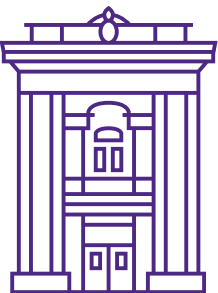


IMPACT REPORT

2024 FISCAL
YEAR

JULY 2023-JUNE 2024



**KELLOGG-
HUBBARD
LIBRARY**

A letter from KHL's Executive Director



Dan Groberg

On my twelfth day as Executive Director, there was a flood. I had barely learned where to hang my coat, let alone how to process payroll, but here I was dealing with an unprecedented crisis in my third week. The library basement, full to the ceiling with water, and every building system – electrical, phone and internet, heating, sprinklers and fire alarms, elevator, and more – damaged or destroyed.

It would be easy to write off this most recent fiscal year and move on eagerly to the next. But that would minimize the tremendous good that accompanied the challenges of the year.

When our community needed us the most, we stepped up. Our tremendous staff never wavered in their commitment to providing quality library services to our patrons. Just a week after the flood, we launched curbside pickup, with our librarians using headlamps to retrieve books among the darkened stacks.

We look forward to the potential improvements of air conditioning and enhanced ventilation throughout the building, the addition of new small-format meeting rooms, improved staff support spaces, and building systems designed to withstand future events by being built above the floodplain—contingent upon securing the necessary funding.

We relaunched our website and introduced a refreshed brand identity to present a more modern and welcoming presence for the library while improving access to library resources and making it easier for you to keep in touch with us.

We continued to diversify our programming and collections to better reflect our community, added new partnerships to reach more people, launched new digital resources, revised policies to protect intellectual freedom, and strengthened our internal practices to create a more sustainable organization.

We owe this all to you: our incredible community. You were there for us: from the 162 volunteers who showed up to muck out the basement to the 934 of you who made financial contributions, to the thousands of patrons we serve each month. You make this work rewarding, despite the challenges. Thank you.

Let's Keep in Touch

One of the key goals of our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan is to provide easy access to a high-quality and robust collection of information and media resources and services to people of all backgrounds.

This year, we launched a new website to provide an easier and more convenient way for you to access library resources, find what you're looking for, and keep in touch with the library.

In addition, our refreshed brand identity aims to present a more modern and welcoming presence for the library. We hope that our updated feel and brighter colors will let everyone know that we are a friendly and empowering home for learning where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome.

We have added staff capacity to allow us to do more to spread the word about library programs and services. We are also working on a plan for new signage throughout the building to help you find your way around the library and take advantage of all we have to offer.

Thank you to the team at Pluck for their great work on this project, and to the Network of the National Library of Medicine for their financial support.

This project has been funded in part with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, under Cooperative Agreement UG4LM012347 with the University of Massachusetts, Worcester.



Library, Underwater

On July 10–11, 2023, more than 7.5 feet of water filled the library basement, wiping out our book sale and damaging or destroying nearly every building system: electrical, phone and internet, heating and ventilation, sprinklers and fire alarms, the elevator, and more.

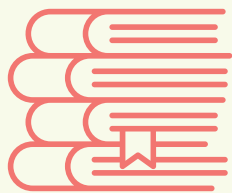
Total damage and rebuilding costs are estimated at \$2 million, to be funded by our flood insurance policy, generous community support, and FEMA.



Below, volunteers helped clean up after the flood, forming bucket brigades to move items.



By the Numbers



CIRCULATION

178,279

physical books, DVDs, CDs and magazines circulated

36,044

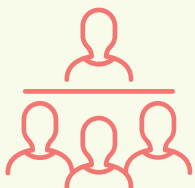
materials circulated digitally

4,794

streaming video plays & 80,020 site visits

4,061

interlibrary items borrowed & loaned



PROGRAMS

163

adult programs

2,369

total adult program attendees

286

children's library programs

7,295

total children's program attendees

Treasurer's Report

Donna Lasick



In July 2023, KHL was faced with the flooding crisis along with many other central Vermont businesses. The Library, staff, and new director not only had the challenges of the

normal operations and management of the FY 2024 budget, but also had to manage a second budget to track the flood recovery.

As a result of the flood, donors not only continued to support the KHL, but they increased their support compared to prior years. Surrounding towns continued with their generous support that kept our FY 2024 budget strong. We saw a decrease in revenue related to our book sale, which was closed due to the flood. Expenses came in almost on budget, with a slight increase in some areas during the year, specifically rising health insurance costs.

