

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



A New Beginning

Welcome to the first issue of the *Hitchcock Herald*, the monthly newsletter of the Hitchcock Museum & Library in Westfield, VT!

As your new Library Director, I wanted to take a moment to say how thrilled I am to begin serving the Westfield community at the Hitchcock. I have received such wonderful support from community members so far and look forward to the many projects that we have on the horizon (some of which you can read about in this issue!)

I invite you to stop by the Hitchcock during open hours to introduce yourself and let me know what you'd like to see at the library. Is there an author we don't have? A program you'd like to see? Your feedback will help create a library that meets the needs of Westfield residents and visitors to the area. You can also free free to call or email me!

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

Contact:

- Phone: 802-744-8258
- Email: hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com
- Mail: c/o Town of Westfield
38 School Street
Westfield, VT 05874

Hours:

- Tuesday 2pm-7pm
- Thursday 10am-3pm
- Sunday 11am-3pm

Hitchcock Automation Project

The **Hitchcock Automation Project** will begin in March 2024. The goal of this project is to “automate” the library’s collection. Automating the collection will entail giving each item in the collection a barcode and then cataloging items in an integrated library system (ILS.) The Hitchcock has chosen an online ILS called LibibPro.

An ILS gives the librarian a “bird’s-eye view” of the collection and generates statistics. This information will drive collection development and inform other decisions related to the collection. An ILS also helps to manage circulation (keeping track of what books are checked in and out) and to manage patrons (sign people up for library cards, track down overdue books, etc.)

After this project is complete, library patrons will be able to search the Hitchcock catalog from anywhere to not only see what the library has available, but *also* manage their own library accounts to see what they have checked out, place holds, and renew books.

Items will still be available to check out during this project, so stop by the library to sign up for an account and start checking out materials!

ABLE Library

The Hitchcock is proud to partner with the **ABLE Library** (formerly the Library for the Blind & Visually-Impaired), housed at the Vermont Department of Libraries in Barre. If you or someone you know can no longer read traditional print materials due to a visual impairment, mobility impairment (i.e. not being able to hold a book), or reading disability, please contact the Hitchcock for an application for ABLE Library services.

Eligible ABLE Library patrons can receive **free** talking books through the US Postal Service, as well as access to free online audiobooks, Braille materials, and so much more.

Interlibrary Loan

The Hitchcock is proud to begin offering limited interlibrary loan services to patrons. Really want a certain book or DVD, but the Hitchcock doesn’t have it? Your librarian may be able to request it through CLOVER - Vermont’s interlibrary loan system - from another Vermont library. Hitchcock patrons can then borrow the item for a few weeks, and then return it to the Hitchcock to be safely sent back to the lending library. While this service is free for patrons, donations to offset shipping costs would be greatly appreciated. Contact the library for more information!

HITCHCOCK MUSEUM & LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Stelma - *Chair* * Carolyn Lyster - *Vice Chair* * Karen Blais - *Treasurer*
Beth Berchick - *Secretary* * Beau Harris - *Collections Director*

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: March 12, 2024 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

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Welcome, Spring!

As I finish up my second month here at the Hitchcock, I am stunned by how much has changed in such a short period of time. The weather has warmed up and our snow is mostly gone, and it's light outside when I leave the library on Tuesday evenings. Inside the library, the Hitchcock Automation Project is in full swing, with over 650 DVDs catalogued and books on shelves waiting for their turn. Soon, there will be even more changes, as we bring in new, comfortable library furniture and a sturdy, waterproof book drop (stay tuned for more information!)

I have loved meeting residents of Westfield and neighboring towns who have stopped in for books and DVDs, eclipse glasses, our book sale, and just to peruse our museum collection and photos. I welcome you to keep stopping by, even if it's just for a chat. And as always, feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or suggestions!

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

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Volunteer Request

The Hitchcock is seeking a volunteer for one hour per week to perform basic cleaning tasks in the library and museum. These tasks would include vacuuuming, dusting, and wiping down surfaces, as well as keeping the bathroom tidy. Ideally we are looking for someone to come during our open hours on Sundays (11am-3pm), but the work could also be done during our open hours on Tuesdays or Thursdays. If interested, please send an email to hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com.



The Hitchcock was thrilled to host Hannah Miller on April 2! Hannah is an associate professor of education at Vermont State University-Johnson, and has recently been featured on *Seven Days*' "Stuck in Vermont." She is spending her sabbatical reading, writing, and knitting in as many Vermont public libraries as possible. We were honored to have her stop by!

Photos: (L) Library Director Jennifer Johnson & Hannah Miller, (R) Hannah Miller with "Hen Solo"



Book Sale

Stop by during our open hours to peruse the Hitchcock's **book sale!** You'll find books for children and adults, as well as a small assortment of CDs and DVDs. Discounts will be given for bulk buying (fill a large bag for \$10.00!)

Focus On: DVDs

Did you know that the Hitchcock has over **650 DVDs** available for loan? From the most popular to the most obscure, we have something for everyone's tastes! Stop by today to stock up for your next movie night.

Save the Date: SRP

The Hitchcock will be offering a **Summer Reading Program (SRP)** for youth this summer. Please stay tuned as we finalize details - more information forthcoming!

A Big Thank You!

The Hitchcock would like to thank **Yvan LaPlume** for plowing our parking lot and other walkways during the winter months. Your work is so appreciated!

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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: April 9, 2024 @ 4pm

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A World of Adventure at Your Library

There's a misconception that "going on an adventure" means taking a big trip to somewhere far away. While I'm a fan of those adventures, my favorite adventures are on a much smaller scale. For example, simply going to work at the Hitchcock, with its various animals from around the world, can feel like going on a safari - and I didn't even have to leave Westfield!

Of course, my absolute favorite adventure is the one I can take with a book or tablet in my hands when I disappear into a good story. That's why I'm so excited about this year's summer reading theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library." This issue of the Hitchcock Herald is all about how you and the youth in your life can participate in the Hitchcock's 2024 Summer Reading Program. There will be reading adventures, reptile adventures, and more!

Whether you take a big vacation this summer or simply have a "staycation," I hope you have a marvelous adventure.

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

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Follow Us on Facebook

The Hitchcock is now on Facebook! Find us at www.facebook.com/HitchcockMemorialVT and like/follow our page to keep up with the latest news.



Summer Reading at the Hitchcock!

Summer is right around the corner, and that means that the Hitchcock is gearing up for its Summer Reading Program (SRP!) This year's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library," and we're looking forward to offering local youth a few wonderful adventures through reading and in-person experiences from June 25 to August 13.

The 2024 Hitchcock SRP is open to Jay, Westfield, and other local youth aged 6-12 and is completely free. Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School students in grades K-6 will receive an SRP bag with an informational letter, a reading log, a bookmark, and some other goodies through their school librarian towards the end of the school year, and parents/guardians can officially register their child via an online form or by stopping by the library. Older students can be registered this way as well and can receive their SRP bags by stopping by the library.



