## VLA News February 2025

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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

## From Our President...

by Mary Danko

The new year is underway, and as we move forward, we're keeping a close watch on the current legislative session here in Vermont. Our focus remains on any legislation that could impact librarians and the communities we serve. I'm incredibly grateful to our VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee for their dedication and proactive efforts in keeping us informed and engaged.

As part of our advocacy work, we're continuing to explore the possibility of hiring a lobbyist for our association. This process has provided valuable insights into what's feasible given our size, budget, and capacity for paid advocacy. While we're still assessing our options, we remain committed to finding the best way to represent and support Vermont libraries.

One of my key goals as VLA President has been to strengthen partnerships with organizations that share our mission and values. I'm happy to report that we're making great progress! Recently, I had a productive meeting with the Vermont ACLU, and I'm excited about the potential for collaboration. These partnerships are essential as we navigate both proactive and reactive advocacy efforts to support libraries across the state.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited about our upcoming **VLA Conference on May 19**! The VLA Conference Committee has been hard at work creating a meaningful and engaging experience filled with educational sessions and networking opportunities. Program proposals are still open, so if you're doing innovative work in your library, we encourage you to share it! This is a great chance to exchange ideas, inspire one another, and strengthen our professional network.

Thank you for being a valued member of the **Vermont Library Association**. Your dedication and support make us stronger together.

Mary Danko VLA President Director, <u>Fletcher Free Library</u> <u>president@vermontlibraries.org</u>

Vermont Library Association PO Box 803 Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us: Website: <u>www.vermontlibraries.org</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation</u> Instagram: <u>instagram.com/vlalib</u> LinkedIn: <u>www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association</u>

## VLA Conference Coming!

by Maria Avery & Erin Davidson

librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA leaders. For more contact information, see the <u>VLA</u> <u>Leadership</u> <u>Directory.</u> Let them

know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President: Mary Danko

Vice President/Presiden t-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 Mark your calendars for the Vermont Library Association conference "Rooted in Community" on May 19, 2025 at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel & Conference Center. We're planning a day full of connection, collaboration, and learning that we cannot wait to share with VLA members and beyond. Our call for proposals has been posted and can be found on our <u>conference website</u>. We hope you share this call broadly within your own networks and encourage you to submit proposals of your own! Early bird registration is set to open on March 17 and be available for three weeks. We have verbal agreements for two keynote speakers who will be announced once contracts are signed.

This year, we have had to make the tough decision to increase registration prices for members and nonmembers alike. Folks on the committee and the VLA board have crunched numbers and brainstormed a great deal to make budgets work and keep the conference accessible to attendees. While we understand the burden an increase in cost can put on your libraries, we hope that with enough lead time and planning, we'll still be able to host you in Killington for a day that will be sure not to disappoint. To that end, please review our registration pricing below for 2025.

In order to support your attendance at the conference, we're also working with the VLA Scholarships & Awards Committee to offer scholarships to those who would otherwise not be able to attend. There will be more details soon on these scholarships, so keep an eye out!

More to come soon!

Maria & Erin VLA Conference Planning Committee Co-chairs on behalf of the 2025 <u>conference committee</u>

Maria Avery (she/her) Community Outreach Manager, <u>UVM Libraries</u> <u>mavery@uvm.edu</u> 802-656-8601

## **Public Libraries**

by Josh Worman

At the end of September 2024, I met virtually with Roz King, Director of the Emergency Medicine Research Associate Program at UVM, to discuss her idea of partnering with VLA to initiate a program for establishing libraries (especially rural ones) as sites where telehealth appointments could be held. Roz and her team were awarded grant funding for this project in late 2024, and we will be meeting soon to develop an implementation plan. She hopes to launch a pilot project involving two libraries, with the ultimate goal of having around half the libraries in Vermont able to hold telehealth appointments.

In a time of soaring health costs and more limited services, the hope is that libraries can step in and provide a way for people with limited internet access and/or transportation issues to be able to meet more easily with their healthcare providers. Roz and I are both very excited about the idea of Vermont libraries expanding their service offerings, especially for rural Vermonters, in an area where there is clearly a need.

Stay tuned to the VLA listserv for updates on this project and opportunities to participate.

