

BiblioFile

April 2017



THE LIBRARY IS OPEN:
M, TH, F, SAT 10 am - 6 pm
T & W 10 am - 8 pm
SUN 12 noon - 6

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*To contact other staff,
please call 863.3403*

A greeting from our Library Director

Thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome to the Burlington community. I have been enjoying getting to know everybody.

A little background about me. I am married and my husband John is a software application specialist. I have two daughters, Melanie, age 28, and Meredith, age 25. I also have 2 step-children, Kaela, age 21 and a step-son, Aiden, age 14. I am a pet owner of two dogs, Emma, a 12 year old Yorkie and Charlie, a 3 year old Labradoodle. They make for an amusing pair and are great fun. For pleasure, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, cooking, baking, watching movies and painting. Most of all, as you can probably guess, I love to read. Working at a library is a dream but it is also agony, too-so many books, not enough time!



I have always known what a gem the Fletcher Free Library is in Vermont. Now being here every day is a delight. Watching patrons use the library every day is very rewarding. Whether seeing folks at our computer center, attending a program, volunteering for the Friends or just sitting in a comfy chair reading, it is easy to see why the Fletcher Free Library is such a valuable asset to the community. I also have the honor of working with a marvelous staff who is dedicated to providing top-notch library service. It is an exciting library to work at and I am very grateful to be here.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can improve library service. The library is here to serve you!

Mary Danko (mdanko@burlingtonvt.gov)

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." - Albert Einstein



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.

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The Friends of Fletcher Free is a volunteer group that supports the Library. We are responsible for the Book Stall and the Book Sales. All proceeds from the stall and sales are donated to the library for investment in programming as well as staff development opportunities.

We have rearranged the Book Stall in hopes that you will be able to find books that interest you more quickly. Books are arranged by categories, indicated by colored tape placed near the bottom of the spine of the book. Shelves will also have the corresponding colored tape.

A summary of the color coding follows:

Color	Category
Red	Art & Architecture
Orange	Biography
Yellow	Food & Cooking
Tan	Fiction
Green	Gardening & Homes
Blue	History & Social Sciences
Rose	Humanities
White	Science, Math, Health / Medicine, Computers
Lavender	Spirituality / Religion & Self-Help / Psychology
Grey	Travel
Copper	Vermont
Salmon	Other

We hope you find this reorganization helpful, and you are able to find books with greater ease.

Joan Conroy, President

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!



Heather Demetrios



Aaron Starmer



Stephanie Zuppo



Dayna Lorentz

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 celebrated fandom, writing, and literary zeal. The day even featured a bedazzled megaphone.

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.

Lunch from City Market was served and teens were invited to eat anywhere in the library. Mixed groupings of high schoolers, librarians, and educators could be found throughout the stacks laughing, talking, and smiling. One teen avidly responded “I loved being welcomed to eat in the library... I’ve never been able to do that without sneaking!”

During her opening keynote, Heather Demetrios spoke of the struggles of high school and urged: “If there’s a group of people you don’t like, read a book about them. Or write a book about them.” She went on to say, “Everyone is hurting, everyone matters. And at the end of the day, that’s what books are about.” Throughout the day, teens expressed feeling a sense of newfound kinship and belonging. “People here just get me!” one participant exclaimed, shortly followed by, “What’s the date for Teen Lit Mob next year?!”



Teen Lit Mob was made possible with the financial support of The Friends of the Fletcher Free Library, the Paul Post Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, Essex & Champlain Valley Union High Schools.

Hosting *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 FFL." She believes the exhibit strengthened the Library's relationships with educational institutions and students of all ages, providing 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 Mary was watching school students go through the exhibit 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 and the community come alive. I can envision many more of these kinds of partnerships in the library's future."

What stands out for Rebecca Goldberg, Fletcher Free's 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 observed the engaging relationship and silent communication between a mother and her child."

In addition to the exhibit and associated programming offered the community, the Library worked in partnerships with the Burlington School District and surrounding school districts to host 25 school tours of the exhibit that included over 800 students. Students spent time in the Main Reading Room engaging with information panels and hands-on displays, and also participated in programming in the Library's own cave (*see cave pics on next page*).



