Libraries have a paradoxical nature: even as they change, they remain steadfast. During the first phases of the pandemic in 2020-2021, we had to adjust our hours, our lending methods and the format for library programs. These changes created opportunities to expand our digital collections, make library services more equitable by eliminating fines on overdue materials and increase access to library programs by offering them digitally or with a mix of in-person and digital viewing.

We added regular Outreach stops in our member communities, so that patrons who can’t make it into Montpelier can have library materials delivered closer to home. When patrons could not access the Library stacks, we selected and recommended thousands of books, filled requests and delivered books to homeschooling families.

While our building was closed, we moved forward with several Give the Library a Lift! projects; completing our long-awaited elevator overhaul, repairing and refinishing our crumbling basement walls and floors and upgrading our public toilets. We installed new awnings on our historic windows and had areas of the mortar on our building repointed and repaired.

Fiscal year 2021 was an unpredictable year for fundraising. When we set the fiscal year’s budget, we weren’t sure what kind of winter fundraiser we would be able to have and we weren’t sure how the pandemic would affect our donors. By the end of the year we exceeded our fundraising goal; our donors clearly expressed their love of the library and their interest in our continued success. Our member communities also showed their clear support of the Library at Town Meeting Day. Out of respect for the fiscal uncertainties we all faced, we once-again sought level-funding in each of our towns, and each vote passed with a significant margin.

As we look forward into fiscal year 2022, we are preparing for a financial audit, a strategic planning process with our board, and the continuation of our beloved library services and programs. We hope to remain steadfast in the face of continued Covid variants as the year progresses.
Bridget Asay
BOARD PRESIDENT

The months that the Library was closed to the public last year is the longest time I’ve gone without visiting a library. Just before lockdown, I checked out a stack of books—books that were a comfort during those uncertain early days. As the unread stack dwindled, I wondered when I would be able to get more. But our incredible staff members were soon putting books outside and delivering them to all of our towns.

The books came back, but still, I missed the Library. I missed disappearing into the mystery section, looking for something new or reading chapters in old Amelia Peabody novels. I missed chatting with George at checkout. Daydreaming in the travel section. Finding cookbooks in the basement sale. Seeing friends. Stealing a moment with Atkinson or Adichie in the back of the fiction room. My first visit back to browse upstairs was pure joy.

Over the past year and a half, we learned how much that space means to us as a community. But we also learned that as much as we treasure our building, the Library is not a building. In the building or out, we have continued to support each other, to learn and explore new ideas, to welcome new members of our community, and yes, to read. I am grateful for the support that our communities continue to provide for the Library and for the extraordinary service provided by our co-directors and staff. Because of that support and hard work—because of all of you—the Library remained a vital community resource throughout this time.

As a Board, we are looking forward while acutely aware of the challenges of the present. We will develop a new strategic plan in 2022 with input from our communities, donors, and staff. We devoted our summer meetings to developing a sharper focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion—concerns that will be critical to our planning process. And thanks to your financial support, we are catching up with much-needed building maintenance. We are fortunate to be facing the challenges of the coming year with a strong leadership team, committed staff, and supportive communities.

Find all of our Board meeting minutes and information at kellogghubbard.org/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes.

FY2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Circulation

290,246 physical books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines circulated
33,662 materials circulated digitally (e-books, audio downloads, Flipster and Kanopy)
3,764 interlibrary items borrowed & loaned

Digital Circulation

27,777 digital e-book and audiobook circulations
1,300 digital magazine circulations
4,585 streaming video uses

Programs

69 adult programs held with 2,342 total attendees
151 children’s library programs held with 7,611 total attendees

Outreach

Outreach volunteers and staff made:
302 outreach visits to member towns
221 home delivery visits

President’s Report

Bridget Asay
BOARD PRESIDENT

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Circumstances like the past year test an organization at its core — plans out the window, services disrupted, and business models irrelevant. Revealed is the organization’s ability to focus strategically while adapting without hesitation.

Past annual reports focused on stewardship of the Library’s fiscal assets. Instead, I’d like to give you examples of how the Library’s co-directors, staff, board, and communities creatively stepped up to exit FY2021 stronger than ever.

Income from the six towns we serve was secure before the March 2020 lockdown. Even after a year reconfigured and reinvented library services, our towns again, in March 2021, decisively approved our FY22 budget requests. Even with many competing demands, our donors kept the Kellogg Hubbard Library among their giving priorities.