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

# **Technical Services Roundtable**

by Erik van Eck

Join us for an informal Meet-and-Greet of Technical Services/Cataloging staff. As we revive this roundtable, we plan to discuss topics concerning all aspects of behind-the-scenes library technical

#### trustees.

### **Committees**

Government Relations & Advocacy Chair:

Margaret Woodruff Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

#### 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: <u>Maria Avery</u> 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:

<u>Erik van Eck</u> Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Youth Services Chair: Erin Davison

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

VLA News Editor:

work: acquisitions, cataloging, collection management, and other important topics of "invisible" work. Anyone with ideas to contribute is welcome to attend and share.

Interested in staying in the loop about future Technical Services Roundtables? Please fill out this <u>survey</u> (<u>https://forms.gle/oTJDu7Nv6t3VjRNd6</u>) to be added to our mailing list, and let us know what sorts of topics you'd like to see covered in the future.

Erik van Eck VLA Technical Services Roundtable Chair Circulation and Technical Services Librarian, <u>Hartland Public Library</u> <u>circulation@hartlandlibraryvt.org</u> 802-436-2473

## **Youth Services**

by Erin Davison

I found three different, individual mittens left behind in the youth department, the children are growing weary of wearing boots and looking for every opportunity to take them off, and everyone's cheeks are rosy red. It must be February!

Hello to my fellow youth services librarians and staff who work with our youngest patrons during their germiest time of year. I hope everyone is staying as healthy as possible.

At the VLA conference last May, we had lots of amazing ideas, one of which I was really hoping would be in working order by now: a resource-sharing website with ready-to-go storytime plans and program ideas. I have a few drafts of options but would love to put together a small committee of people who are interested in helping to maintain and design the site. Please contact me at <u>edavisonys@gmail.com</u> if you're interested!

Speaking of the VLA conference, the call for proposals

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf05B2Oi TMjR914XCRpLknfoPbmE05d407ilwVxzDC WG7sQ/viewform) is up, and I encourage you to put together a proposal. If you're unsure about a full session, please consider putting together a Spark Presentation (5 minutes and 20 slides). I know I learn the most from my fellow youth services people, and I can't wait to hear from you!

Stay warm and remember that summer reading is coming...

Erin Davison Youth Services Roundtable Chair Youth Services Librarian, <u>Norwich Public Library</u> <u>edavisonys@gmail.com</u> 802-649-1184

ALA

by Catharine Hays

### ALA January Council Meeting Highlights and Upcoming ALA Elections

ALA Council meetings (<u>https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council</u>) were held during the <u>LibLearnX Conference</u> on January 24-27 in Phoenix, AZ. Attending remotely from frosty Vermont, I captured these highlights:

- Chapters must now follow the same guidelines for corporate sponsorships as ALA.
- An expanded set of candidates for the Executive Board presented their platforms.
- The <u>Committee on Legislation</u> confirmed its resolve to address the most important of the recent executive branch actions. Check out the "Show Up for Our Libraries" page (<u>https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries</u>) for advocacy resources and updates.

ALA elections will be held from March 10, 2025 through April 2, 2025, open to members in good

### Janet Clapp

VLA News Team: Sarah Townsend Kelly Bartlett

Digital Communications: Tessa Johnson Susan Larson Jessamyn West

### Representatives

ALA Councilor:

Catharine Hays Represents Vermont in the national organization.

### NELA

### Representative:

Lucinda H. Walker Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board: <u>Catherine Delneo</u>

### Jobs & Subs

For library jobs: VLA Job Postings

For library subs: Vermont Library Substitute Pool

### 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: • VLA will be offering the three <u>ALA presidential candidates</u> an opportunity to give 10-minute remarks in support of their candidacy during our March 20 virtual meeting.

• There was extensive discussion during the ALA Council meeting about the size of the Executive Board, the costs associated with a recently expanded board, and how best to ensure inclusion. ALA members will also vote on this in the spring, so stay tuned for more information through your membership.

Catharine Hays Vermont Chapter Councilor to the American Library Association Director, <u>Bixby Memorial Free Library</u> <u>catharine.hays@bixbylibrary.org</u>

## **Trustees & Friends**

### by Howard Burrows

In Ann Braden's 2018 book for young adults, *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*, "Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses."

