

VLA News

November 2024

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Back Issues

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

[VLA News back issues](#)

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 Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA leaders. For more contact information, see the

From Our President...

by Mary Danko

We've had a fantastic start to the year. At our September retreat, we generated numerous ideas for potential partnerships with organizations that align with the Vermont Library Association's (VLA) mission. Building relationships with these groups, who share our commitment to serving Vermonters, will bring added value to our association work in meaningful ways.

Each section, committee, and roundtable within VLA has also set their goals for the year, strengthening the impact of our collective efforts. These contributions from across the organization help make VLA robust and supportive of Vermont librarians and libraries.

I'm particularly excited about our Vermont Library Conference Committee co-chairs, Maria Avery and Erin Davison, who have put together a fantastic team and are already hard at work. It's never too early to start considering program submissions — our conference thrives on the creative and innovative ideas that our fellow librarians bring.

Additionally, I am working alongside several other VLA board members to explore the possibility of hiring a lobbyist for the organization. Over the past year, we have encountered legislation that affects our interests, and we want to ensure our priorities are well-represented. We're also keeping an eye on potential funding opportunities for public libraries so that we capture every possible resource.

I'm deeply grateful for all the hard work everyone puts in to make VLA strong. Please continue to advocate for VLA among your library peers; every new member adds to our strength and impact.

Mary Danko
VLA President
Director, [Fletcher Free Library](#)
president@vermontlibraries.org

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:
Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
X (formerly Twitter): x.com/@VLAlib
Instagram: instagram.com/vlalib
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

A Big Conference for Small Libraries

by Josh Worman

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

Executive Board

President:
[Mary Danko](#)

Vice President/President-elect:
[Daisy Benson](#)

Past President:
[Oceana Wilson](#)

Secretary:
[Loren Polk](#)

Treasurer:
[Barbara Ball](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section President:
[Emma Parks](#)
Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Membership & Outreach Chair:
[Erica Shott](#)
Maintains membership database and communications.

Public Libraries Section President:
[Josh Worman](#)
Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Trustees & Friends President:
[Howard Burrows](#)
Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Committees

Government Relations & Advocacy Chair:
[Margaret Woodruff](#)
Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

I was thrilled to attend my first out-of-state conference on September 12th through the 14th — the annual gathering of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (otherwise known as ARSL — www.arsl.org), which was held in Springfield, MA. On the way there, I stopped in South Deerfield to catch a Cat Power concert (excellent) and made a side trip to Amherst, where I visited the Jones Library (no Wi-Fi password required!) and toured the Emily Dickinson house. I have to say, it was incredibly moving to see the tiny table at which she scribbled many of her poems. (Okay, it was an exact replica, but still). I also had a chance to visit the “other” Haston Library, which is located in North Brookfield, MA. The Haston family funded not one but two libraries, which is a testament to both their thrift and their generosity towards the two communities that they held dear (Franklin, Vermont being the other one). The North Brookfield Haston is quite a bit grander than the Franklin version, but then the town itself is about three times the size of Franklin, so maybe they deserve a library that equals three of ours, who knows. The two staff members with whom I spoke were quite friendly, and they were open to the idea of having a collaborative relationship with their sister library up in the hinterlands of northern Vermont.



Yup, the North Brookfield Haston equals about three of the Franklin version.

In order to save the good people of Franklin a few shekels, I found an Airbnb in Springfield — a room in a giant old mansion (literally a mansion on a hill), overseen by a Southern-accented lady and her diminutive pug by the name of Valentina. The ARSL conference itself was a boatload of fun, and it was a great opportunity to meet librarians from all over the country (including Texas, California, Oregon, and even Hawaii!). It was really inspiring to interact with so many smart and talented library people, and to discuss all the trials and travails (as well as the rewarding aspects) of working in a small, rural library. I attended many interesting and stimulating presentations and workshops, and I had a chance to hobnob with some of my favorite library colleagues from Vermont as well, including Bree Drapa of Westford, who was one of the organizers of the conference, and Joy Worland of VTLIB, who co-presented a session on sharing library staff. All in all, it was a great trip, and I really felt as though it was an honor to be able to take part. Next year's conference is going to be held in Albuquerque, NM — just a bit farther away. I'll try to avoid taking a left turn before I get there.