This was not a time to expect or insist on business as usual. The Library’s employees did neither. Instead, they demonstrated creative innovations in services, adapted work approaches, and discovered opportunities hidden in the disruption. As the year progressed, the staff, co-directors, and board crafted a new collective bargaining agreement and completed major renovation projects without inconveniencing our visiting public.

Finally, unanticipated public funds came our way from federal recovery programs. The challenge with “one-time” money is to avoid recurring future obligations. Our priority was to find “one-time” uses that would enhance our future fiscal position. To that end, the Library retired and paid off existing liabilities — an investment that will serve us well into the future.

- Re-opening the library fully on May 17 after a long year of curbside service and limitations on in-person services.
- Waiving overdue fines during the pandemic and then the board voting to go fine-free starting July 1, 2021.
- Adding outreach stops in each of our five member towns.
- Upgrading and modernizing our elevator.
- In addition to the elevator, successfully completing 7 other Give the Library a Lift! projects.
- Re-opening the booksale in early June in a new ongoing, perpetual booksale format.

FY20* OPERATING REVENUE
$936,000

$936,000

FY20* OPERATING EXPENSES

Municipal Contributions
52%

Staff Salaries
54%

Reserves
9%

Building Expenses
14%

Promotions & Programs
12%

Staff Benefits
5%

Collections & Programs
12%

Technology
6%

Professional Services
2%

Other Operations
1%

Misc. Revenue
3%

Donations & Sponsorships
12%

Endowment Distribution
25%

Collections & Programs
3%

Municipal Contributions
52%

* The financials for FY21 are still in progress and will be audited and available in the fall. Library financials for the previous 5 years are available on our website: kellogghubbard.org/financial-information.
Give the Library a Lift! Updates

We are pleased to share the tremendous progress on our Give the Library a Lift! campaign. With thanks to more than 200 donors, we successfully fundraised over $600,000 to address critical building projects in the Library, the completion of which will allow us to continue to serve many thousands of patrons for generations to come.

DONE AS OF JULY 1, 2021!

☑️ Refinished the exterior woodwork on the addition
☑️ Upgraded the HVAC computer controls
☑️ Restored the 31 historic windows in the 1894 section
☑️ Renovated the basement meeting room space
☑️ Replaced the exterior awnings
☑️ Repointed the masonry on the historic building
☑️ Repaired and recapped a leaking chimney
☑️ Installed a heat pump for cooling in the Hayes Room
☑️ Replaced the bookdrop outside the Main Street entrance
☑️ Repaired and repainted the crumbling basement walls
☑️ Upgraded the toilets in the 4 public bathrooms
☑️ Upgraded and modernized our 40-year old elevator (see before and after photos at right)

IN-PROGRESS 2021

☐ Completing lighting efficiency upgrades
☐ Upgrading our electrical circuit breaker organization
☐ Replacing the stair coverings in our School Street stairwells
☐ Replacing worn carpeting
☐ Cleaning the friezes in the Fiction room
☐ Producing a documentary booklet about the friezes
☐ Repairing the front entryway to the Main Street entrance

STILL TO DO

☐ Paint the exterior basement and attic windows
☐ Address the overheating issues on the 2nd floor under the skylight
☐ Maintain the exterior metalwork on the addition
☐ Repair the broken windows in the addition
☐ Maintenance on the interior wood throughout the building
☐ Repair the velvet curtains in the Reading Room
☐ Create a new outdoor seating area with landscaping

STAY CONNECTED TO THE LIBRARY

Follow KHL on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or sign up to receive the e-newsletter:

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Sign up for Library eNews: kellogghubbard.org
The Library Makes a Big Impact in the Community

“‘My children and I would not have survived the isolation of the pandemic without our weekly drop-off of books to the co-op in Adamant. The support from all the librarians who helped us — Steve & George for my grown-up books and Nicole, Meliss and Heather for the children’s books — was truly essential to our thriving during the pandemic. Each week we were rewarded with the most diverse array of gems: books in all shapes and sizes about every topic under the sun. I have been repeatedly astounded by the riches the library can offer us over the years, but it was the pandemic that highlighted the absolutely essential service the library provides to our wide community. A thousand thank-yous to all.”

—Sarah Lipton

“Our homeschooling family was so grateful for the support from Kellogg Hubbard Library during the pandemic. A librarian hand-chose books for us based on our requests and delivered them to our home each week. We were also able to get interlibrary loan requests from around the country. When summer came around, my children were very enthusiastic to do summer reading with the library program.”

—Devon Bonady

“I had two kids eagerly go browse the new books section in the Children’s Library and heard ‘YES! a couple of times when they found something they were particularly excited about.