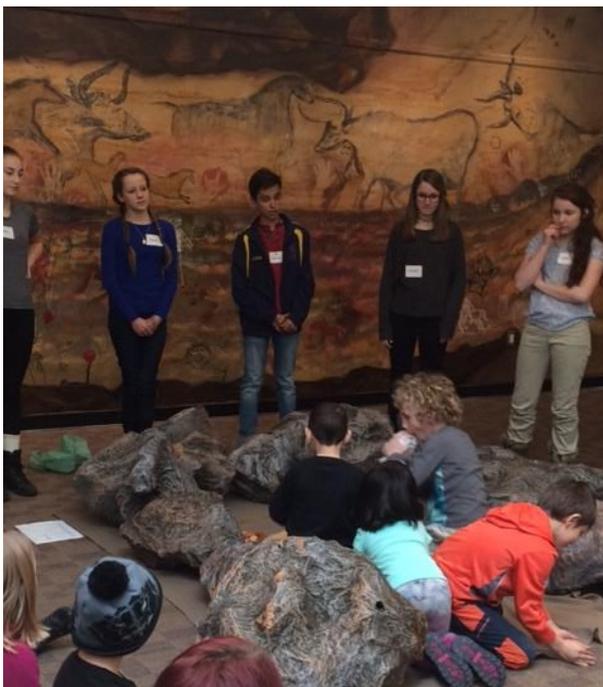
Students share their learning experiences:

“Thank you so much for letting us come and enjoy the human evolution exhibit. It was so cool to see what life was like before I was born.”

“This has given me a chance to learn more about what makes us human and how humans developed over time.”

“It was really cool to get to see all the skulls. I think you should do more exhibits like this one.”

“Thank you for teaching us about human evolution. I loved the cave wall. I learned a lot about body types of people that lived in different climates and about the skulls of older people and how they developed. Thank you so much for contributing to our learning!”

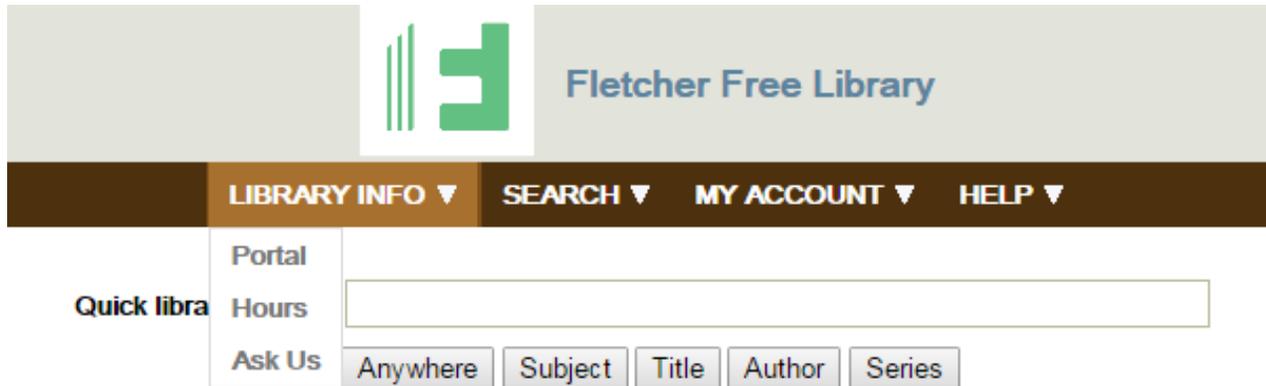


Catalog Tip

Looked in our catalog at fpl.polarislibrary.com but didn't find the title you wanted? Let us know! We're always happy to receive Title Requests, and will either buy the book for the collection or borrow a copy from another library for you.

Title Request forms are available at any service desk, or you can use the catalog's Ask Us feature (under the Library Info tab) to email a request to us. A hold will be placed on the title, and you'll be notified when a copy is available.

Your requests help us to keep the collection current and relevant to our community's interests!



Upcoming programming:

All Library Programming is available at:

<http://www.fletcherfree.org/programming.html>

And in calendar format at:

<http://www.fletcherfree.org/ProgrammingAdult.pdf>

<http://www.fletcherfree.org/ProgrammingYouth.pdf>

Check out the Teen Space website at:

<http://www.fflteenspace.org/>