Could the library Friends and trustees in Vermont – over 1000 of them – provide some extra arms for Vermont librarians? To see what sorts of help we might provide, please go to "Advocacy & Issues" (<u>https://www.ala.org/advocacy</u>), the American Library Association's list of current ideas for Friends and trustees.

We want to survey each library board and/or Friends group across the state to see what skills and interests we have amongst us. Could it be useful to form task forces across boards and Friends groups in such areas as advanced technologies and artificial intelligence, health and medicine, arts and literature, music, education, civic engagement and awareness, age group interests such as children and families, young adults, or seniors? How many Friends and trustees are former librarians or have expertise that we could share?

With support from the Vermont Department of Libraries, a core group within the VLA Friends & Trustees Section will develop strategies to engage Vermonters in projects that strengthen each library in their role as a community center. We need to assess what librarians already know they need, but we also may provide insight and suggest projects beyond what is included in conventional libraries or even in librarian training.

A certainty at this uncertain time is that we will need public outreach and fundraising at levels beyond what we have done before, and much of this can benefit from larger projects than we can do one library at a time.

Vermont librarians must reach out to their local leaders; there are not a large number of Friends and trustees in VLA. In addition, the lists of experts constantly changes, and it is essential that we update who we are. Who currently on your list of Friends and trustees might step up to lead efforts that would be of use to librarians and their staff, even reaching beyond what the current librarians and staff can provide themselves? How might we find the support to accomplish unanticipated challenges?

If you can help, reach out to me by email using subject heading: "VLA Friends/Trustees survey."

Howard Burrows VLA Friends & Trustees Acting Chair Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro <u>ghburrows@comcast.net</u> 603-630-0012

# Vermont Libraries

#### standing.

[Message Clipped] <u>View</u> Entire Message

Other mail clients should receive *VLA News* in its entirety, but if not, please <u>let us</u> <u>know</u>.

# in the News

compiled by Susan Larson

"Vermont State Librarian visits Rutland to talk about how to make a library" <u>https://www.rutlandherald.com/news/local/vermont-state-librarian-visits-rutland-to-talk-about-how-to-make-a-library/article\_7308edf2-d8f7-11ef-8b27-4fbe73d9185c.html</u>

"Rutland Free Library hears feedback on move plans" <u>https://www.rutlandherald.com/news/local/rutland-free-library-hears-feedback-on-move-plans/article\_939f4f7a-d50f-11ef-a84c-7b119c4c208e.html</u>

Putney Public Library celebrates 20th birthday with a month of events <u>https://www.reformer.com/community-news/putney-public-library-hosting-its-20th-birthday-and-more/article\_eddab7da-d51a-11ef-add3-8f8780980def.html</u>

"Morristown sticks with initial budget cuts to public library" https://www.vtcng.com/news\_and\_citizen/news/local\_news/morristown-sticks-with-initial-budget-cutsto-public-library/article\_a33475e4-d43a-11ef-ae6c-cf8c534d6474.html

"Bob Joly Retires as St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Director; Kacy Guill Hired as New Director" https://www.northstarmonthly.com/arts\_and\_entertainment/bob-joly-retires-as-st-johnsburyathenaeum-director-kacy-guill-hired-as-new-director/article\_2ff95404-d2a6-11ef-99b8e7be3b9e5383.html

Vermont author and illustrator Liza Woodruff reads her new picture book at South Burlington Public Library on February 1

https://www.vtcng.com/otherpapersbvt/community/noteworthy/get-your-phil-with-book-reading-atsouth-burlington-library/article\_33558714-d466-11ef-ab60-2715a2231544.html

"Interim co-directors of Pawlet Library? Board hears proposal" https://www.manchesterjournal.com/community-news/interim-co-directors-of-pawlet-library-boardhears-proposal/article\_1f9e8294-d366-11ef-9008-27a7c71c122e.html

"Fletcher Free Library Joins Vt. Homecard Library System" <u>https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/parenting/fletcher-free-library-joins-vt-homecard-library-system/ar-BB1rk5cf</u>

