

FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

The Fletcher Free Library is the largest, busiest, urban public library in Vermont. Our mission is to inform, enrich, and nurture a community of lifelong learners. We envision the Burlington community engaged in lifelong learning, and the Library as an essential partner in Burlington's economic, social, and cultural growth.

New Library Director

This year the Fletcher Free community was delighted to welcome a new Director, Mary Danko. Mary brings over 14 years of library experience, including three years as director of the Weathersfield Proctor Library and four years as director of the Hartland Public Library in Vermont. Mary has more recently served as Library Director at the Abbott Library in Sunapee, New Hampshire. The Abbott Library was named Library of the Year by the New Hampshire Library Trustee Association in the fall of 2015.

Mary says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Burlington in such vital role. I've always loved the City of Burlington and have been impressed by its commitment to innovation and forward-thinking approaches to serving the community. I'm excited to continue that same commitment at the Fletcher Free Library. The Fletcher Free Library has a history of being an institution of community engagement and life-long learning. I'm enthusiastic to be a part of the team that provides vital and meaningful services and support to the people of Burlington."

We look forward to working with Mary to continue the exciting work over recent years to redefine the Fletcher Free's role in the community, while continuing to deliver the core library services that Burlington relies on.

Library use

Library Services

- Fletcher Free is open 58 hours a week, 353 days a year.
- The Library had 243,214 visits during FY17, approximately 700 visits a day
- The library loaned 328,878 materials to patrons during FY17, over 900 check outs a day.
- Through FY17, the library had on average 12,542 active patrons a month.
- 2,567 new patrons registered during FY17.
- Our Tech Center had 36,368 login sessions on our publicly available computers with high speed internet connection, around 700 login sessions a week.
- 134,347 website visits, or over 2,584 visits to the website a week.
- 15,622 Wi-Fi logins, approximately 300 logins a week.
- 1,123 materials were loaned to other libraries and 657 materials borrowed from other libraries through Vermont's inter-library loan program.
- Over 75 volunteers contributed over 5,000 hours of their time to the Library.

Collection Development:

- The Library collection is made up of 156,521 items, including: 5,493 DVDs; 40,820 e-books; 7,845 download-

able audiobooks; 3,380 books on CD or MP; 315,910 streaming videos; 111,708 books and everything else (museum pass, book club kit, magazines, gardening tools)

- 11,625 new materials were added to the collection in FY17, almost 1,000 new materials added to the collection monthly.



Mary Danko
Director

Programs and Events

- 619 programs were offered to the community in FY17, benefitting 15,214 community members, including:
 - 196 early learner and youth programs, with 8,875 participants.
 - 139 programs for teens, with 2,664 participants.
 - 284 programs for adults, with 3,675 participants.
- 403 community programs were held at the Library during FY16, with more than 6,000 participants.
- 125 senior residence book deliveries, music programs, and home-bound patron visits were conducted in FY16, benefitting on average 370 seniors each month.
- 120 language learning classes were offered to the community in FY17.
- 32 digital literacy classes were offered to the community, benefitting 170 adults, approximately 26% of whom were seniors.

Highlights

Hosting a Smithsonian exhibition "Exploring Human Origins"

Barbara Shatara, Programs and Partnerships Librarian at the Fletcher Free and Project Director for the Smithsonian's Exploring Human Origins exhibit, calls this experience "one of the highlights of my career as a librarian at Fletcher Free Library." She believes the exhibit strengthened the Library's relationships with educational institutions and students of all ages. It provided an inspiration for the community to learn more about the science of evolution and take time to discuss our shared humanity with neighbors.

From February 18 through March 17, 2017, the Fletcher Free hosted the exhibition and offered programming to the community that explored the question "What does it mean to be human?" Barbara says, "It's a simple question, but not a simplistic one. We walk upright, we make complex tools, and we have long childhoods. But do those things make us feel human? Perhaps. What makes me feel human are those small moments we usually take for granted, like: holding the door for someone, driving on a sunny day and making a strawberry-rhubarb pie—a loved one's favorite."

Mary Danko, the Fletcher Free Library Director, says hosting Exploring Human Origins has made her think about how as humans we have only been on this earth for a very short time. Mary says, "We are such a small blip in the history of this earth, and that thought is very humbling. The most rewarding moment of the exhibit for me was watching school students go through the exhibit

FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY



with UVM Anthropology students as volunteer docents. I saw the Library's partnerships with the Smithsonian, the American Library Association, area secondary and elementary schools all come together. This experience was wonderful for everyone and I could envision many more of these kinds of partnerships in the library's future." 25 school tours of more than 800 students from schools in the Burlington School District and surrounding districts visited the exhibition.

What stands out for Rebecca Goldberg, Youth Services Librarian, as particularly memorable, "is a reminder of the depth of learning that happens at the library every day—the meaningful and rich connections I made with young patrons and their families around the Smithsonian sculpture of a young Neanderthal boy and his mother. Children running into the library's youth area curiously slowed their pace as they keenly observed the engaging relationship and silent communication between a mother and child."

