Give the Library a Lift!
An update on building projects

Jessie Lynn, Nonprofit Director
We are incredibly grateful to the more than 200 individuals, families and organizations who helped us meet and exceed our Give the Library a Lift! (GLL) fundraising goal. This $600,000 campaign funds 25 different building projects, helping us catch-up on a number of projects that were deferred when the budget didn’t stretch far enough and to address some critical issues, like the upgrade and modernization of our 40-year old elevator (aka, “the lift!”) Our current elevator has reached the end of its expected lifespan and is our priority project for 2020.

In addition to the elevator, we have 3 other GLL projects planned for 2020. With matching grant funds from the Vermont Arts Council, we will be adding a cooling unit to our very busy and well-used program and meeting room space (the “Hayes Room”) on the first floor. Like most of our building, this space doesn’t have A/C, so we will install a wall-mounted cooling unit that will be controlled by a thermostat, allowing staff to adjust the temperature as needed. We will replace our front bookdrop, another well-used library feature that has served us well, but is due for an upgrade. And finally, we will have some masonry work done on the historic part of the building, including recapping a leaking chimney and replacing mortar in areas that have deteriorated.

You can follow the progress on our website, kellogghubbard.org/lift, which links to our campaign Instagram page. Currently it gives you a sneak peek behind the scenes on the building and we will regularly update this page with photos as the building project work begins.

One GLL project is caring for the Friezes.
Kellogg-Hubbard houses three beautiful replicas of historical friezes: one from the Parthenon and two from a cathedral in Florence. They symbolize community, culture, and unity and have graced our walls since 1953. They are in need of a good cleaning, improved lighting and a documentation project so that visitors can benefit from their story and history.

Children’s Librarian Nicole Westbom and Shakespeare Campers use the elevator between rehearsals.
PoemCity is celebrating its 11th year with over 300 poems by Vermonters in storefront windows in downtown Montpelier and 30 readings, workshops, and concerts all in honor of National Poetry Month. Programs will include poetry & jazz, a climate change themed poetry slam, a poetry reading about Vietnam and other wars, a poetry postcards workshop, a reading from LGBTQ poets, and much more. PoemCity will also feature poetry and artwork exhibits in several venues including City Center, the Capitol Region Visitor’s Center, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, and Capitol Grounds. PoemCity events are free and open to all. Visit www.kellogghubbard.org/poemcity or www.facebook.com/PoemCityMontpelier for a complete listing of events and for more information.

POEMS AND COCKTAILS
We have a special event this year! On Thursday, April 30 at 5:30pm, the Vermont Humanities Council will host a cocktail party celebrating PoemCity 2020. Come share a special moment that you witnessed this year in our festival of poesy or read a favorite poem that was posted in PoemCity 2020.

RICHARD BLANCO: HOW TO LOVE A COUNTRY
Join us for a First Wednesdays/PoemCity presentation with Richard Blanco who will read from his recent poetry collection How to Love a Country, exploring immigration, gun violence, racism, LGBTQ issues, and more, April 3 @ 7pm at the Unitarian Church. On April 4 @ 10:30am Blanco will lead a poetry workshop at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Pre-registration is required by contacting the library at 223-3338.

Booksale Volunteers
We rely on volunteers to set up our four book sales each year. It is an amazing undertaking to unpack thousands of books and to place them on shelves and tables by genre. We estimate that each sale has at least 6,000 books! Fortunately, National Life Group employees help us with the book sales. Some National Life staff come together as a group to work to set up the books and some come on their own. National Life is a true community partner: they give their employees paid time off — 40 hours per year — to volunteer at nonprofits. Thank you National Life! We have several individuals who volunteer on a regular basis to help with the book sales. Bob and Jean Berry (at left) have helped with the book sales for many years. Bob started volunteering in 2011 and Jean in 2014. That’s what we call dedication! They are taking a short hiatus right now, but will be back at it in the future.

We have eleven new book shelves that were built by Michael Curtis. The rooms look great and it’s easier to get around to choose the books you want to buy.

Both Bob Berry and Michael Curtis are members of the Montpelier Kiwanis Club — another organization that supports the library in many ways. Our next book sale opens on March 7 and continues until April 18.

From left, Jasmine Beatty, Michelle Goodwin, Michelle Larose and Sue Preedom.

SELF-CHECKOUT KIOSKS COMING SOON
Working at the Library is a continual exercise in getting the most out of everything; we continually look for ways to innovate; especially when that means finding ways to free up time or resources. In spring 2020 we’ll be unveiling our latest innovation: 2 self-checkout kiosks. We’ll have a freestanding kiosk on the first floor, and a desk mounted kiosk in the children’s library. To use them you will scan your library card and then scan your items. Patrons who are ducking in on their lunch break, or on their way home from work, will be able to grab-and-go quickly without waiting in line at the circulation desks. We will still have just as many librarians working at the desks, so if you have a question, want a recommendation, or just like checking books out the old-fashioned way, that will always be an option.