Intellectual Freedom Chair:
[Randal Smathers](#)
Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Scholarship & Awards Chair:
[Pamela Cartier](#)
Oversees VLA awards and scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Co-Chairs:
[Maria Avery](#)
[Erin Davison](#)

Roundtables

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Chair:
[Asher Myers](#)
Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations.

Personnel Chair:
VACANT
Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Technical Services Chair:
[Erik van Eck](#)
Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Youth Services Chair:
[Erin Davison](#)
Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

VLA News Editor:
[Janet Clapp](#)

Digital Communications:
[Tessa Johnson](#)
[Susan Larson](#)
[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
[Catharine Hays](#)



Celebrated author Celeste Ng participated in a lively Q & A session at the welcoming breakfast.



These three inspiring librarians (from Idaho, Ohio, and Iowa) have courageously served their communities in the face of many serious challenges.



AnnaLee Dragon, Executive Director of the New York State Library Association, gave a great talk on leading with emotional intelligence.

Josh Worman
VLA Public Libraries Section President
Director, Haston Library
librarian@franklinhastonlibraryvt.org

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

Government Relations & Advocacy

by Margaret Woodruff

NELA

Representative:

[Lucinda H. Walker](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:

[Catherine Delneo](#)

Current projects for our committee include:

Advocacy

Working with the Vermont Creative Network to highlight projects and needs across the creative sector, which includes the Vermont Arts Council, the Vermont Humanities Council, Common Good Vermont, and some smaller agencies as well as VLA and the Vermont School Library Association (VSLA). VLA has been invited to participate in two advocacy days in 2025:

- Creative Sector Day: Wednesday, February 12
- Common Good Day: Wednesday, April 23

Jobs & Subs

For library jobs:

[VLA Job Postings](#)

For library subs:

[Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#)

More details to follow but we are excited to have two opportunities to share the good work that libraries are doing!

Planning

Putting together the legislative agenda for VLA. We hope to meet with library fans in the legislature early in the session and to maintain connection with the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) about whatever relevant legislation develops.

Resilience

With another recent flood emergency in Vermont, we are mindful of the role that libraries play in providing resources, tools, and information as well as the damage that libraries suffered. We hope to craft opportunities for libraries to get assistance with assisting their communities.

Stay tuned for more information about all of these projects. Please let us know if there are projects and needs you'd like to have addressed. And, if you'd like to join us, we meet on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Send me an email for login info.

Thanks to all VT libraries for the great work you do!

Margaret Woodruff

VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair

Director, [Charlotte Library](#)

margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Your VLA Membership

by Erica Shott

Did you know that one of the perks of having a Vermont Library Association membership is getting the *VLA News* sent directly to your email on a quarterly basis? The older newsletters are posted on the website (vermontlibraries.org/vlanews) for non (or lapsed) members. If you're reading this and are a current member, thank you! We hope you renew when it's time! If you're reading this as "old news" on the website, please rejoin so you can be up-to-date on the exciting happenings of Vermont libraries. We also ask that current members help spread the word and encourage your friends, staff, or colleagues to join or renew at vermontlibraries.org/membership.

Erica Shott

VLA Membership & Outreach Committee Chair

Director, [Dorset Village Library](#)

members@vermontlibraries.org

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please note your *VLA News* may have 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](#).

Ever consider an ALA membership?

by Catharine Hays

We all know how invaluable it is to be a VLA member. You may also want to consider joining the American Library Association (ALA). Annual membership (www.ala.org/membership/personal-membership) comes with a host of benefits not only for your library but also for you personally. Check out the complete list at www.ala.org/membership/ala-personal-member-benefits.

The cost of membership may even be covered in your library's professional development budget. Don't have one? Highlight the direct benefits the library will receive from a modest investment in your increased professional development and ability to effectively advocate for the library through access to ALA resources, networking opportunities, and staying updated on industry trends.

Even if you don't join, here's a reminder that although it can take a bit of scrolling, there's a wealth of information available throughout their website (www.ala.org) and in their Resource Guides (libguides.ala.org/home). Personally, I find the materials in the Libraries Transforming Communities section (www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities) helpful when I'm in need of fresh ideas or inspiration. Enjoy!