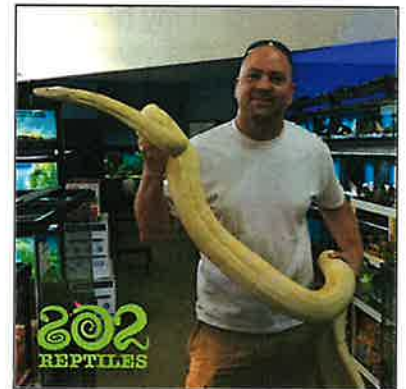
The official kick-off event for the SRP will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at 5pm (see article below!) After this event, SRP participants are welcome to stop by the library once a week with their reading logs to show the librarian and receive a prize for their progress. Photos of logs can also be emailed to the librarian and prizes can be picked up at parent/guardian convenience. A final celebration will be held mid-August to celebrate participants and the end of summer!

More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, feel free to call (802-744-8258) or email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com) with any questions!

Summer Reading Kick-Off with 802 Reptiles

We are thrilled to announce that the Hitchcock's FREE summer reading kick-off event will be held on Tuesday, June 25, at 5:00pm! This program is open to everyone (not just summer reading participants.) An RSVP would be appreciated - stop by the library, call (802-744-8258) or email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com) to do so!

Kevin Clarkson of 802 Reptiles will be at the library for a one-hour reptile presentation. Various reptiles from around the world will be presented in a show-and-tell format. There will be time at the conclusion of the event for a question and answer session with Kevin as well as time for you to take a picture holding one of the animals!



Free pizza and drinks will be served at the end of the presentation, and any eligible student who hasn't registered for the summer reading program will be able to do so. We hope to see you there!

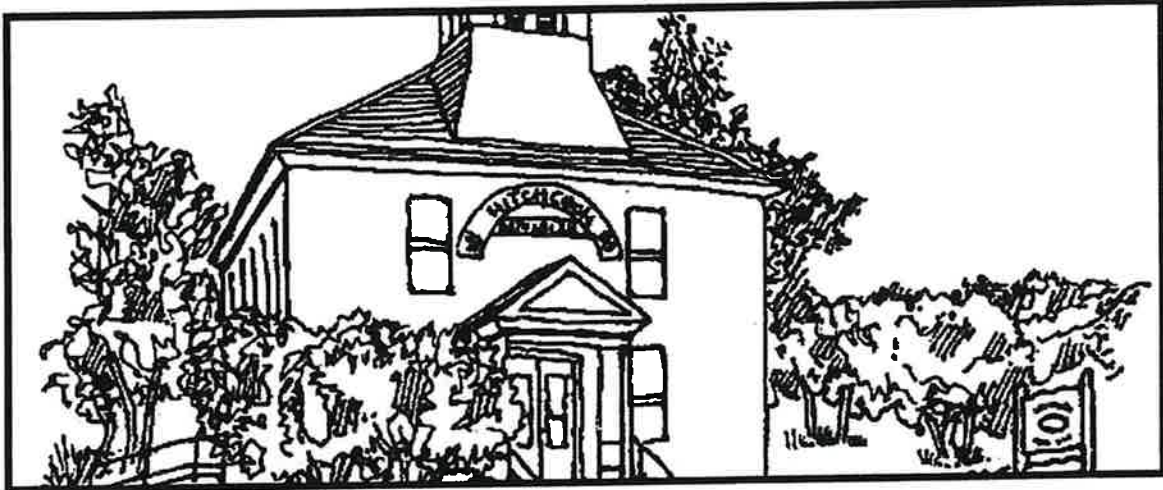
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: May 14, 2024 @ 4pm

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There's No Place Like Home

At the end of May, I attended the Vermont Library Association's annual conference in Killington. In addition to winning a bunch of mystery books by local authors (thank you, Sisters in Crime New England!) I learned so much during the workshops I attended and during the keynote session by American Library Association President Emily Drabinski. I truly felt "at home" among my kind and supportive library colleagues, even though I was quite far away from my house in Newport.

No matter where you live, you can consider the Hitchcock your "home" library. Our services are available to residents of all towns, even those just here for the summer at local campgrounds. Please come in and take a look at what we have to offer, and feel free to make yourself at home!

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

Notice: The Hitchcock's hours will be changing, effective July 2. Please visit our website for more information: www.westfield.vt.gov/Hitchcock-Library

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Looking for gifts for Dad? Don't forget about our book sale!

Hitchcock Book Sponsorship Program

The Hitchcock has recently started a monthly book sponsorship program! Here's how it works:

1. Interested parties can select a book from a curated list and pay the associated cost*, or donate a new/like-new copy of their selected book. The list will be posted on our Facebook page, and will also be available via email and at the library.
2. Sponsors of books will get to be the first to read them when they arrive at the library, and sponsors will also get sponsorship recognition in the book. Books can be sponsored in memory or in honor of someone else.
3. After the sponsor has finished reading the book, they will donate it back to the library for our collection.

Feel free to email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com) or stop by the library to see the May/June list of books to sponsor!

*Prices will be noted on the list. Payment can be made with exact cash or by check (payable to the Town of Westfield.)

Playgroup with NEKCA Parent Child Center Beginning July 2

The Hitchcock is thrilled to partner with the NEKCA Parent Child Center to offer a **free** playgroup for families at the library beginning Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The group will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 10:30am-11:30am.

This playgroup is open to children aged 0-6 and their caregivers and will be held in our children's room. Sara Guyette from NEKCA Parent Child Center will bring a snack, activity, and toys. There is no sign-up required to participate.

Questions? Contact Sara Guyette at 802-624-0997 or at sguyette@nekcavt.org.

VT State Parks & Historic Sites Passes

The Hitchcock is pleased to offer passes to Vermont State Parks and Vermont State Historic Sites to our patrons! These are available to be checked out just like a book or DVD. We have one (1) state parks pass and (2) historic sites passes. The state parks pass allows FREE entry for one (1) vehicle (holding up to 8 people) into state park day-use areas. The historic sites pass allows FREE entry for one (1) vehicle (holding up to 8 people) into a designated VT historic site.

For more information, stop by the library, call (802-744-8258) or send an email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com)

Reminder: 2024 Summer Reading Program and Kick-Off Event

The 2024 Hitchcock Summer Reading Program (SRP) will run from June 25 - August 13! The SRP is open to Jay, Westfield, and other local youth aged 6-12 and is completely free. Parents/guardians can officially register their child via an online form (bit.ly/HitchcockSRP) or by stopping by the library.

The Hitchcock's FREE summer reading kick-off event will be held on Tuesday, June 25, at 5:00pm! This program is open to everyone (not just summer reading participants.) Kevin Clarkson of 802 Reptiles will be at the library with live reptiles and will present them in a show-and-tell format. Free pizza and drinks will be served after the show! An RSVP would be appreciated - stop by the library, call (802-744-8258), email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com), or fill out this online form: bit.ly/Hitchcock802Reptiles. This program is recommended for ages 4 and up.