—KHL librarian

Outreach Coordinator, Heather, showcases the KHL Car Library.

Three witches and Hecate from Shakespeare summer camp’s production of Macbeth.

Above, Miss Meliss takes story time outside.

Dog agility demonstration.
The Library Makes a Big Impact in the Community

When it seemed that absolutely everything was forced to cancel, Nicole found a way not only to continue Shakespeare camp, but to bring a new and fresh way to create and present the experience. Bravo!

—Eileen (parent) and Elena, age 12

I have autism and use an alternative type of communication called supported typing. I write poetry to express myself. I am happy that I can type, but it used to be very frustrating for me to make my needs known. Now I can share my thoughts and poetry.

—Scott Brodie

This is my fourth year participating in PoemCity. I feel honored to have my work displayed in the community. Thanks for letting me play!

—Greg Robertson

A patron walked in [when the library reopened] and said, ‘I just have to remove my mask a second. I’m fully vaccinated!’ and before I could reply, took a deep whiff of the library, replaced their mask, and said, ‘I just missed that smell so much!’ (I recommended they look into library scented candles on Etsy.)

—KHL librarian

Having settled our young family in Montpelier just a few weeks before the pandemic, we found connection and equilibrium through the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. The creative, caring concierge service offered by the children’s library team was the highlight of every week—a mini catalog of exactly the books that our 8- and 11-year old wanted to fight over and curl up with! The book discussion group coordinated by the outreach team encouraged me to read books I might not otherwise have selected and, more importantly, spend a bit of time talking with new people about new ideas at every virtual meeting. In a time of isolation behind closed doors, KHL and the wonderful team of librarians and staff kept our minds open through access to books and activities. Thank you!

—Elvira

One of the many stops our Outreach team makes to our member towns.

During the height of the pandemic, Sarah disinfects books in the quarantine room.

PoemCity 2021.
New Library Trustees

Craig Durham

What made you want to become a library trustee?
I wanted to get more involved with the Montpelier community and I thought there would be no better way than to become a trustee at one of the first institutions I was drawn to when my wife and I moved here a few years ago. It’s been a great experience.

What are you reading?
I’m currently reading a book of short stories by Haruki Murakami that I found at the library as well as a book called *Fridays with Red: A Radio Friendship* by Bob Edwards. I usually have one fiction and one non-fiction on the go at any given time.

What is the most surprising thing you learned about the library since becoming a trustee?
I think the most surprising thing I’ve learned since becoming a trustee is what a broad range of services the library offers. Personally, I use the library for a fairly narrow set of purposes, but it’s neat to see how the library serves everyone in a different way.

 Tai Nixa Peterson

What made you want to become a library trustee?
I’ve always had a passion for the resources and safe space libraries provide. After recently moving to Central Vermont, it was the perfect time to fulfill a lifelong dream to become more involved with my library and in the community. I am beyond honored to have the opportunity to serve as a trustee.

What are you reading?
I recently finished N. K. Jemisin’s the Broken Earth trilogy. I am now catching up on a large stack of books I’ve collected over the past year, including a few from some Vermont authors. My favorite genres besides novels are memoirs and anything about dance/arts!

What is the most surprising thing you learned about the library since becoming a trustee?
It’s been heartwarming to learn more about the community. Everyone has a deep love for the KHL, and I’m grateful to be part of such a special place. Additionally, I’ve learned more about structure and best practices, and how the board can influence positive change. I’m proud KHL went fine-free during my first year!

KHL Sustainers support the library with ongoing monthly contributions so we can keep our essential services and programs free and accessible year-round. Visit kellogghubbard.org/khl-sustainers to become a KHL Sustainer today!

Nicole hands out goody bags to kids during the wintertime Drive by and Wave “Hi!” event.
Library Staff

Carolyn Brennan
Co-Director, Library Director

Jessie Lynn
Co-Director, Nonprofit Director

Katelynn Averyt
Development Coordinator

Autumn Bissonette
Circulation Librarian

Meliss Bunce
Youth Services Librarian

Jason Kass
Building and Grounds Assistant

Carol Minkiewicz
Assistant Circulation Librarian

Sarah Rogers
Technical Services Librarian

Steve Picazio
Head Circulation Librarian

Michelle Singer
Adult Programs Coordinator

George Spaulding
Interlibrary Loan Librarian

Nicole Westbom
Youth Services Librarian

Sarah Wisner
Assistant Circulation Librarian

Rachel Wykle
Assistant Circulation Librarian

TRANSITIONS
Thank you so much to our departing Trustees and Staff! We wish them all the best in their new endeavors!