"Rutland asks for public input on moving the library and City Hall to Merchants Row" <u>https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2025-01-15/rutland-asks-for-public-input-on-moving-the-library-and-city-hall-to-merchants-row</u>

Selectboard considers renovation of former veterinary office versus new building for Highgate Library <a href="https://www.samessenger.com/news/government/new-plans-for-highgate-library-selectboard-considers-renovation-of-former-vets-office/article\_c46f62d4-cdda-11ef-9704-77be59052e40.html">https://www.samessenger.com/news/government/new-plans-for-highgate-library-selectboard-considers-renovation-of-former-vets-office/article\_c46f62d4-cdda-11ef-9704-77be59052e40.html</a>

"UVM researchers look to local libraries as potential vessels for telehealth accessibility" as VLA and UVM partner on a grant

https://www.wcax.com/2025/01/08/uvm-researchers-look-local-libraries-potential-vessels-telehealthaccessibility/

"The Craftsbury Public Library received a \$9,130 grant to help upgrade its aging computer network." The grant is from the WaterWheel Foundation Fund, through The Vermont Community Foundation. <u>https://hardwickgazette.org/2025/01/07/library-receives-grant-for-computer-upgrades/</u>

Swanton Public Library serves as Howard Center's Substance Use Services Mobile Unit site <a href="https://howardcenter.org/news-archive/howard-center-introduces-new-substance-use-services-mobile-unit/">https://howardcenter.org/news-archive/howard-center-introduces-new-substance-use-services-mobile-unit/</a>

UVM's Leahy Institute \$2.4M award includes funding for "[a] study to explore the viability of offering telehealth services in rural Vermont libraries. This effort to improve access to quality healthcare is a partnership between the Vermont Library Association, UVM's Department of Emergency Medicine (Larner College of Medicine) and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences." https://vermontbiz.com/news/2024/december/19/uvms-leahy-institute-awards-24m-advance-vermont-

### partnerships

Town Manager proposes \$80K budget cut for Morristown Centennial Library <u>https://www.facebook.com/morristowncentenniallibrary/posts/pfbid0TbJchjP8pAqYxKuHrQfZ68dJYAhi</u> <u>4TdJ1De7J146EazB23ZLtSRJNFw9sVEmC9Nhl</u>

Christine Walton is the new director at Highgate Library & Community Center <u>https://www.samessenger.com/news/christine-walton-takes-the-baton-highgate-library-focuses-on-community/article\_c210bca4-b73c-11ef-be7f-fb1a83f0a342.html</u>

"Lydia Taft Pratt Library receives 'unprecedented' grant for \$54K" <u>https://www.reformer.com/community-news/lydia-taft-pratt-library-receives-unprecedented-grant-for-54k/article\_aa160a14-b647-11ef-927b-9fc3e3703fcb.html</u>

Westford Public Library Director Bree Drapa on Across the Fence https://youtu.be/9EuwrxVEUNM?feature=shared

"The Waterbury Public Library Commissioners would like to outline the library's contribution to the construction of a new municipal complex." <u>https://www.vtcng.com/waterbury\_record/opinion/letters\_to\_the\_editor/library-funding-for-office-complex/article\_2e7fa796-8e91-11e3-92c3-001a4bcf887a.html</u>

"Rochester Library Offering Free Snacks and Book Clubs" <u>https://www.ourherald.com/articles/rochester-library-offering-free-snacks-and-book-clubs/</u>

"Disappointed In Library Vote" regarding Kimball Library https://www.ourherald.com/articles/disappointed-in-library-vote/

"Manchester Community Library celebrates 10 years with a dinosaur-themed birthday party" <u>https://www.manchesterjournal.com/local-news/manchester-community-library-celebrates-10-years-with-a-dinosaur-themed-birthday-party/article\_aa33d02a-a757-11ef-97c1-7353619d46c4.html</u>

"Steampunk fashion at Springfield Library" https://vermontjournal.com/news/steampunk-fashion-at-springfield-library/

"'Americans and the Holocaust' Exhibition Opens" at Stowe Free Library https://www.sevendaysvt.com/arts-culture/americans-and-the-holocaust-exhibition-opens-in-stowe-42352220

