Kellogg-Hubbard Library
135 Main Street | Montpelier, Vermont 05602 | 802-223-3338 | kellogghubbard.org

Serving Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester
Carolyn Brennan

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library scholar R. David Lankes says, “Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.” Libraries, more than any other place, anchor us and instill in us a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. They are a place where everyone belongs at a time when we feel most vulnerable. They are immutable and familiar, but vibrant and ever changing.

I love working in a library because of the infinite variety and the lack of judgment. A purely democratic institution, libraries guarantee you equal service regardless of your interests, wealth or background. Think of a question on any topic you can imagine and then ask a librarian and they will help lead you to an answer. In a library, you can become equally versed on how to plumb a kitchen faucet and how to correctly emphasize the wording to hear the meter of Virgil’s Aeneid.

I learned to read in a library. When my family couldn’t afford summer camp, the library became my camp, with arts and crafts on demand, entertaining and educational programs that delighted me and books that offered perspectives and experiences far from those I encountered as a kid in the Northeast Kingdom. When I was in school, the library was a quiet place to study and a means to explore my interests beyond the common core. As a young professional, the library was my entertainment “budget” when I had none. Now, it’s an immeasurable privilege to work for an institution that creates transformative experiences like my own every day.

Jessie Lynn

NONPROFIT DIRECTOR

Before coming to work at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, I worked in higher education as an academic advisor to adult students earning their Bachelor’s Degrees. I myself was an adult student, earning my BA while raising my two young children. As a non-traditional student, I have always considered myself a life-long learner, seeking opportunities to learn wherever I could, through reading, online workshops, attending programs, and learning on the job.

One of my favorite things about working at the Library is that it fosters a community of life-long learning. Every day, I’m surrounded by patrons, visitors and fellow staff members who are curious, engaged, intelligent, and eager to learn new things. The public library is truly the people’s university and our beautiful library is a valued resource to treasure.

In Susan Orlean’s wonderful book The Library Book, she cites a reference that is so incredibly relevant today. This is from a 1949 Public Library Manifesto that UNESCO published to establish the importance of libraries on the United Nations agenda. The manifesto states, “The library is a prerequisite to let citizens make use of their right to information and freedom of speech. Free access to information is necessary in a democratic society, for open debate and creation of public opinion.” Preserving and supporting our public libraries is one way we can all express our value for an open democracy, free speech and curious engagement in the world.

At left: Library staff at the Adamant Black Fly Festival. From left, Carolyn Brennan, Heather Kralik, and Jessie Lynn.

Cover photo by Ben Gabos.
It has been my privilege to serve on the Board for seven years and, most recently, as President of the Board of Trustees for the past three and a half years. During that time, the Library made great progress under the leadership of Tom McKone, our Executive Director who retired in June of this year. We have recently completed a major transition in leadership, to a team of two co-directors: Nonprofit Director, Jessie Lynn and Library Director, Carolyn Brennan. This has reduced our administrative team by one .75 FTE. I, along with the rest of the Board and the entire staff, were all very pleased when these two very competent, knowledgeable and experienced administrators stepped forward with their proposal to co-direct the Library.

The Library staff is highly professional; the five most senior staff members have an impressive 92 years of combined service to the organization and six of the newer staff have advanced degrees in Library Science. Our Library remains as busy as ever, with hundreds of people visiting daily; our materials circulation is the second highest in Vermont.

Many patrons have appreciated the improvements made in the landscaping of the grounds, and especially the addition of the delightful mouse sculpture created by Montpelier sculptor Ryan Mays gracing the right side of the main entrance. These are the result of very generous donations from Jay & Barbara White. Significant steps have been and are being taken to address many deferred physical plant needs, with more planned for the near future.