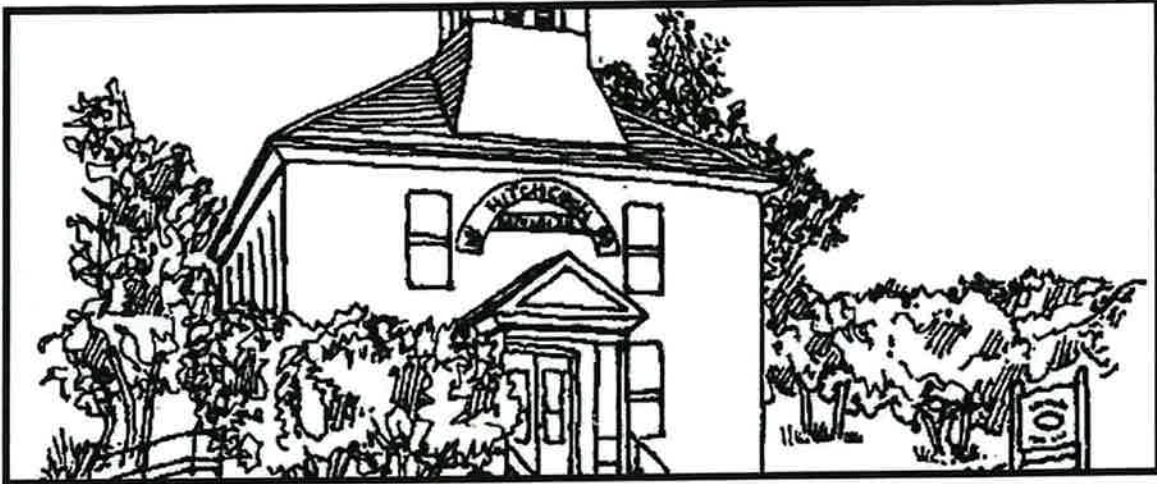
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: June 11, 2024 @ 4pm

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An Exciting Summer at the Hitchcock

You might think that a library & museum built in 1899 wouldn't have a lot of excitement left in it, but that couldn't be further from the truth! From live reptiles at our Summer Reading Kick-Off Event, to a playgroup brimming with energetic youth, to our new free audiobook and eBook service, I am so excited by everything happening at the HMML right now (not to mention the free passes to Vermont state parks and historic sites available for check-out!)

I hope that whether it is a beautiful summer day and you're on the way to the lake, or it's one of those pesky rainy days, you'll consider adding the Hitchcock to your summer plans.

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson



Speaking of exciting: meet the Hitchcock's new Substitute Librarian, Teka Slagle!

Please note that HMML will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

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38 School Street
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Hours*:

- Tuesday 10am-3pm
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- Sunday 11am-3pm

*New hours!

Summer Reading Kick-Off Event with 802 Reptiles - A Success!

On Tuesday, June 25, the Hitchcock hosted our Summer Reading Kick-Off Event with 802 Reptiles! Over 50 children and adults attended the event, during which 802 Reptiles proprietor Kevin Clarkson presented five different live snakes and facts about each one! Attendees were able to hold a snake and get their photo taken if they wished, including library director Jennifer Johnson, pictured to the right with Kevin Clarkson. The event finished up with everyone enjoying pizza outside. Jennifer would like to thank HMML board member Jenn Stelma and her son Soren, HMML board member Karen Blais, and HMML board member Carrie Glessner and family for their assistance making this a wonderful event!



There is still time to sign up for summer reading, which started on June 25 and will run through August 13. Families can visit bit.ly/HitchcockSRP to sign up, and reading logs can be picked up at the library. Participants who make progress with their reading each week are eligible to stop by the library, show Jennifer their log, and pick a prize from the prize bin! Feel free to reach out with any questions: hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com.

Playgroup with NEKCA Parent Child Center

Playgroup has begun! Join NEKCA Parent Child Center's Sara Guyette for free play, activities, and snacks at the Hitchcock on Tuesdays at 10:30am. All youth aged 0-6 and their caregivers are welcome! No sign-up or registration is required. Contact Sara with any questions: sguyette@nekcavt.org, 802-624-0997.

Free eBooks and Audiobooks with the Palace Project

The Hitchcock is pleased to announce that our patrons now have access to the **Palace Project**, a free eBook and audiobook platform! Thanks to the Vermont Department of Libraries, Hitchcock patrons are able to not only access items from Palace's base library, but other titles by Vermont authors and winners of our various Vermont book awards. To get started, follow the instructions below!

- Step 1: Download the Palace App from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.
- Step 2: Find Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in the app.
- Step 3: Click on Settings.
- Step 4: Click on Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library.
- Step 5: Click on Create a Card and follow the instructions.
- Step 6: Open the verification email you receive and click the verification link. Your virtual library card number will also be included in this email. Save this library card number and go back to the "Settings" screen in the app. Input the number and the password you initially created, and "Sign in."
- Step 7: Find your first book!



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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: July 9, 2024 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

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A Busy Fall for the Hitchcock

As school begins again and family routines begin to change, I wanted to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024-2025 school year - and to remind you of the services available for students and families at the Hitchcock! You can find those below. Additionally, take a look at the second page of this newsletter for some of our upcoming events. We hope to see you soon!

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

Students & Families

- **Vermont Online Library**
 - Use the Hitchcock's link to access the Vermont Online Library (VOL)! VOL offers access to high-quality databases for research for all ages, as well as online courses through Udemy. Check it out here: https://vtonlinelib.org/?loc=vol_w52
- **Playgroup with NEKCA Parent Child Center**
 - Still have a little one at home during the day? Consider joining local families at the playgroup facilitated by the NEKCA Parent Child Center on Tuesdays at 10:30am. Contact Sara Guyette for more information: sguyette@nekcavt.org; 802-624-0997

Of course, you are always welcome to visit the children's room at the Hitchcock for age-appropriate books, DVDs, toys, and games!

Contact:

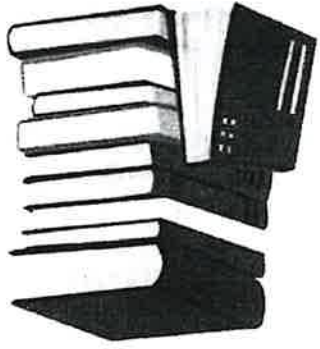
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Accepting Donations of Adult Books

The library is accepting donations of adult fiction and non-fiction in excellent condition! This includes hardcover and paperback books, as well as audiobooks on CD. Donations will be accepted during the library's open hours only - please do not leave any books on the porch or by the accessibility ramp when we are closed.



See You at Jay Oktoberfest!

The Hitchcock is thrilled to be participating in **Jay Oktoberfest** on Saturday, September 7! We will be in the vendor area in the Jay Country Store field from 10am-3pm with information about library services, as well as with books available to keep (by donation.) We hope to see you there!



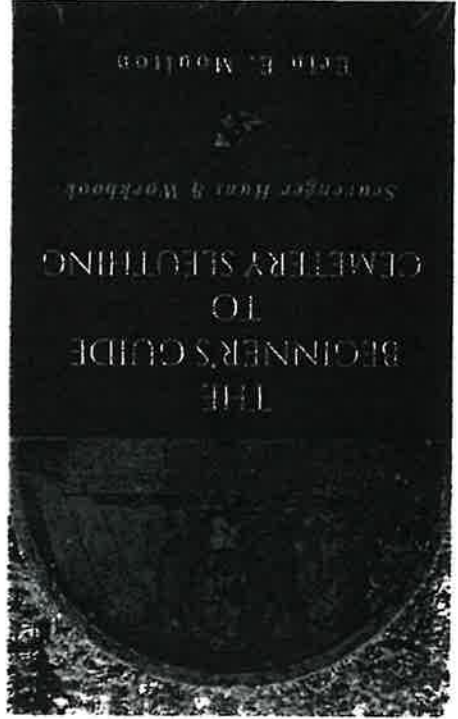
Save the Date! The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing

The Hitchcock and the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library in Craftsbury are proud to partner to bring **Erin E. Moulton** to Orleans County this October! Erin is a genealogist and the author of several books including her newest, *The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing: Scavenger Hunt & Workbook*. Erin will be giving two free one-hour presentations about the topics in her new book such as cemetery iconography, abbreviations, epitaphs and more. You can find more details about the *The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing* presentations below!

