessamyn@gmail.com)  
[@jessamyn](#)

## Membership and Outreach

*by Susan Larson*

### **NELA Extended Memberships Expanded**

All VLA members – individual and organizational – are now eligible for the New England Library Association (NELA) discounted membership. The cost is \$20 per person; \$15 for VLA's individual student, retiree, friend, trustee, or unemployed membership categories.

When you join VLA or renew your individual membership on the Wild Apricot

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Other mail clients  
should receive  
VLA News in its  
entirety, but if  
not, please [let us  
know](#).

membership software (<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership>), choose the “NELA Extended Membership” box and the additional \$20 (or \$15) will be added to your account.

Those managing an organizational “bundle” membership should choose the number of NELA Extended Memberships they want for their group on the Wild Apricot form, then email the names of those people to the membership chairperson at [members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org)

#### **Welcome New Trustees**

Town meeting elections mean there are new library trustees serving Vermont libraries. Please welcome your new trustees with an invitation to join VLA. An individual membership for a trustee (or friend) is only \$25. An organizational membership for the entire board is \$50.

#### **Social Media Outreach**

Is there something extra special happening at your library? Send a photo and caption to Susan at [members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org), and we will consider sharing it on VLA’s Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram pages. Follow us, too!

<https://www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation/>

<https://twitter.com/VLAlib>

<https://www.instagram.com/vlalib/>

#### **Membership Information**

For more information about membership, visit <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership>

#### **VLA Membership and Outreach Committee**

Susan Larson, Chairperson  
[members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org)

Janet Clapp, Editor, *VLA News*  
[vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com)

Jessamyn West and Tessa Johnson, Website  
[vermontlibrarieswebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrarieswebmaster@gmail.com)

Susan Larson, Social Media

Nancy Tusinski, Substitute Pool Coordinator  
[nancytusinski33@gmail.com](mailto:nancytusinski33@gmail.com)

Susan Larson (*she/her*)  
VLA Membership & Outreach Committee Chair  
[members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org)

# New England Library

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# Association

by Amy Williams

## News from NELA

**NELA conference** ([nela.memberclicks.net/2021-annual-conference](http://nela.memberclicks.net/2021-annual-conference)): Three virtual days and one tentatively planned in-person! Each day will have its own theme; the overarching conference theme this year is “Play it Your Way: A Library Adventure Awaits.”

- *Sept 1st: Advocacy*
- *Sept 14th: Diversity*
- *Oct. 1st: Leadership*
- *Oct. 18th: Hopeful In-Person Day: College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA*

The cost for NELA members to attend the virtual sessions will be \$20 apiece, or \$50 if they bundle all three. The cost for nonmembers to attend will be \$40 apiece or \$110 if bundling all three.

The cost for the in-person (!! ) event will be \$95 for NELA members and \$145 for non-members; if the Real Live In-Person Day gets called off and becomes virtual, this pricing will be refigured.

NELA Emerging Leaders Virtual Cohort: Thank you to all who applied for this amazing opportunity to develop leadership skills and network with librarians throughout the greater New England area! NELA will be choosing the participants shortly.

Welcome to spring!

Amy Williams, MLS  
VLA Representative to NELA  
VLA Government Advocacy Committee member  
Assistant Director, [Rutland Free Library](http://Rutland Free Library)  
[vt@nelib.org](mailto:vt@nelib.org)  
[amy@rutlandfree.org](mailto:amy@rutlandfree.org)  
802-773-1860

## Edit This Newsletter

Interested in newsletter design or editing? VLA's membership software comes with newsletter possibilities. If you would like to volunteer for the *VLA News*, please contact [vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com).



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<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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