"Board chair and newly hired Pawlet Library director resign" <u>https://www.manchesterjournal.com/local-news/newly-hired-pawlet-library-director-resigns/article\_46ef48a0-aced-11ef-8926-4b3838243a1c.html</u>

"Fletcher Free Library keeps doors open for Thanksgiving" https://www.wcax.com/video/2024/11/28/fletcher-free-library-keeps-doors-open-thanksgiving/

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont (APSVT) and Brooks Memorial Library observe World AIDS Day 2024

https://www.reformer.com/community-news/aids-project-and-brooks-library-commemorate-world-aidsday/article\_c064ac86-adb3-11ef-aa1c-c7ed572449bb.html

"Fairfax Community Library heads back to BFA-Fairfax campus" <u>https://www.samessenger.com/news/fairfax-community-library-heads-back-to-bfa-fairax-campus/article\_fe6b979c-b1b9-11ef-987c-8f5cb193f23e.html</u>

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library releases its 2024-2027 Strategic Plan https://www.willistonobserver.com/news/williston/library-announces-new-strategicplan/article\_9c527d4a-b291-11ef-a3c4-fb10bb8d955a.html

"Manchester Community Library director announces resignation, expresses unwavering support for MCL mission and future"

https://www.manchesterjournal.com/local-news/manchester-community-library-director-announcesresignation-expresses-unwavering-support-for-mcl-mission-and-future/article\_476e0f3e-ab5b-11ef-828c-33789eb74ace.html Lanpher Memorial "Library Director Amy Olsen emphasizes the evolving role of libraries" https://www.mynbc5.com/article/this-is-our-home-hyde-park-vt/62802962

Fletcher Memorial Library Wins "Best on Main" in Ludlow's scarecrow contest <a href="https://vermontjournal.com/featured-articles/scarecrows-on-main-contest-winners/">https://vermontjournal.com/featured-articles/scarecrows-on-main-contest-winners/</a>

"Family Lantern Walk Celebration" outside Warren Library https://www.valleyreporter.com/index.php/news/artsent/19465-family-lantern-walk-celebration

"We don't make decisions in a vacuum:" Brooks Memorial Library at budget open house <u>https://www.reformer.com/local-news/we-dont-make-decisions-in-a-vacuum-brattleboro-brainstorms-</u> <u>at-budget-open-house/article\_6cfa7bde-a14c-11ef-8dc0-0bc65e4c4919.html</u>

"After long wait, Salisbury Town Hall [and library] fix is imminent" https://www.addisonindependent.com/2024/11/14/after-long-wait-salisbury-town-hall-fix-is-imminent/

The North Bennington Head Start Program visited Bennington Free Library in November <u>https://www.benningtonbanner.com/community-news/thats-not-a-pickle-thats-my-pizza-imagination-knows-no-limits-in-head-start-program/article\_7d77d3f4-9d4a-11ef-a479-7b843ccb86ce.html</u>

VLA's Public Library Section hosts Upper Valley Library Tour November 15 https://vermontlibraries.org/upper-valley-library-tour-november-15

"This Election Should Not Determine the Fate of Libraries (But it Might Have)" <u>https://www.everylibrary.org/election2024</u>

"Dover Free Library has lots to offer all year long" <u>https://www.reformer.com/community-news/dover-free-library-has-lots-to-offer-all-year-long/article\_32639cf2-8b18-11ef-a3ee-97081dc3d0f9.html</u>

H.F. Brigham Free Library and Lawrence Memorial Library awarded Spark Connecting Community grants

https://vermontcf.org/news/spark-2024-grants/

"Check out DINOvember at Putney Public Library" https://www.reformer.com/community-news/check-out-dinovember-at-the-putney-publiclibrary/article\_0c24a6a2-8bc8-11ef-b066-1f595747af98.html

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

The Vermont Library Association (VLA) deactivated its social media site X (formerly Twitter), and archived its posts on the website at <u>https://vermontlibraries.org/tweets/</u>. The Digital Media Team and the Executive Board determined that the benefits of being on X were outweighed by the negatives. VLA was active on Twitter from 2012 until November 2024. The archive displays VLA posts, but not replies to other's posts.

Visit Us on the Web! https://vermontlibraries.org/

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