Catharine Hays
Vermont Chapter Councilor to the American Library Association
Director, [Bixby Memorial Free Library](http://www.bixbylibrary.org)
catharine.hays@bixbylibrary.org

Vermont Libraries in the News

compiled by Susan Larson

"VLA 2024 Graduate Student Scholarship Applications Due November 15"
<https://vermontlibraries.org/vla-2024-graduate-student-scholarship-applications-due-november-15>

"Amy Williams and Susan Larson Awarded VLA Fall 2024 Professional Development Grants"
<https://vermontlibraries.org/amy-williams-and-susan-larson-awarded-vla-fall-2024-professional-development-grants>

"Civic Engagement, Voter Outreach, and Your Public Library"
<https://vermontlibraries.org/civic-engagement-voter-outreach-and-your-public-library>

"14 Vermont Libraries Awarded \$15.9 Million in American Rescue Plan Act Monies"
<https://vermontlibraries.org/14-vermont-libraries-awarded-15-9-million-in-american-rescue-plan-act-monies>

"Governor Scott's 'Capital for a Day' heads to Chittenden County"
State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Catherine Delneo and Assistant State Librarian for Library Advancement Janette Shaffer visited Westford Public Library, Milton Public Library, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, and Jericho Town Library.
<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2024/october/22/governor-scotts-capital-day-heads-chittenden-county>

"The Morristown Centennial Library is so privileged to have supportive and generous Friends of the Library group."
https://www.vtcng.com/news_and_citizen/community/a-few-good-friends/image_638100c6-8ce0-11ef-9bad-dfeca4be269d.html

Llamas in the library! Waterville Town Library welcomed Northern Vermont Llama Company to the library.
https://www.vtcng.com/news_and_citizen/community/library-trek/article_0c70b116-924c-11ef-8f14-977be1140449.html

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) awarded a "\$210,000 historic preservation award to the Town of Salisbury for the rehabilitation of their Town Hall and Library to address accessibility and code issues."

<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2024/october/25/117-million-committed-support-housing-and-conservation-projects>

"Lost grant funding and computer damage roil Pawlet Library meeting"

https://www.benningtonbanner.com/local-news/lost-grant-funding-and-computer-damage-roil-pawlet-library-meeting/article_bfd7d962-89ac-11ef-b36b-6f19ad8ea308.html

New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) hosts classes at Brooks Memorial Library

https://www.reformer.com/community-news/necca-brings-silvercircus-to-brooks-memorial-library/article_3b559b62-8712-11ef-9b9a-33baed76dbe1.html

"Letter to the Editor: Thanks to Martha Canfield Library donor"

https://www.manchesterjournal.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-thanks-to-martha-canfield-library-donor/article_4830ea2e-8719-11ef-8982-d780f5113a1c.html

"Fletcher Free Library receives \$100,000 to hire library outreach specialist"

<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/vermont/2024/10/09/fletcher-free-library-to-hire-specialist-to-manage-safety-issues/75571772007/>

"Fletcher Free Library welcomes new social worker to improve safety and human services"

<https://www.mynbc5.com/article/fletcher-free-library-welcomes-new-social-worker/62547976>

"Burlington library to hire staff to better serve homeless patrons"

<https://www.wcax.com/2024/10/08/burlington-library-hire-staff-better-serve-homeless-patrons/>

"Deborah Rawson Memorial Library youth services librarian Abbey Heimlich has been selected for the 2024 Strategic Library Leadership Development Program"

<https://www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation/posts/pfbid0fHuU8BFRFiJLJsSDFkpPxTRYQv5YvFxJJVajgBzXQgh68CHiA6CCgdqVQ2g9cwhJl>

"CLiF partners use experiential learning opportunities to bring literacy to life for their students." These partners include Bradford Public Library, Morristown Centennial Library, Tunbridge Public Library, Lawrence Memorial Library, and Fairlee Public Library.

<https://vtdigger.org/2024/10/01/bringing-literacy-to-life/>

"Richford's Arvin A. Brown Public Library receives \$174,000 state grant"

https://www.samesseenger.com/news/government/richfords-arvin-a-brown-public-library-receives-174-000-state-grant/article_dba805e8-7f6d-11ef-be9d-2f78667187a9.html

"Vermont libraries get federal funds to upgrade facilities"

<https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2024-10-01/vermont-libraries-get-federal-funds-to-upgrade-facilities>

"Vermont Department of Libraries awards ARPA treasury funding to 14 public libraries"

<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/vermont/2024/10/03/vermont-libraries-receive-15-9-million-in-funding-where-its-going/75479059007/>

"14 Vermont libraries receive grants for upgrades and enhanced internet access." This story features Johnson Public Library. Located in a flood zone and completely flooded out in July 2023, it will receive one of the largest grants — totaling nearly \$1.7 million — to rebuild and relocate.