- Friday, October 11, 2024
5:00-6:00pm
Westfield Community Center
59 North Hill Rd. Westfield, VT
- Saturday, October 12, 2024
3:00-4:00pm
Craftsbury Comm. Care Center
1784 East Craftsbury Rd. Craftsbury, VT

Feel free to reach out with any questions: 802-744-8258

These programs are supported in part by a generous grant from Vermont Humanities.



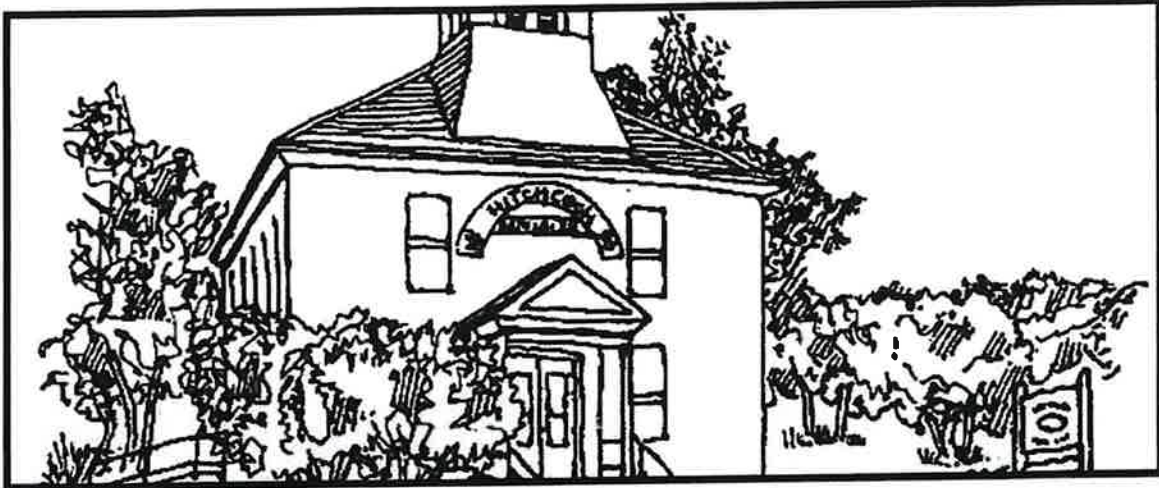
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: September 10, 2024 @ 4pm

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Taking Time to Rest and Reflect

After a busy October for the Hitchcock, we are excited to begin winding down and enjoying holiday celebrations. We hope that you and yours have a wonderful holiday season with family, friends...and perhaps, a good book, audiobook, or DVD from the Hitchcock! Don't forget to stop by sometime soon!

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

Free Audiobooks & eBooks with the Palace Project

Step 1: Download the Palace App from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

Step 2: Find Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in the app.

Step 3: Click on Settings.

Step 4: Click on Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library.

Step 5: Click on Create a Card and follow the instructions.

Step 6: Open the verification email you receive and click the verification link.

Your virtual library card number will also be included in this email. Save this library card number and go back to the "Settings" screen in the app. Input the number and the password you initially created, and "Sign in."

Step 7: Find your first book!

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A Busy October for the Hitchcock!

October 2024 was one of the busiest months on record for the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library!

On **October 11**, we hosted author & genealogist Erin E. Moulton at the Westfield Community Center for a presentation about her new book *The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing*. This presentation was generously funded by a grant from Vermont Humanities.

Vermont Historical Society Executive Director Steve Perkins and ABC 22/Fox 44's Mike Hoey and Quinn Kelly visited the Hitchcock on **October 12** to film a segment for their collaborative series "This Place in History." The Hitchcock's segment aired on the news the following week, and is available to view at the following link: <http://bit.ly/3YSidEx>

On **October 24**, the Hitchcock hosted the Vermont Department of Libraries' Youth Services Consultant Jonathan Clark and several Orleans County library directors for a meeting of the minds! And finally, on **Halloween**, the Hitchcock hosted a free book and candy giveaway for local trick-or-treaters!



The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing presentation.



Quinn Kelly of ABC 22/Fox 44 films the Hitchcock for "This Place in History" segment.



Library directors meet at the Hitchcock.



Costumed kiddos with their free books on Halloween!



Keep an eye on our Facebook page for holiday-related closings:
www.facebook.com/HitchcockMemorialVT

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Happy Holidays!

From our Hitchcock family to yours, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

In celebration,

Jennifer Johnson

P.S. Please join us for our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 15!

Holiday Closings

Please note the Hitchcock will be closed on the following holidays:

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24
New Year's Eve: Tuesday, December 31

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Holiday Open House

Please join us at the Hitchcock on Sunday, December 15, from 11:30am-1:00pm for our Holiday Open House!

Enjoy snacks and door prizes, visit Cooper the Therapy Dog, and have holiday fun!

We hope to see you there!



Conservation Pros Visit Westfield

On November 11 and November 12, we welcomed museum professionals Lisa Goldberg and Marilyn Kaplan to the Hitchcock for two days of hard work. Their visit was made possible thanks to a grant secured by advisor to the Hitchcock Board of Trustees, Beau Harris.

Lisa and Marilyn spent their time at the Hitchcock closely examining the building and our museum collection, as well as doing tests, interviewing community members, and providing education to Hitchcock staff and trustees. Lisa and Marilyn's visit will result in a report that will outline recommendations for the future care of the building and collection.

We thank Lisa and Marilyn for their work, as well as Katherine Sims for her donation of lodging for them while they were here. It takes a village!

Resource Spotlight: VOL



FREE ACCESS TO:

- Full-text, scholarly articles
- Homework help & research databases
- Vehicle maintenance & repair guidance
- State-specific legal documents
- Peterson's test and career prep
- **Udemy:** Self-paced, on-demand video courses for the most in-demand skills

https://vtonlinelib.org/?loc=vol_w52

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Happy New Year!

2024 was a wonderful year for the Hitchcock (keep an eye on our Facebook page for our "year in review") and we are excited for a whole new year of opportunities in 2025. We hope that you will include the Hitchcock in your plans for this year, whether you stop by for a book, a visit to the museum, or just to say hello. We look forward to seeing you!

In celebration,

Jennifer Johnson



From left to right: Beau Harris, Jenn Stelma, Carolyn Lyster, Carrie Glessner, and Jennifer Johnson at the Fairbanks

New Thursday Hours

Please note that beginning January 2, 2025, the Hitchcock will be open from 1pm-6pm on Thursdays.

Contact:

- Phone: 802-744-8258
- Email: hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com
- Mail: c/o Town of Westfield
38 School Street
Westfield, VT 05874
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/HitchcockMemorialVT

Hours:

- Tuesday 10am-3pm
- Thursday 1pm-6pm
- Sunday 11am-3pm

Holiday Open House - A Success!