Management of the flood recovery budget has its own challenges, but has been handled extremely well by the director, staff and the board. There was a lot of thought put into the renovations plan to minimize costs incurred

in future flooding events. KHL received some insurance money for the flood damage in addition to the extra donor support. KHL will also obtain financial assistance from FEMA during FY 2025. Although we have an estimated cost of the full renovation, there is still uncertainty of unexpected costs as the renovations continue.

Another challenge of the flood renovations relates to timing of payment of the expenses and reimbursements. It's been over a year since the flood and although there has been progress in some renovations, the library will see most of the work completed in FY 2025. As a result, the surplus that we expect to show in FY 2024 primarily relates to funds that will be used to complete the renovations in FY 2025.

The staff, the director, and the board continue with strong stewardship and governance overall on management of the KHL, positioning the future of library for years to come.

The closing FY 2024 financial statements are still in progress and will be available in the fall.

Exciting Upgrades & A Greener Future

Six-person meeting

rooms: Small groups will love our new six-person meeting spaces, which will be equipped with technology for hybrid meetings.

Phone booth in the non-

fiction room: A new phone booth will allow patrons to pop in to take a call or a Zoom meeting.

A Fossil-Fuel Free Future:

We have removed our oil tanks and oil boiler, and now heat the building exclusively via sustainable District Heat. Green Mountain Power's electric supply is 100% carbon

free, and we are looking into the possibility of adding solar.

More Resilient Building

Materials: By using glass and flood-resilient drywall, we will be able to more easily and quickly respond to future basement flooding.

Flood-Proof Mechanical

Systems: We will move our building systems above flood elevations to prevent future damage.

Projects Pending Funding

Air conditioning and ventilation: We will add air

conditioning and improve ventilation throughout the building (only the Children's Library is currently air conditioned) while minimizing visual impact in the historic building.

Skylight Improvements:

Without any visual changes to the interior, we will modify the skylight to reduce solar gain and improve lighting year-round.

Phone booths in the

basement: Three new phone booths outside of the East Montpelier Room will allow patrons to pop in to take a call or a Zoom meeting.

Community Partnerships

R. David Lankes, a professor of mine at Syracuse, said, “Great libraries build communities.”

This year the KHL embraced collaboration, benefitting from and supporting the community with collective resources and shared vision. We donated new books to youth working with DCF, brought poetry lovers to downtown Montpelier during PoemCity, and presented the League of Women Voters’ annual speakers series. We continue to offer free cards to students at central Vermont basic education and CCV regardless of residency.

We collaborated with Capstone Community Action, Montpelier Pride, Vermont Humanities, the Green Mountain Film Festival, Rootstock Publishing, Bear Pond Books, the Senior Activity Center and the Greatest Caper on community programs. We hosted school visits and visited every elementary school in our member communities. We worked with Montpelier High School’s community-based learning program and also Creative Workforce Solutions to offer work placements for students.

Youth outreach continues to send volunteers with bags of books to local daycares and preschools, while adult outreach still delivers books to homebound patrons and stocks the little library annex in Adamant. This summer our Youth Librarian is bringing the summer reading program to each of our member towns, most recently at Camp Meade.

With school beginning, she will visit all of the open-house events to sign students up for Library Cards and you will find her in the dunk tank at the Montpelier Fall Festival. Our Head Youth Librarian will be busy answering questions from libraries and organizations nationwide about building and setting up StoryWalk in their community.

Library Science has a term for this practice of continuous outreach and partnership; embedded librarianship. At the KHL we are embedded librarians. We bring the library into our patron’s environment; and we are grateful to all of our partners who build a better community with us every day.



By the Numbers



IN THE LIBRARY

788
new library card holders

5,420
uses of public computers

509
separate uses of meeting rooms



OUTREACH

346
outreach visits to member towns

264
home delivery visits



Ross Gay Brings Delight to KHL



In October 2023, in partnership with Bear Pond Books, the library welcomed New York Times Bestselling Author Ross Gay to the Savoy Theater for a reading from his newest collection of essays *The Book of (More) Delights*.

Over 100 people joined us to hear Gay speak, and it was clear that all attendees were captivated by his presence. His short, lyrical, genre-defying essays encourage readers to see our extraordinary world anew. As he read, Gay shared anecdotes about the creation of his essays and his connection to Vermont. He also delved deeper into the concepts of delight and joy, and how to recognize them in everyday life.