<https://vtdigger.org/2024/10/02/14-vermont-libraries-receive-grants-for-upgrades-and-enhanced-internet-access/>

Fourteen public libraries across Vermont will receive one-time grants for building improvements. This story features Grand Isle Free Library.

<https://www.wcax.com/2024/10/07/vermont-libraries-benefit-15m-windfall/>

Lawrence Memorial Library (Bristol) and Salisbury Free Public Library are among 14 Vermont libraries who will share \$15.9 million in federal funding for much-needed capital projects.

<https://www.addisonindependent.com/2024/10/03/two-local-libraries-earn-big-grants/>

"Vermont libraries receive \$16.4M for infrastructure upgrades"

https://www.timesargus.com/news/local/vermont-libraries-receive-16-4m-for-infrastructure-upgrades/article_9354f860-870f-11ef-b428-332408b12aa0.html

"Wilder Library awarded ARPA Treasury funding"

<https://vermontjournal.com/news/wilder-library-awarded-arpa-treasury-funding/>

"Vermont Department of Libraries Awards ARPA treasury funding to 14 public libraries"

<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2024/october/09/vermont-department-libraries-awards-arpa-treasury-funding-14-public-libraries>

"\$15.9m awarded to 14 Vermont public libraries"

<https://mountaintimes.info/2024/10/09/15-9m-awarded-to-14-vermont-public-libraries/>

"Vermont Department of Libraries Awards ARPA Treasury Funding to 14 Public Libraries"

https://www.benningtonbanner.com/local-news/vermont-department-of-libraries-awards-arpa-treasury-funding-to-14-public-libraries/article_5bed78b6-8651-11ef-8038-838196d4cd09.html

"Vermont libraries to benefit from \$15M windfall"

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/vermont-libraries-to-benefit-from-15m-windfall/ar-AA1rQU1y>

Brooks Memorial Library "to get \$1.47 million update"

https://www.commonnews.org/issue/785/785brooks_grant

Alden Balch Memorial Library in Lunenburg "Celebrates 120 Years; Receives \$25K Grant"

https://www.caledonianrecord.com/features/entertainment/lunenburg-library-celebrates-120-years-receives-25k-grant/article_026bfaad-5140-5c91-8fce-09d52f476efc.html

"Your community living room: public libraries deserve a renaissance"

<https://vtcynic.com/opinion/your-community-living-room-public-libraries-deserve-a-renaissance/>

"Barre's Aldrich Library looks toward a rosier fiscal future"

https://www.timesargus.com/news/barres-aldrich-library-looks-toward-a-rosier-fiscal-future/article_159f1094-9ca6-5f47-a8c6-aef897004032.html

Space Grant funding for K-12 STEM programs awarded to seven VT Libraries: Brown Public Library (Northfield), Dorothy Alling Memorial Library (Williston), Westford Public Library, Ilsley Public Library (Middlebury), Morristown Centennial Library, and Russell Memorial Library, (Monkton)

https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/libraries?fbclid=IwY2xjawFaQHdleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHSM5OSdxaMF Dde18vnyZ8XUB7UDLBvODX2EZ3FubcPnytxicbrUD1q_ag_aem_rr-VeYcf_ppsWfL0cL6lpQ

"A Renovated Teen Lounge Opens in Barre Library"

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/news/teen-lounge-opens-in-barre-library-41763274>

UVM "Library Interns Stretch Archival Knowledge Through Leahy Archive Work"

<https://www.uvm.edu/news/libraries/library-interns-stretch-archival-knowledge-through-leahy-archive-work#:~:text=Earlier%20this%20summer%2C%20four%20interns,his%2048%20years%20in%20office>

Vermont's sixth annual Fairy Tale Festival

held September 21 at Sherburne Memorial Library, with these libraries participating: Brandon Free Public Library, Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, Dorset Village Library, Fairfax Community Library, Maclure Library, North Adams Public Library, Poultney Public Library, and Springfield Town Library.