On December 15th, we hosted a Holiday Open House at the Hitchcock complete with snacks, door prizes, and a visit from Cooper the Therapy Dog! Over 40 people attended the event, including Representative Mark Higley and his wife Kathy, Senator-Elect Samuel Douglass, and Audra Pitts from the *Newport Daily Express* (who wrote a wonderful article about the event!) Thank you to Lisa Brewster, Anne Moore & Cooper, Country Thyme Vermont, Berry Creek Farm, Sweet Mountain Chocolate LLC, Derby Shaw's, and all of our attendees for making this event a success!

You can view photos from our Open House and find a link to Audra's article on our Facebook page.

Visit to the Fairbanks Museum

In early December, library director Jennifer Johnson and Hitchcock board members Jenn Stelma, Carrie Glessner, and Carolyn Lyster visited Hitchcock board advisor Beau Harris at the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium in St. Johnsberry! Beau works as the Director of Collections at the Fairbanks, which has a similar (albeit much larger) collection to the Hitchcock, including many taxidermied specimens. As such, being able to view the museum and the museum's storage facilities with Beau was informative and inspiring, and gave the group many ideas for improving the Hitchcock.

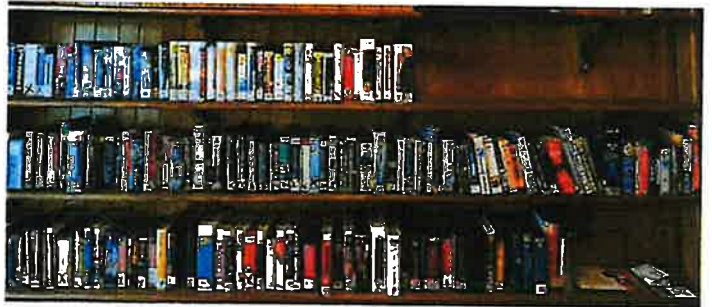
Flip this newsletter over to see a photo from our visit to the Fairbanks!

Hitchcock Awarded Spark Grant from Children's Literacy Foundation

The Hitchcock is pleased to report that in December we were awarded a Spark Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF!) CLiF awards Spark Grants- which offer opportunities for new books and programming- to previous CLiF grant recipients. Since the Hitchcock was a recipient of a CLiF Rural Library Grant in 2015-2016, we were eligible for this grant program and eagerly applied - and we were successful! Thanks to this grant, the Hitchcock will receive \$150 worth of new children's books for our collection, and we will be able to host a family literacy program at the library with a special guest, most likely in late February. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details! For more information about CLiF, visit www.clifonline.org.

Resource Spotlight: Audiobooks on CD

Still have a CD player at home or in your car? You're in luck, because we have over 150 audiobooks on CD here at the Hitchcock available for check-out! We sincerely thank the libraries all over the state that donated audiobooks for our growing collection.



HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Beth Berchick - *Secretary* * Carolyn Lyster - *Facilities Director*

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: January 14, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



Learn & Create at the Hitchcock

You asked, we listened! We are proud to be offering more programs for the whole family at the Hitchcock in 2025. Flip this page over to learn more about our upcoming events, and feel free to contact us with any questions!

Happy winter,

Jennifer Johnson



Attendees of the Winter Bouquet-Making Workshop on February 2 pose with their creations! The workshop was taught by Kim Backus and held at the Hitchcock.

Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have some free time, an interest in history, and a desire to engage with others in your community? Consider volunteering with us at the Hitchcock! We are looking for older teen and adult volunteers to help with the museum collection.

Training will be provided. Please contact us at hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com or 802-744-8258 if you are interested!

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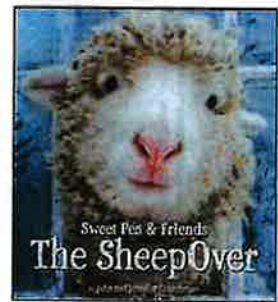
Family Literacy Afternoon at the Hitchcock

Join us on Sunday, February 23, from 1:30-3:00pm for a fun afternoon at the Hitchcock! This event is funded by a SPARK Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation.

Author John Churchman, co-creator of the "Sweet Pea and Friends" series, will be visiting the library to read his books and greet patrons. All attendees of the event will be entered for a chance to win a copy of *The SheepOver* by John & Jennifer Churchman!

Attendees will also have the opportunity to preview the youth books we received as part of our SPARK Grant and enjoy snacks, games, toys, and coloring.

This event is **free**. RSVP to the event on Facebook or by emailing hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com.



Drop-In Watercolor Painting with Artist Carrie Glessner

Are you a beginning or intermediate watercolor painter? If you'd like to learn or improve your skills, join local artist Carrie Glessner at the Hitchcock for a four-week drop-in watercolor painting class series. No registration is required for the class, but please contact Carrie beforehand to make sure that you have all of the needed supplies - they will not be provided. There is a \$20 suggested donation for each class, with 20% of donations going back to the Hitchcock.

Classes will be held on the following Sundays from 1:00-3:00pm (arrive at 12:30pm if interested in demonstrations by Carrie): February 9, February 16, March 2, March 9

Visit www.carrieglessnerart.com/instruction for more information!



Save-the-Date: Korean Lotus Lantern Workshop

Join us at the Westfield Community Center on Sunday, March 23, for a workshop presented by the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project! Attendees will be provided a kit with which to create a lotus flower lantern, and will learn about Korean history and culture along the way. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information!



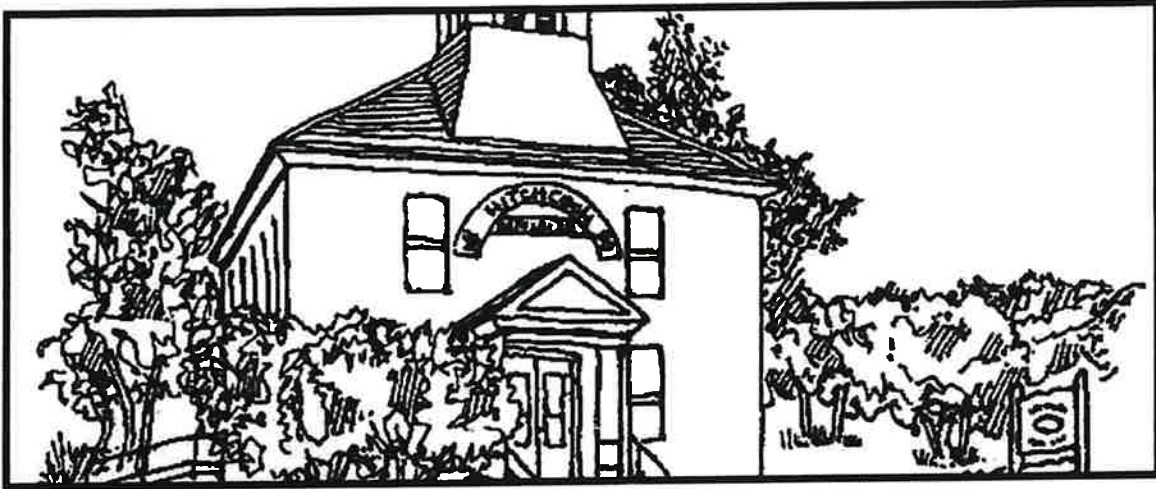
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: February 11, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



A Year of Growth and Change for the Hitchcock

My first year at the Hitchcock is over, and I can honestly say I am so proud of the work that the Board of Trustees and the Westfield community has done to make the Hitchcock more vibrant than ever. You can read all about our amazing year in the Town of Westfield Annual Report on page 31, or stop by the Hitchcock to take a look at our scrapbook. Don't forget that you can also view past issues of the *Hitchcock Herald* on our website: westfield.vt.gov/hitchcock-library

If you haven't made it in to the library & museum yet, there has never been a better time to stop by. I look forward to welcoming you and your family this spring!