Following the reading, Gay opened the floor for audience questions. He began the Q&A session by asking the audience, "What do you love about the library?" It was heartwarming to hear responses that praised the friendly and familiar presence of our librarians above all else.

Gay mentioned that before the reading, he visited our library. He noted that he delighted in the Fiction Room's historic friezes, the beautiful windows, and the communal feeling of hearing kids playing outside. Such a perfect reminder of how delightful the Kellogg-Hubbard Library truly is!

This event, recorded by ORCA Media, is available to watch at kellogghubbard.org/rossgay

Looking ahead, KHL is excited to collaborate with Vermont Humanities to welcome National Book Award Finalist Amber McBride to Montpelier this fall. We hope you will be able to join us for another wonderful author event where McBride will reflect on how she uses her writing process to tackle the themes of loss, trauma, race, and healing through poetry.

*Ross Gay is the author of four books of poetry: **Against Which**; **Bringing the Shovel Down**; **Be Holding**, winner of the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award; and **Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude**, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. In addition to his poetry, Ross has released three collections of essays—*The Book of Delights* was released in 2019 and was a New York Times bestseller; *Inciting Joy* was released in 2022, and his newest collection, *The Book of (More) Delights* was released in September of 2023.*

An Evening with Amber McBride

Thursday, September 26, 2024

6PM | Christ Episcopal Church
64 State Street, Montpelier
Hybrid | Free & open to the public

*Meet & Greet Fundraising Reception
to follow at Kellogg-Hubbard Library
135 Main Street, Montpelier
Q&A | Dessert | Wine | Tea & Coffee | \$60*



A note from KHL's Board President

Bridget Asay



The Kellogg-Hubbard Library, like Montpelier and other Vermont towns, is still recovering from last year's devastating flood. Both the cost and timeline for the work needed to restore

critical building systems and protect them from future flooding have seemed daunting at times. But at every step, the Library has been supported by our patrons and friends. We appreciate your patience in accepting construction impacts, the defunct elevator, limited space, and the changes to our much-loved book sale. And we are grateful for the financial support that has helped us continue to serve the residents of our six member towns in central Vermont during this challenging time.

Our incredible staff made sure that we returned to providing services—and books—as soon as

possible. Using lessons from the pandemic closure, the Library re-started curbside book pickup barely more than a week after the floodwaters receded. We had wi-fi available outside along with public computers on the steps and offered printing to patrons by email. Librarians put together “concierge” book selections for patrons, a service especially appreciated by parents and children. Led by our new Executive Director Dan Groberg, the team also speedily managed the cleanup and interim repairs that allowed us to reopen the building to patrons in the fall.

Library services are even more critical during difficult times. I am thankful for all that our staff and community supporters did to get the Library back online after the flood. And I look forward to sharing more updates as we begin the critical building work that will make the Library more resilient.

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PoemCity

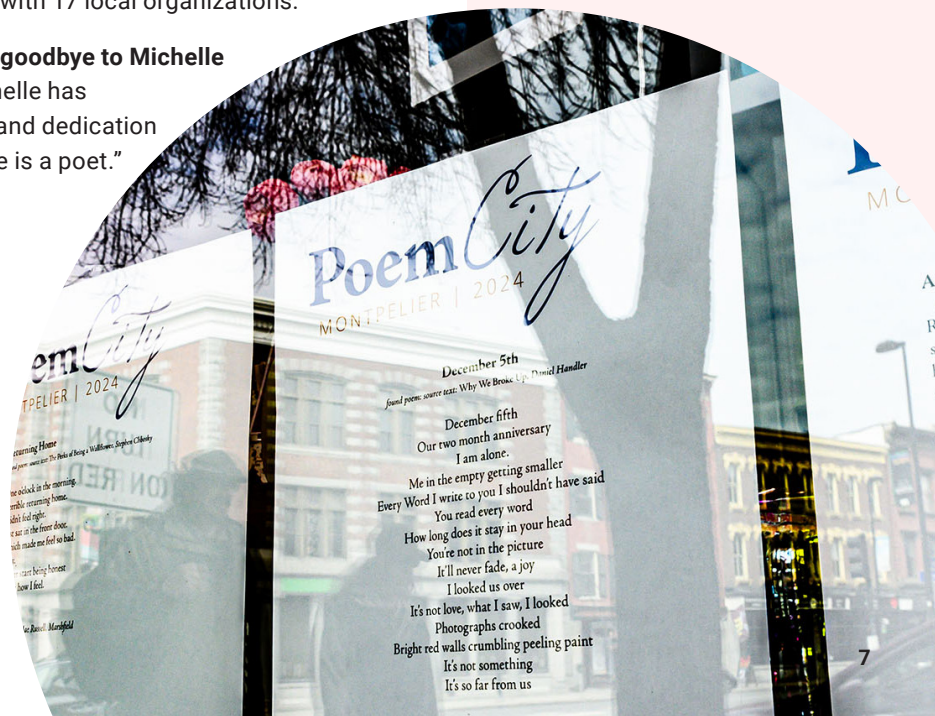
April 2024 saw the 15th Anniversary of PoemCity, the library's annual celebration of National Poetry Month.