Teen Lit Mob—VT's first teen literary festival

On April 7th, 118 teens took over the Fletcher Free Library as part of the first annual Teen Lit Mob. Vermont high schoolers from across the state with a passion for reading, fandom, and writing came together for a day of workshops and keynotes with renowned YA authors and illustrators, including Heather Demetrios, Aaron Starmer, Dayna Lorentz, and Stephanie Zuppo.

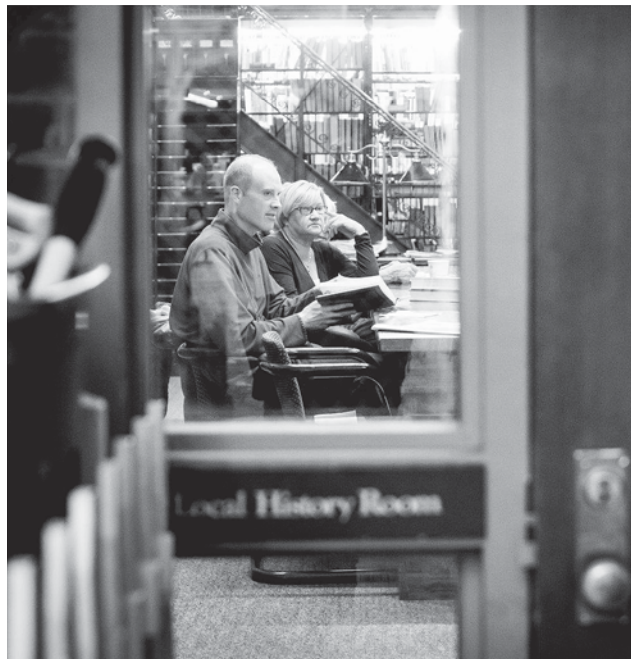
Teen Lit Mob's goals included connecting teen readers to authors and illustrators, supporting teen writers and illustrators, celebrating and encouraging reading for pleasure, promoting the Green Mountain Book Award, and cultivating an annual conference that celebrates YA literature in Vermont. And it did just that! Each attendee received a TLM tote stuffed with books courtesy of the

Green Mountain Book Award Committee and the Friends of the Fletcher Free Library. Prompted by their newfound TLM book swag and a literary bingo ice-breaker, teens dove into conversations with each other, swapped books, and geeked out over fandom.

Breakout workshops throughout the day included: Writing Your Guts Out: Letters to Heartbreak & Co.; She did WHAT?! On Character and Choice: A Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Workshop; Taming Inspiration: A Writing Workshop; One Sheet Comics Workshop.

Picture Book City in the Youth Department

We've changed things up at the Fletcher Free Library Youth Department. Picture Book City is a new and exciting system for organizing our picture book collection. Picture books have been divided into ten subject-based neighborhoods, each with a corresponding color. These new neighborhoods make it easier to locate specific books, easier to discover new favorites, and easier for children to select books independently. On April 26 we had a grand party to celebrate our new initiative. We celebrated with treats, music and more on April 26, and even had a special visit from our local firefighters.



FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY

Summer Learning Program

1,020 K-12th graders participated in our 2017 Summer Learning Program. Students from all Burlington School District schools and grades, Burlington area private schools and home schoolers, as well as early learners, signed up to read and have fun at the library over the summer. This year programming emphasized learning over the summer, in addition to reading. The Library hopes to work more closely with the Burlington School District to plan and implement a summer learning programming that supports student needs.

Our new brand

In December 2016, we rolled out our new brand, which has been very well received by the community. Our new brand is foundational to new marketing efforts, ensuring the community is aware of our programming and services.

New Staff in the Tech Center

Dodit Tshibamba (Full time) — Dodit (pronounced Doe-dee) is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He came to this country in 2012. He completed his degree in Network Administration from CCV in May. He is fluent in five languages. We are excited for the different expertise Dodit brings to the library team. We have expanded our digital literacy offerings, including HTML and other classes.

Fletcher Room Kitchen

Thanks to impact fee funds, we now have a brand-new kitchen in our Fletcher Room. New appliances and cabinets have brightened the room considerably and are appreciated by users of this meeting room.

Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

The Friends financial support to Library programming, professional development and special initiatives is crucial in the provision of quality services to the community. In 2016, the Friends invested \$34,278 in support to the Library—supporting programming, professional development and special project expenses.

The Friends are also active in our community. Their outreach efforts are largely focused on the management of book and resource donations to the Library, and the sale and redistribution of these donations. In FY17, these efforts were made possible by over 2,500 hours of volunteer time. Our Friends run the book stall at Library, organize and manage three book sales a year, provide book donations to a range of community organizations in the area, as well as advocate for the Library and library services in the community.