In community,

Jennifer Johnson

Book Donations

The Hitchcock is now accepting the following types of books by donation: young adult/teen fiction, young adult/teen non-fiction, and adult non-fiction. All donated titles should be in excellent condition and published within the last 5-10 years. Books for donation should be brought to the library during our open hours - please do not leave any donated books on our porch, ramp, or in the book return.

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A Fun Afternoon with John Churchman!

On February 23, the Hitchcock hosted John Churchman, illustrator of the *Sweet Pea and Friends* book series, for a presentation. John brought along his dogs Laddie, Tosh, and Quinn and read to the assembled group of kiddos and parents two of his books: Brave Little Finn and Happy Birthday to Ewe! After the stories, attendees enjoyed snacks and coloring in our youth room.

John's visit was sponsored by a SPARK Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), which also provided \$150.00 worth of new youth books for the library. Come by soon and check out our new books from CLiF and the *Sweet Pea and Friends* books (we have them all!)

Seed Library Coming Soon

The Hitchcock's old library card catalog will soon have a new purpose as the Hitchcock Seed Library! A seed library is a collection of seeds available for free to community members to use in their gardens to grow vegetables and flowers. We have already received a generous donation of seeds from High Mowing in Wolcott, and will be working with local gardening experts to get the library set up. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more news about the Hitchcock Seed Library and gardening programming!

Korean Lotus Lantern Workshop

Join us at the Westfield Community Center on March 23 from 3:30-5:00 for a workshop presented by the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project! Attendees will be provided a kit with which to create a lotus flower lantern, and will learn about Korean history and culture along the way. Reserve your kit today by calling or emailing (see our contact info on the first page of this newsletter.) Kits are \$10.00 each and can be purchased by check (payable to the Town of Westfield) or with exact cash.



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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: March 11, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



Creating Community

Reflecting on the Hitchcock's recent series of creative offerings - bouquet-making, watercolor painting, and our Korean Lotus Lantern workshop - it has never been clearer to the Hitchcock board and staff how important it is for community members to have a space to learn and create together. If you are a local artisan or crafter and have a skill you'd like to share in a casual workshop with our patrons, please email us at hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com with your idea for consideration by the board & staff.

Creativity and community can also happen in the garden, so we hope you'll stop by soon to check out our new Seed Library and get started outside (once *all* of the snow finally melts, of course...)

All the best,

Jennifer Johnson



*Lotus Lantern Workshop,
March 23, 2025*



*Bouquet Workshop,
February 2, 2025*

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April Book Sale: Fill a Bag for \$1.00!

Got a need to read, but don't want to worry about returning your books on time? We can help! Throughout the month of April, bring a bag to the Hitchcock and fill it with items from our book sale for only \$1.00! Books for children and teens are FREE.



Seed Library is Now Open!

The HMML Seed Library is now open for business! Thanks to our volunteer Kim Blair, intern with the UVM Master Gardener Program, we have an organized card catalog full of flower and vegetable seeds available for free! Of note is a special collection of sunflower seeds donated to us by Vermont Plants Sunflowers for Ukraine, in hopes that sunflowers will be planted all over Vermont to show solidarity. Stop by the Hitchcock soon to stock up on seeds and informational materials about gardening!



Save the Date: Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) at Summer Reading Kick-Off

To kick-off 2025's Summer Reading Program at the Hitchcock, we will be having educators from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) visiting the library for their "Color Our World" program! Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about our natural world and meet three of VINS' animal ambassadors. The fun happens on **Sunday, June 22, at 2:00pm!**



Reminder: Palace Project

Don't forget that you have access to **free** eBooks and eAudiobooks through the Palace Project! Access instructions are available at the library or by sending us an email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com).



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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: April 8, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

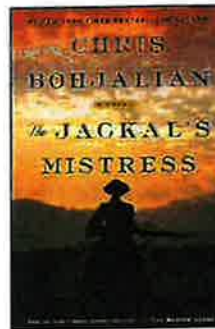
News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



Westfield: Unlikely Birthplace of Stories

On March 11th, renowned Vermont author Chris Bohjalian released his newest novel The Jackal's Mistress. While all of Bohjalian's books are noteworthy, this one is especially relevant to us here in Westfield. The novel is based on the true story of Westfield's **Henry Bedell**, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. While serving in Virginia, Bedell was gravely injured and left for dead. However, he was saved by the wife of a Confederate soldier with whom he recuperated and eventually traveled with to Washington, D.C., to Ohio (to fetch her imprisoned husband), and then back to Vermont, where he lived out the rest of his life.

The Jackal's Mistress is available for check-out at the Hitchcock, and soon also will be The Unlikely Heroine, Lucius E. Chittenden's 1893 novel that tells (with embellishments befitting fiction, of course) the story of Henry Bedell's time in Virginia. We hope that you will stop by soon to learn more about this remarkable story!



Chris Bohjalian



Henry Bedell

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A Great Day at VLA 2025

On May 19th, Library Director Jennifer Johnson attended the 2025 Vermont Library Association conference in Killington. In addition to attending several great workshops on scam/fraud prevention, telehealth access points, and more, she listened to a great keynote by Dr. Hannah Miller! You may remember that Dr. Miller visited the Hitchcock last year in their quest to knit in all of Vermont's libraries, and photos from that visit were shared as part of their keynote presentation. Overall it was a wonderful day of learning and sharing!



Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) at Summer Reading Kick-Off

To kick-off 2025's Summer Reading Program at the Hitchcock, we will be having educators from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) visiting Westfield for their "Color Our World" program! Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about our natural world and meet three of VINS' animal ambassadors. The fun happens on Sunday, June 22, at 2:00pm at the Westfield Community Center. This event is recommended for ages 4 and up. **An RSVP is required for this event - visit this link to RSVP: bit.ly/HitchcockVINS2025**



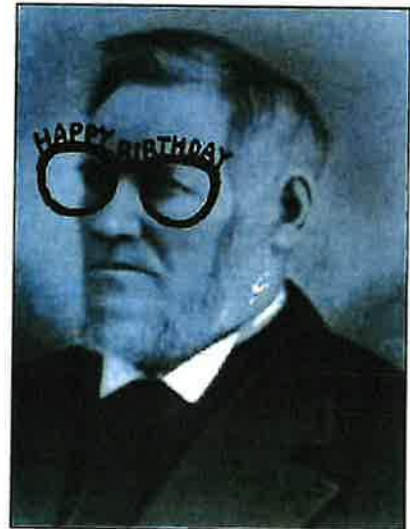
July 2025 Events: Save the Date!