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Amy Cunningham
Steve Gold
Bonnie Johnson-Aten
Rachel Muse

STAFF
Joanne Breidenstein
Laura Franske
Diane Grenkow
Heather Kralik
Rachel Senechal
Martha Wales
In Honor of

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by William P. Herbst
Annette Fey
by Paul & Jennifer Waring
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by Mary Bronson, Robert Lincoln & Lynne Walther, Ruth & Robert McCulloch
Amanda & John Kim-Reid
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Susan Palmer
by Claudia Tetreault
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by Sam & M. Alden Jackson
Anna Sponatak
by George Sponatak
Sari Wolf
by Carol Minkiewicz

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by Sarah Hansen & Shyam Boriah
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by Carol Minkiewicz
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Joan G. Kissner
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Robert Miller
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Tai Nixa Peterson
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Betty & Frank Woods
Susan Zeller
Marjorie & Phillip Zunder

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Joan G. Kissner
Jonathan Herbst
by Driscoll Reid

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Graham Sherriff
Ann Stanton
Scott & Sarah Van Beck
Jean Vissering & Robert Klein
Judy & Stephen Walkie
Ron & Lynn Wild
Sari Wolf
Betty & Frank Woods
Susan Zeller

Thank you!

Jean & Bob Berry
Autumn & Chris Bissonnette
Amy Cunningham
Ryan & Lyndsay Deery
Roberta Downey
Katie Fahnstock
Steve Ferguson & Nancy Schultz
Steve Gold & Irina Markova
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Rachel & Josh Muse
Scudder Parker & Susan Sussman
Steve Picazio
Suzanne Ritz
Georgia Valentine
Grace Worcester & Elizabeth Bicknell
Susan Zeller

Program Innovation Fund

In honor of newly retired staff member Rachel Senechal, donors set up the Program Innovation Fund to kick start new programmatic initiatives. Thank you!

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Autumn & Chris Bissonnette
Amy Cunningham
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Steve Ferguson & Nancy Schultz
Steve Gold & Irina Markova
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Judith & Stephen Walke
Stanley & Susan Walser
Barry & Marilyn Wallace
Susan Walter
Richard Walton & Kate Gavin
Paul & Jennifer Waring
Dave Shepard & Susan Warren
Gloria Washburne
Susan Weber
Harris Webster
Barbara Weedon
Peter & Fran Weinbaum
Carole Welsh
Carolyn Wells
Joyce Werntgen
Nicole & Mike Westbom
Michael & Emily Wetherell
Jay & Barbara White
Mary White
Ron & Lynn Wild
Dr. Anthony & Katherine Williams
Stuart & Sarah Williams
Cassie Willner
Nat & Martha Winthrop
Mary Withington

Sari Wolf
Lynee Woodward
Betty & Frank Woods
Grace Worcester & Elizabeth Bicknell
Linda Workman
Janet & Baron Wormser
Sandra Wright
Rachel & Joshua Wykle
Terry York
Phillip & Ann Zalinger
Karen & Alan Zaur
Caroline Zeilenga & Aaron Lee
Jack & Jillian Zeilenga
Susan Zeller
Marjorie & Phillip Zunder

Businesses, Foundations & Groups

Bear Pond Books
BHHT Vermont Realty Group, Montpelier
Blandyake Financial Management
Capitol Copy
CenterPoint Financial, Inc.
Central Vermont Municipal Employee’s Union Local 1369
Colin McCaffrey Sound
Community National Bank
Concept 2
Denis, Ricker & Brown
Hickock Boardman Insurance
Everett Insurance Agency
Fothergill, Segale & Valley
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont, Inc.
Global Gifts
Green Mountain Druid School
Hunger Mountain Coop
KINNEY DRUGS
Kiwanis Club of Montpelier Inc
Maple Corner Woodworks
National Life Group Foundation
NECPCU
Network for Good
North Country Federal Credit Union
Northfield Savings Bank
Onion River Animal Hospital
Poetry Society of Vermont
rbTechnologies
Rice, Head & Bigelow, Inc.
Rich Cassidy Law, P.C.
S/R Janitorial Service
Seidman Family Foundation
Seymour H. Knox Foundation
State of Vermont
Sundog Poetry Center Inc
Tarrant, Gillies & Richardson Law Offices
The New York Community Trust
Union Mutual Companies
Vermont College of Fine Arts
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Community Loan Fund
Vermont Department of Libraries
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
VSECU
Washington Electric Co-op