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is proud to serve six central Vermont communities — Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester. Through the generous support of our six towns and hundreds of active supporters, the Library is able to provide its tremendous array of services and programs. To preserve this extraordinary institution, we must all work together: a strong Board, a capable staff, and the continuing loyal support of our communities and patrons.
Over the last four years, while I’ve been serving as a Board Trustee, Finance Committee Member and currently as the Board Treasurer, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library (KHL) has accomplished a great deal in the area of financial operations and management. During that time, the Library fully implemented a new accounting structure, revised budget and financial statement formats, and received an unqualified opinion for the first full audit in 40 years. To achieve this clean audit opinion, KHL updated and approved all Board-level financial policies as well as internal operating procedures; reconciled our $4+ million professionally managed endowment fund; closed and replaced an administratively burdensome traditional retirement plan with a portable SEP-IRA plan, more appropriate for today’s mobile workforce, while maintaining the Library’s contribution rate. With a new streamlined management structure and our professional and motivated employees, KHL is well positioned to maintain our place as a valued community resource ready for the changing modern world of Library Services. As a group, the Trustees, management and employees are committed to facing the challenges of operations, fundraising, financial planning, and long-term sustainability head on, as well as the care and maintenance required of our beloved historic building.

The financials for FY19 are still in progress and will be available this fall. Library financials for the previous 5 years are available on our website: kellogghubbard.org/financial-information

**FY2019 HIGHLIGHTS**

The Library is a busy place and there are a great many things that we could highlight. Here are just a few from this past year:

- We replaced and upgraded our **website**, as well as our **library software**.
- With the help of a generous donor, we updated all of our **public computers**.
- Both our **phone lines** and **power lines** were replaced this year (see right).
- We installed a new **bike rack** on the front lawn.
- Two of the **trees** on our property received care to ensure their good health.
- Our 20-year old **heating system controls** were replaced.
Donors

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Melanie & Brian Greer
Daniel & Mary Margaret Groberg
Barbara Grothe-Penney & Robert Penney
Elizabeth Grupp
Thierry Guerlain &

East Montpelier Elementary School students visit the library.
Left, yoga storytime.
In the Margins Award, and been long listed for the National Book Award. Steptoe New Talent Award, two Coretta Scott King Honors, The Walter Award Honor, for her book, The Season of Styx Malone. We are pleased to announce that nationally acclaimed Vermont author Kekla Magoon will be our special guest of honor. Magoon is the author of eleven novels and was recently nominated for the Vermont Book Award for her book, The Season of Styx Malone. She has received an NAACP Image Award, the John Steptoe New Talent Award, two Coretta Scott King Honors, The Walter Award Honor, the In the Margins Award, and been long listed for the National Book Award.

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Craftsbury Outdoor Center
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Downtown T’s
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Guitar Sam
Charles Hewenthal
Marcia Hill
Rich Horchler
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Three Penny Taproom
5% BENEFIT DAY for KHL
TUESDAY, OCT 22, 2019
Our friends at Three Penny Taproom will be donating a portion of the day’s proceeds to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Bring your friends and family for lunch, dinner or a drink, all while supporting a great cause!
Library Staff

Carolyn Brennan
Co-Director, Library Director

Jessie Lynn
Co-Director, Nonprofit Director

Diana Baron
Assistant Circulation Librarian

Autumn Bissonette
Assistant Circulation Librarian

Laura Franske
Nonprofit Clerk

Heather Kralik
Outreach Coordinator

Scott Lovelette
Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Librarian

Carol Minkiewicz
Circulation Librarian

Kevin Moore
Technical Services Librarian

Steve Picazio
Head Circulation Librarian

Rachel Senechal
Development Coordinator

George Spaulding
Circulation Librarian

Nicole Westbom
Children’s Programming Librarian

Rachel Wykle
Assistant Circulation Librarian

STAFF TRANSITIONS

• Tom McKone, Executive Director, retired on June 30 after five and a half years of leading the Library.

• After working with us for three years, Sarah Blair left us on July 31 to focus on teaching music.

• Lauren Wallace is now working at the VT Dept. of Libraries after two years at KHL.

We wish them all the best in their new endeavors!