- **Saturday, July 19: Aaron Hitchcock's Birthday Celebration**

Join us at the Hitchcock for a birthday celebration for Aaron Hitchcock, founder of the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library! **Time TBA - Free**

- **Sunday, July 27: Composting Workshop**

Corey Raynor of NEK Waste Management District will be at the Hitchcock to discuss composting techniques, followed by Nigel Waring who will present on bears and how to prevent issues with outdoor composting. **11:00am - Free**



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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: June 10, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



Happy Birthday, Aaron Hitchcock!

On July 19, 1823, Aaron Charles Hitchcock was born in Westfield, Vermont - the oldest of six children. Mr. Hitchcock spent his life working in agriculture and became successful enough to own large tracts of real estate in the area and accumulate considerable wealth.

Mr. Hitchcock shared this wealth with his community by donating land and \$10,000 for the construction of a public library and natural history museum. The building was erected at the cost of \$3,074, and the remaining balance of \$7,000 was split in half: one half was to be used for specimens and furniture, and the other half was to be put into a trust. The building - the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library - was completed in 1899, with Mr. Hitchcock unfortunately passing not long after in 1900.

This year, we are honoring our founder Mr. Hitchcock's legacy by celebrating his 202nd birthday! **We will be having a birthday celebration at the Hitchcock on Saturday, July 19, from 10am-12pm.** In addition to special Saturday hours, we will be having an author talk with local author Tanya Sousa, birthday cake and punch, and a hat decorating craft for kids.

We hope to see everyone at the celebration!



Aaron Hitchcock



Tanya Sousa

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"Color Our World" with VINS!

We had a great time at our Summer Reading Kick-Off event on June 22 with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS.) VINS educator Sierra visited us at the community center along with kestrel Westford, screech owl Decatur, and corn snake Wilmington. After the presentation, kids colored and had snacks, and we signed up five new families for summer reading!

Thank you to HMML board members Karen & Carolyn and library dad Dave for helping at the event, and to Jay Focus Group and the Vermont Department of Libraries for the funding that made this event possible.

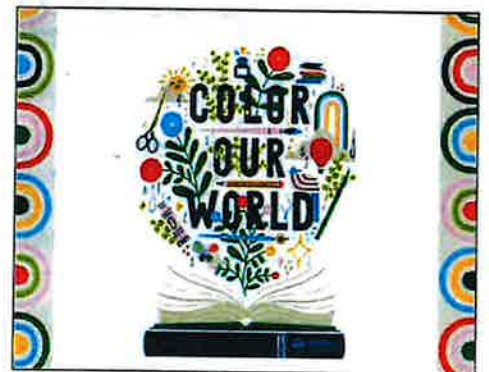


Summer Reading Has Begun!

Summer reading has begun at the Hitchcock! From now until August 17, kids can read and/or complete activities on their log to be eligible for weekly prizes. Every JWJES student received a log in a yellow folder from librarian JC Hines, but if families have misplaced this or are not JWJES families, anyone is welcome to stop by the library to get a new log and sign-up!

Families can sign up here: bit.ly/HitchcockSRP2025

Please message, call (802-744-8258) or email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com) with any questions!



This Month's Events

- **Saturday, July 19: Aaron Hitchcock's Birthday Celebration**

Join us at the Hitchcock for a birthday celebration for Aaron Hitchcock, founder of the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library! More information on the other side of this newsletter. **10:00am - Free**

- **Sunday, July 27: Composting Workshop**

Corey Raynor of NEK Waste Management District will be at the Hitchcock to discuss composting techniques, followed by Nigel Waring who will present on bears and how to prevent issues with outdoor composting. **11:00am - Free**



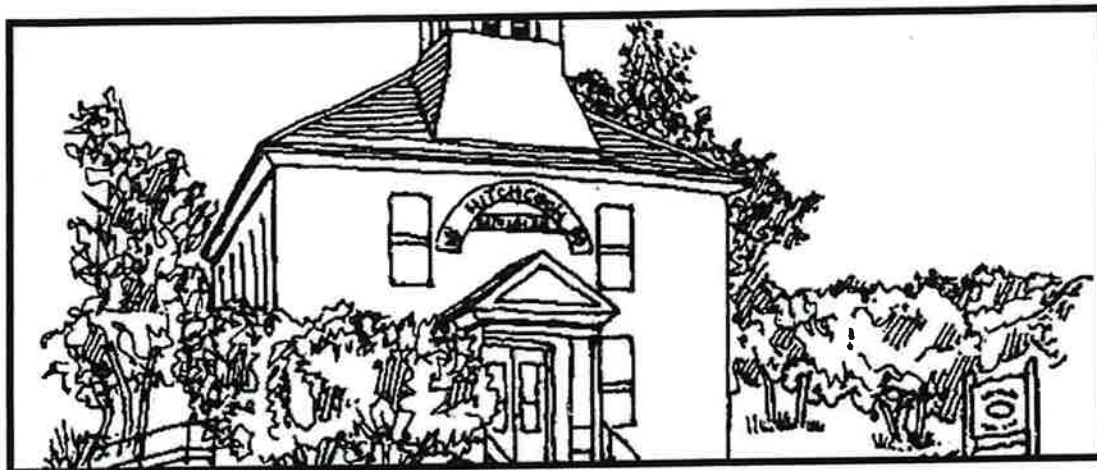
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: July 15, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



The Hitchcock is happy to announce that we will now be open on **Saturdays from 10:00am-2:00pm, beginning September 6!** These additional hours are during a peak "errand running" time in Westfield, so we hope this will make visiting the Hitchcock even more convenient. If you haven't stopped by yet, maybe Saturday is your day! We're excited to welcome you.



Author Tanya Sousa & Representative Samuel Douglass at Aaron Hitchcock's 202nd Birthday Party at HMML on July 19.



Campers from Hosmer Point Camp visited the Hitchcock on July 22, and they were excited to show off the temporary tattoos they earned!



A kind patron took some zinnia seeds from our Seed Library in early spring, and in August brought the successful seedlings - now blooms- to the library!

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- **Saturday 10am-2pm***
- Sunday 11am-3pm

***New!**

Mid-Autumn Festival Calligraphy Workshop

Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with our Chinese Calligraphy Workshop with instructor Jojo Liu! In this workshop, participants will explore the art of Chinese calligraphy — learning how to hold the brush, master basic strokes, and create meaningful calligraphic artwork. Whether you're a beginner or have prior experience, this program welcomes all skill levels. Registration is required for this event, which is suitable for ages 12 & up and is \$15.00 per participant (scholarships available.)

Saturday, September 27, 2025 – 3:00-4:00pm

Westfield Community Center

Email hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com to register!



Jojo Liu

Vermont Online Library

Now that school has started again, we wanted to remind families about Vermont Online Library! Through the Hitchcock's link, families can gain free access to the Vermont Online Library which has:

- Full-text, scholarly articles
- Homework help & research databases
- Peterson's test & career prep
- Udemy (self-paced courses)
- And so much more!

Stop by the library or email (hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com) for more information!



This Month's Events

- **Tuesday, September 9: Homeschool Book Swap & Ice Cream Social**

Join us at the Hitchcock for a book swap (bring your books in good condition to swap!) lawn games, and ice cream. Geared towards homeschool families but open to all!

1:00pm-3:00pm -- Free

- **Saturday, September 27: Mid-Autumn Festival Calligraphy Workshop with Jojo Liu**

See article above!