This was our largest poetry celebration yet with 450 poems displayed in the windows of 50 downtown businesses, including 200 poems submitted by local students. Plus, the festivities included 31 free programs, 6 art displays, and partnerships with 17 local organizations.

This year also brought some change with the library **saying goodbye to Michelle Singer**, our Adult Programs and Outreach Coordinator. Michelle has spearheaded PoemCity for the past 5 years. Her hard work and dedication has spread the message throughout Vermont that “everyone is a poet.” We wish Michelle all the best in her future endeavors.

“I am so excited to be participating in PoemCity this year! **It's been a huge boost in self-confidence**, and I'm happy others also get to experience the joy PoemCity brings to central Vermont.”

—11-year-old Main Street Middle School student



New Library Trustees & Staff



Donna Lasick
TRUSTEE, MONTPELIER

What motivated you to become a KHL trustee?

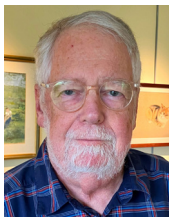
Meeting new people (I am new to Montpelier) and being able to give back to the community.

What are you currently reading?

I currently do not have a book to read. In my spare time, I have been working on understanding the new company I work for. There are a lot of moving parts as Controller of National Life, so I tend to jump into other areas for development.

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since becoming a trustee?

HOW MUCH the library gives back to the community and how important the library is to so many kids.



John Nelson
TRUSTEE, MONTPELIER

What motivated you to become a KHL trustee?

My family and I have been beneficiaries of the KHL for over 40 years. When I heard that there was a slot for a Montpelier resident to join the board of trustees, I was eager to apply.

What are you currently reading?

I always have one or two books on my desk or nightstand. Currently, I am reading Fawn Brodie's biography of Thomas Jefferson. I just finished *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America* by Louis Menand.

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since becoming a trustee?

I was "surprised" to hear Dan's report a couple of months ago about the number of books, videos, CDs, etc., that library patrons have borrowed in the last year. I knew it was a big number, but I wasn't prepared for how big it actually was.



Heidi Parker
TRUSTEE, MONTPELIER

What motivated you to become a KHL trustee?

Libraries hold a special place in my heart. I have fond memories of children's storytime, Friday movie nights, summer reading contests, and middle school drama groups where we performed around the stacks. In my twenties, I would

hang out at the local library to study or to get quiet activities done. I even spent a year as a high school "librarian" before heading to grad school.

I moved to Montpelier during the pandemic and was impressed by the way in which the library was such a presence in the community – offering reading material but so much more: assistance, kindness, connections. My fondness of libraries and my admiration for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library – along with a desire to dive into my new community – led me to apply for the open trustee position.

What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and I am loving it! Last month, for a neighborhood book group, I read Alice Munro's *Lives of Girls and Women*. First Munro for me ever! I can't believe I had somehow never read anything by Munro up until this point. I now have other works by her on my future reading list.

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since becoming a trustee?

I became a trustee about the time the library opened post-flood. The abundance of programming for both children and adults was a bit of a surprise to me – not because libraries should be only about books, but because Montpelier is not that big. Hearing that the Children's Library is packed for after school activities, that young adults are coming in to play chess, and about how the library is being used after hours for events like "Lord of the Reads" fills me with joy; it also brings me back to my formative years in libraries throughout Los Angeles. The KHL is a true gem – connecting people to stories, to information, and to each other.



Caity Kaye
ASSISTANT CIRCULATION
LIBRARIAN

What made you want to become a KHL staff member?

I have always enjoyed working in service with community members & I've gravitated towards libraries for as long as I can remember. I have worked in many different fields that have served myself and others in ways that have been beautiful. At this stage of my life, I am fully ready to embrace librarianship as a way of a sustainable, meaningful and a long-term purpose for the greater good of humanity.

