



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

The latest news and updates from the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)

# NEWSLETTER



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## BREAKING NEWS

[Longwood Public Library](#) Director, Lisa Jacobs, will be featured in an [ALA SustainRT Webinar](#) on November 4th. She will be discussing the work her library engaged in before, during, and continuing after her library's certification.



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## SCHOOL LIBRARIAN CERTIFICATION COHORT

This school year, the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) is pleased to have seven new certification participants and three previously enrolled participants who were delayed due to COVID. This robust group will be working throughout the school year to meet our certification benchmarks while having the support of their mentors and each other. Our previously certified school librarian, Joanna McCloskey, will be continuing to work with our program as a mentor. This issue of the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative newsletter](#) will profile some of our School Librarian Certification Program recipients.

## DEBBIE ARMBRUSTER

### SCHOOL

Shaker Middle School, Latham, NY

Debbie decided to pursue the Sustainable Libraries Certification to update and extend the reach of her new middle school library and to continue her own professional development.

### What are you hoping to learn through this program?

"I am hoping to keep library program offerings front and center in my building. We are a curricular center and our programs make a huge difference in the lives and education of our students. My goal is to become a go-to resource and to be able to sustain the program that has been built to this point."



Certification Program member Debbie Armbruster



Certification Program member Beth Green and the Wappingers Junior High School Library (also pictured on page 1)

## BETH GREEN

### SCHOOL

Wappingers Junior High School, Wappingers Falls, NY

Beth is pursuing her certification after her School Library System extended an invitation to anyone willing to join. She has been thinking about her placement in the education "business" and fretting about the way that some school districts have been eliminating their libraries and librarians. After reading about the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) and the [Sustainable Libraries Certification Program](#), she felt that an additional certification would help bring about a better awareness of what libraries and librarians have to offer in their school buildings.

### What are you hoping to learn through this program?

"I am hoping to work on my advocacy skills and my long-term goal planning. I am very good at short term work, but I feel that I fall short on setting goals for myself and my library that are long range."

## SHEILA MCINTYRE

### SCHOOL

Milton Terrace Elementary School, Ballston Spa, NY

Sheila was introduced to the program through a [Capital Region BOCES Professional Development session](#). The Certification Program interested her due to the use of the [triple bottom line](#) approach to sustainability.

### What are you hoping to learn through this program?

"I'm hoping to be able to look reflectively on our current library program to see where changes and improvements can be made to benefit not just our school community but the communities as a whole - school, local, and global."



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Certification Program member Aileen Basuljevic talking with students

## AILEEN BASULJEVIC

SCHOOL

Van Wyck Junior High School, Wappingers Falls, NY

Aileen is passionate about promoting the field of school librarianship and elevating the visibility of school librarians. Participating in this certification program is a chance to do both. Keeping librarians in their school and helping them thrive could serve as a demonstration that school librarians are worth funding in all schools.

### What are you hoping to learn through this program?

"Ways that other school librarians are handling programming."

## BETH DAVIS

SCHOOL

Berne-Knox-Westerlo Middle/Senior High School, Berne, NY

After 25 years as a school librarian and especially the last two teaching under COVID conditions, she is looking to the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program as a way to try new things. She joins this program with hope that it will lead to collaboration with teachers in new subject areas. She is also wishing to create a more environmentally friendly library.



Certification Program member Paula Michalak

## PAULA MICHALAK

SCHOOL

Silver Creek Central Schools, Silver Creek, NY

Paula learned about the Sustainable Libraries Initiative through a workshop and hopes to expand her learning in new areas. She is also looking to find new ways to improve the library's programs, space, and build a stronger connection with the school's staff, faculty, administration, and community members.



Certification Program member Beth Davis



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## CLAIRE MITCHELL

### SCHOOL

Fairfield Elementary School Library, Massapequa, NY

Claire heard about this program through the Nassau BOCES office. Her mentor encouraged her to participate in the certification program. She initially started the program in January 2020, but put it on hold during COVID. She is rejoining with our new 2021-2022 cohort.

### What are you hoping to learn through this program?

"So far, I realize how School Librarians are unique! We work very hard to support our students and teachers using their pace to integrate our benchmarks. Often, librarians in the same district do things very differently to meet the same goals. I hope to model how ES Librarians can bring Sustainability to the whole school."

## KRISTINA GRAVES

### SCHOOL

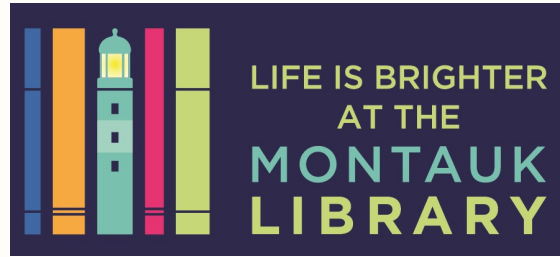
Schenectady High School, Schenectady, NY

Kristina heard about our program through Capital Region BOCES. She is pursuing her certification as a new learning experience and is hoping to learn more about sustainability through participation in the program.



Student sitting area at Schenectady Middle School

**Don't miss our important news:** Please add [sli-newsletter@lists.suffolknet.org](mailto:sli-newsletter@lists.suffolknet.org) to your address book to keep our newsletter out of your junk or spam folders!



## MEMBER NEWS

This month we welcome two new public library certification program members. Montauk Library, part of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, has joined and Patterson Library, part of the Mid-Hudson Library System, is now working toward their certification. We look forward to sharing ideas and best practices with our expanding membership pool.



## CALL FOR ITEMS

Have you created a library policy or program with Sustainability in mind? Share your ideas with our community! Contact [sliadmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sliadmin@suffolknet.org) to be featured in our newsletter or on the SLI Website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Long Island School Library Systems 8th Regional Institute

Tuesday, November 2nd, 10:40am EST

### NYLA Annual Conference and Trade Show

November 3rd-6th, Syracuse, NY EST

### ALA SustainRT Webinar featuring Lisa Jacobs

Longwood Public Library

Thursday, November 4th, 12pm EST

### Libraries and Sustainability Seminar

Thursday, November 18th, 6:30pm EST

### SLCP Online Meetup

Thursday, December 2nd, 11:00 am EST



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