— Carolyn Brennan, Library Director

Historical Tidbit: In 1918, during the Spanish Flu epidemic, the Library closed to the public for 3 months. All books returned from “infected families” were burned.
Getting to Know You!
Meet our newest library staff

We asked our newest library staff three questions in order to learn a bit about them.

1. What are you reading?
2. What is a favorite pastime?
3. What do you like about KHL?

JOANNE BREIDENSTEIN
After-School Monitor

Reading: The Topeka School by Ben Lerner, which I checked out from KHL.
Pastimes: Singing. I currently help lead a new community chorus in Middlesex focused on raising awareness and support for folks living with depression.

KHL? I just love being part of such a welcoming and dedicated staff.

MELISS BUNCE
Children’s Programming & Circulation Librarian

Reading: This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger, a tale of four orphans who flee an Indian school in Minnesota during the Depression and travel downriver towards the Mississippi and freedom. Sort of a mash-up of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and the movie O Brother, Where Art Thou?
Pastimes: I’m a dedicated gardener, currently marveling at the zone 5 David Austin rose in luscious full bloom in my unheated sunroom, and hoping to establish many of my Maryland plants that moved with me up here last year.

KHL? Every single day I am grateful for the dedicated, quirky, supportive staff here.

DIANE GRENKOW
Assistant Circulation Librarian

Reading: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
Pastimes: I like to spin and knit.

KHL? I like KHL for the people — the ones that work here and all the ones that come in from young to old.

MICHÈLLE SINGER
Adult Programs & Volunteer Coordinator

Reading: I just finished reading Jane Austen’s Emma in anticipation of the new movie adaptation and that I’m currently reading J.K. Rowling’s Very Good Lives.
Pastimes: One of my favorite pastimes is traveling, especially to literary sites.

KHL? There is so much to love about the KHL — the beautiful building, the active community, the great people.

SARAH ROGERS
Circulation Librarian

Reading: Scythe by Neal Shusterman, Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan, and Eyes Wide Open by Paul Fleischman.
Pastimes: Exploring new places.

KHL? I love the people and community at KHL!

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CLEAN UP FAIRIES IN THE CHILDREN’S LIBRARY!

At the end of a long and busy afternoon recently, we trudged over to our Baby and Toddler Area to straighten up. Imagine our surprise when we discovered it was spick and span, neat as a pin, clean as a whistle! The board books were all back on the shelves, the puzzles were all assembled and neatly stacked, the two train tables were cleared of everything but their trains and train tracks. After a bit of sleuthing we identified our Fairies — three preteens who love our library and wanted to help to make it tidy for our littlest customers. We thanked them profusely, but unlike the Cobbler’s Elves, these Fairies did not disappear when caught out doing their good deeds. They have returned again and again, to make the Baby and Toddler Area a shining example of how much the library means to our customers. Thank you, Clean Up Fairies. You Rock!
Outreach News

Outreach has been very busy bringing the library to our wonderful communities! We have five new volunteers reading to children in daycare and soon will have a bi-monthly reading visit to preschool students at Rumney Memorial School in Middlesex.

Thirteen volunteers go to 15 childcare sites every week. For many of our volunteers bringing and reading books to children is the highlight of their week as well as a special event for our kids. We visit preschools in Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester three times a year (including once in the summer) bringing story time books, an activity, and brand new books for children to take home as their own.

We maintain four Give a Book/Take a Book sites, which our volunteers keep freshly stocked. You can find these books at Red Hen Baking, the Berlin Mall, Elm St. Laundromat, The Post Office Café and coming soon — the Maple Corner Store.

We have three Outreach Library Annexes at The Adamant Coop, The Old Meeting House, and the Worcester Community lunch. We bring library books that patrons can check out for one month. A perk of our efforts is having a divine lunch in Worcester and East Montpelier. This is community at its finest!

The Outreach book groups are going strong. Nine participants in the Adamant Book Group read The Only Woman in the Room by Heather Terrell and Red Hen Baking had five participants reading Circe by Madeline Miller.

We plan to introduce a monthly book cart at Westview Meadows in Montpelier as well as having Steve Picasio present a program about audio books.

Want to be an outreach volunteer? Contact Heather Kralik, 223-4665 or outreachKHL@kellogghubbard.org.

Left, outreach volunteer Georgia Valentine shares a happy moment with Rich and JR at the Worcester Lunch.

New Outreach volunteer Hugo Liepmann reads a story to children at Aubrey Boyle’s day care in Montpelier.

POP-UP EXHIBIT AT THE T.W. WOOD ART GALLERY

JULY 7–17, 2020 with a closing reception on Friday, July 17

In June of 2018, the Library received an unusual gift from a Library patron. In her will, Carol Cromwell left her carefully cultivated collection of 26 pieces of artwork, which includes six prints by Alexander Calder and five works by Arthur Secunda. It’s a beautiful and colorful collection that gives you a real sense of Carol’s personality and we welcome you to come enjoy and celebrate this gift of art with us! 17 of the pieces will be for sale by silent auction (benefits proceed KHL and the T.W. Wood Art Gallery).