<https://mountaintimes.info/2024/09/18/annual-vermont-fairy-tale-festival-is-saturday/#:~:text=Held%20annually%20on%20the%20third,about%20a%20specific%20fairy%20tale>

"Goodrich Memorial Library Celebrates 125 Years"

https://www.newportvermontdailyexpress.com/news/goodrich-memorial-library-celebrates-125-years/article_bb57856e-6e35-11ef-82a0-0726d2e8ad83.html

Ms. Lamoille: Amy Olsen, Director of Lanpher Memorial Library

https://www.vtcng.com/special_publications/4393awards/ms-lamoille-amy-olsen/article_0cb26efe-6c71-11ef-8aca-ffd06f66ea3a.html

Congratulations to Brandon Free Public Library on their grand reopening
<https://www.facebook.com/VermontLib/posts/pfbid0HX6LDU5pQr8ewAoqdaev4mobyQruPUU3aD7xjp3z84XyEnkwUHeS6AsKAN3xXLVpI>

Cavendish Fletcher Community Library Dedicates Kate's Corner
<https://vermontjournal.com/news/dedication-of-kates-corner-at-the-cavendish-fletcher-community-library/>

"Visiting Vergennes, Vermont?" Include Bixby Memorial Free Library
https://www.sevendaysvt.com/guides/visit-vergennes-vermont-what-to-see-do-and-eat-41170739?_ga=2.100774345.971822352.1722957190-1045035830.1670509156

"[Dorothy Alling Memorial Library] DAML adjusts to new library law"
https://www.willistonobserver.com/news/williston/daml-adjusts-to-new-library-law/article_2a1d8894-4f7e-11ef-843c-9f3effc609ea.html

"Wendy Sharkey, director of the Bennington Free Library, employs possibly the widest sandwich board ever seen in Bennington to promote the library and its fundraising book sale."
https://www.benningtonbanner.com/local-news/photo-come-one-come-all-and-read/article_5c70f1d4-5d87-11ef-a7da-4388f153f279.html

"Exciting changes at the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library"
<https://vermontjournal.com/news/exciting-changes-at-the-westminster-institute-and-butterfield-library/>

Westminster West Public Library receives Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grant to support energy efficiency improvements
<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/recent-grantees/fy2025/#CFG>

Windsor Public Library receives \$4,000 Vermont Arts Council Grant for voices and stories of Windsor
<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/recent-grantees/fy2025/#CFG>

Mandarin Conversation Circle at South Burlington Public Library
https://www.caledonianrecord.com/local-events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F148183x-mandarin-conversation-circle

"Pssst... What's in [Waterbury Public] Library's garden? Hint: Things that grow + things to read"
<https://www.waterburyroundabout.org/community-archive/pssst-whats-in-a-libraris-gardennbspthings-that-grow-things-to-readnbsp>

"Finding Hope Within" at Rockingham Library features art by women who are incarcerated
<https://vermontjournal.com/arts-entertainment/finding-hope-within-art-exhibit-at-rockingham-library/>

Manchester Community Library welcomes Ellen Ecker Ogden as Director of Advancement
https://www.manchesterjournal.com/business/manchester-community-library-welcomes-director-of-advancement/article_b865da68-58b4-11ef-8eb8-a3097ffbccff.html

"Libraries — centers of community engagement"
Orleans County libraries and the Vermont Department of Libraries
<https://bartonchronicle.com/libraries-centers-of-community-engagement/>

"What do the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library and Sustainable Williston have in common?"
https://www.willistonobserver.com/living/living_green/daml-s-library-of-things-adds-loanable-event-silverware/article_e4307596-5511-11ef-bb33-9358307ef3e3.html#:~:text=What%20do%20the%20Dorothy%20Alling,time%20use%20and%20dispos

Brooks Memorial Library staff awarded 2024 Unsung Heroes Award from Compassionate Brattleboro
https://www.commonnews.org/issue/776/776unsung_heroes#:~:text=This%20year's%20Unsung%20Heroes%20Award,were%20told%20to%20be%20quiet.

Susan Larson, MLIS (she/they)
VLA Digital Communications Volunteer
susularson@gmail.com

Scholarship & Awards

The VLA Scholarship & Awards Committee is now accepting applications for the 2024 Graduate Student Scholarship. Up to \$1500 is available for VLA members pursuing an MLS or MLIS degree. The deadline for applications is November 15th, 2024, with the scholarship sent to the institution for the spring semester. Visit VLA Graduate Student Scholarship – Vermont Library Association (vermontlibraries.org) for details and to apply.

Interested in editing?

Try your hand at newsletter design or editing! If you would like to help with the *VLA News*, please contact newsletter@vermontlibraries.org.

Visit Us on the Web!

<https://vermontlibraries.org/>

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