3:00pm-4:00pm – \$15.00 per person



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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: September 9, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



Expanding Access (and Our Bathroom!)

We are thrilled to share two exciting pieces of news that will improve access to library services for the community!

- **Beginning October 7, 2025, the Hitchcock will be a member of the statewide interlibrary loan courier system.** This will give patrons access to a wider range of items (books, audiobooks, DVDs, etc.) at a lower cost to taxpayers. While we have been participating in interlibrary loan up to this point, we have had to utilize USPS to send items back and forth, which quickly adds up cost-wise. Being a part of the courier system by sharing a stop with the Dailey Memorial Library in Derby will lower our costs and allow for more robust usage of the interlibrary loan service!
- **In mid-January 2026, the youth library will be undergoing some renovations!** In addition to our bathroom and doorway being expanded, changes will be made to the shelving configuration in the room to make it more inviting and accessible to our younger patrons. We anticipate the library being closed for about two weeks during these renovations so that the renovators can work safely and comfortably. More information about the renovation will be forthcoming, so keep an eye on this newsletter and our Facebook page!

And don't forget: we are now open on Saturdays from 10:00am-2:00pm to make visiting even more convenient! We hope to see you soon!

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Mid-Autumn Festival Calligraphy Workshop

We had a great time at our Chinese calligraphy workshop on September 27 at the Westfield Community Center! Participants learned from artist Jojo Liu (with us via Zoom) who demonstrated basic strokes and then how to write "Happy Mid-Autumn Festival" in Chinese characters. Participants wrote this phrase first on their practice sheets and then on paper fans to celebrate the holiday!

We still have brushes, ink, and fans available at the library if anyone would like to try their hand at Chinese calligraphy. These will be available by donation depending on how many materials are taken. Contact us for more information!



Homeschool Book Swap & Ice Cream Social

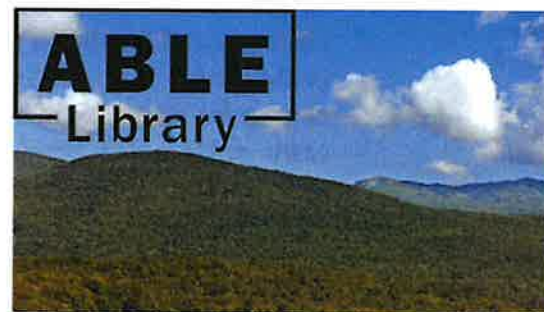
Our Homeschool Book Swap & Ice Cream Social on September 9 was a huge success! Over 30 caregivers and kiddos of all ages joined us for outside games, books, and ice cream.

Thank you to the Gunther Family for not only coming up with the idea for the event, but for all of their hard work to make the event a success. Homeschool families, please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more events! Additionally, families are welcome to stop by the library at any time to peruse the free books for youth that were left over from the event.



ABLE Library

The ABLE Library, administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries, is a service available to all Vermonters who are blind, visually-impaired, or otherwise unable to access traditional print materials. Patrons of the ABLE Library can receive a free talking book machine and talking books sent directly to their home, as well as access to the BARD mobile app. If this sounds like a service that may be of value to you or someone you know, stop by the Hitchcock for an application and a demo of the talking book machine!



For more information about the ABLE Library, visit:
<https://libraries.vermont.gov/able-library>

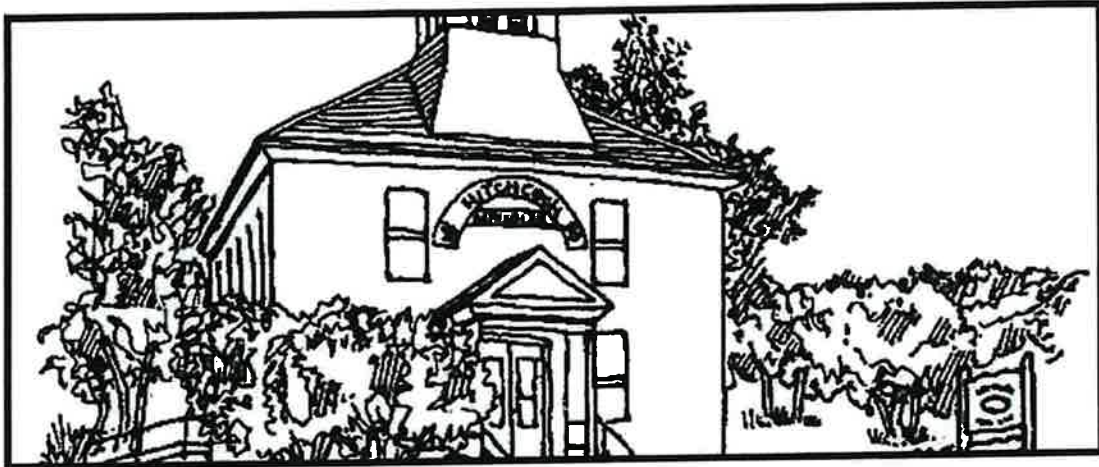
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NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: October 14, 2025 @ 4pm

Hitchcock Herald

News from the Hitchcock Memorial Museum & Library in Westfield, VT



All Eyes on 2026!

It has been a fantastic year for the Hitchcock (stay tuned for our January issue with a recap!) and 2026 promises to be just as amazing. In addition to our bathroom and youth room renovations happening in January, we are looking forward to more books, more programming for all ages, and important administrative and maintenance work in the museum.

But before 2025 ends and we embark on these new projects, I want to take a moment to thank the Westfield community and surrounding communities for your support this year. Your patronage of the library, your donations, your kind words on Facebook or by email - they are all incredibly precious to me and my board. Please know that your continued support of the library is invaluable, and that your feedback - comments, questions, advice, etc. - is vital to creating an institution that is useful and impactful to the community. Do not hesitate to reach out at any time; my contact information is below.

Before I sign off, I want to invite you to one of our holiday programs (see the next page) and wish you and yours a safe and fulfilling holiday season.

Yours,

Jennifer Johnson

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Holiday Ornament Workshop

Families are welcome to join us at the HMML for a holiday ornament workshop! Kiddos aged 4 and up and their caregivers are welcome to drop-in to make their own ornaments to decorate their tree at home, give to loved ones, or put on our HMML tree.

The workshop will be held on **Saturday, December 6, from 12:00-2:00pm** in our basement workspace and will be **FREE**. No registration is required. Free books will also be available to take home.

Please call or email with any questions!



Holiday Swag Workshop

Join local artisans Jenn Stelma and Kim Backus to make your own holiday swag at the HMML!

The workshop will be held on **Sunday, December 7, from 1:00-3:00pm** in our basement work space. All materials will be provided, and the cost is \$15.00 per person payable on the day of the workshop (exact cash, please.)

Registration is required for either the 1:00-2:00pm or 2:00-3:00pm time slot. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/HolidaySwags> or call/email!

Please note that this workshops is intended for older teens and adults.



Please note that we will be **closed** on the following holidays:
Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving)
Thursday, December 25 (Christmas)
Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Stelma - *Chair* * Carrie Glessner - *Co-Chair* * Karen Blais - *Treasurer*
Rebecca Velazquez - *Secretary* * Carolyn Lyster - *Facilities Director*

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: December 9, 2025 @ 4pm