What are you currently reading?

I seem to read two at a time & listen to one: *Husbands & Lovers* by Beatriz Williams, *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice For Murders* by Jesse Q. Sutanto, *Taste* by Stanley Tucci.

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since joining the KHL team?

I have learned that everyone in this historic building has extremely big hearts. We are all here for a common thread-to help, share & grow. Not really surprising, but noteworthy! I am truly grateful to be here and am inspired everyday by a lot of the people that I meet.



Sarah Townsend

HEAD ADULT LIBRARIAN

What made you want to become a KHL staff member?

The job description greatly appealed to me as well as the library's stellar reputation. When I interviewed and then started the position, I immediately felt right at home. Working in this beautiful, historic building with this amazing community is truly a privilege.

What are you currently reading?

Too many as always but a few recent favorites are: *Finding Margaret Fuller* (Pataki), *Table for Two* (Towles), *The Many Lives of Mama Love* (Hardin), *Swan Song* (Hilderbrand), *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club* (Simonson), *Husbands & Lovers* (Williams), *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library* (Aoyama), and *The Paris Novel* (Reichl). Thanks to recommendations from our patrons, I'm also loving three series that were new to me: *The Irish County Doctor* (Taylor), *Bruno, Chief of Police* (Walker), and *Joe Gunther* (Mayor).

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since joining the KHL team?

I don't know that it's surprising exactly, but I've been gratified to see how much I adore working here every day. The staff is the absolute best I've encountered—hardworking, fun, down-to-earth, committed to high standards, and just a joy to be around. The various aspects of my job mean that no two days are exactly the same, which I also enjoy.

“It has always been my pleasure to be a donor. I love everything about our beautiful library; the books, the people, the building and the grounds with that wonderful statue out front. It makes me smile every time I see it. The library was one of the things I missed most during the pandemic and again after the horrific flooding. It was a joy to see you come back to life again.”

—Gail Lacy



Nikki Whelley

ADULT PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

What made you want to become a KHL staff member?

I moved to Vermont about 5 years ago with my family. When we moved here, we hardly knew anyone. My kids and I spent a lot of time in the library, and reading books from the library at home during lockdown. Kellogg-Hubbard Library and the staff were always so welcoming, kind, helpful, and interesting! I remember thinking a few years ago, while knitting in the children's library while my kids played, how great it would be to work here. When the job came up for Adult Programs, I was so excited that I had some skills that I could share with KHL and the community.

What are you currently reading?

I'm currently reading *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* with my kiddos Fergus and Oli.

What is the most surprising thing you've learned about the library since joining the KHL team?

This might be silly, but the most surprising thing is that everyone is exactly as nice, kind, and welcoming with each other as they are with the patrons. The KHL team is such a great team to be a part of, and I'm so happy to be here.



Thank You, Donors

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Carol, Rachel, Hillary
by Sarah Severns

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Lord of the Reads

This was the second year that we partnered with The Greatest Caper to bring an exciting escape-room event to the library.

Titled Lord of the Reads, this fantasy-themed event invited hundreds of participants to solve puzzles throughout the building. Our historic library was turned into a mystical labyrinth with caves, forests, hobbits, monsters, archery, and even a volcano! We were thrilled to welcome both familiar and new faces to the library for an adventure unlike any other. Thank you to The Greatest Caper for making this incredible event possible!



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StoryWalk®

You may have stumbled upon a StoryWalk before, but did you know it originated right here at the library?

StoryWalk was created in 2007 by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, in collaboration with former staff member Rachel Senechal. StoryWalk displays now exist across the U.S. and worldwide in 13 countries including Germany, Canada, England, Bermuda, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan and South Korea. And just this year, the library took full ownership of StoryWalk, making it a registered service mark of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.





“I am happy to donate to honor the work of all the friendly librarians and other staff at the KHL, who make it a pleasure for me, and all other kinds of people to improve our lives with the Library’s many services.”

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“Growing up in Montpelier I spent *many* hours at the children’s library. My father died when I was 9 years old and my way of coping was to read one library book every day for a long time. The adult library was a beautiful place to do research for high school assignments and I also enjoyed the upstairs art gallery very much. **Montpelier is fortunate to have such a nice library.**”

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“Please accept this small token of gratitude for **opening your doors to me and all of the other visitors** to Montpelier yesterday [for the solar eclipse]! Everyone was very kind and welcoming.”

—Bonnie Garmisa

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