



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

NEWSLETTER

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



Certified Sustainable Librarians, Aileen Basuljevic and Beth Green

BREAKING NEWS

This month we are celebrating the certification of two (**TWO!**) School Librarians in our Certification Program. Beth Green and Aileen Basuljevic are middle school librarians in the [Wappingers Central School District](#). They have been collaborating for many years to keep the two middle schools as similar as possible. Completing this certification program allowed the duo to have yet another project to work on together. Beth and Aileen each completed their own work towards certification, but were able to benefit from the added support of a close peer working towards this goal at the same time. The School Librarian Certification Program stood out to them in its alignment with their passions and as an additional way to keep their library programs relevant to their school community.

[Read more about the work they have completed on our website and stay tuned for the press release.](#)

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MEMBER NEWS

Two new libraries and a library system have enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program this month. We extend an enthusiastic welcome to [New Canaan Library](#) (CT), [Valley Cottage Public Library](#) (NY), and [North Country Library System](#) (NY). SLI Membership continues to grow with two new members, [Montclair Public Library](#) (NJ) and [Des Moines Public Library](#) (IA).



New Canaan
Library



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Highland Public Library Director, Julie Kelsall-Dempsey with their custom SLI Certification Plaque.

HIGHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES PLAQUE

The Highland Public Library was officially Certified Sustainable in December 2021. In August they received their one-of-a-kind Sustainable Libraries Initiative certification plaque. They will be celebrating their achievement at their library in the near future. We hope that the plaque is displayed proudly because we are more than proud of them for the hard work they did to achieve their certification! Read more on our website about Highland's sustainability efforts, from their community-driven Plan of Service to the recycled crafts they put together.

Our plaques are designed and fabricated in Ridgway, Colorado by a company called Kiitella, which is a sustainability-oriented small business that sources only the highest quality materials. Each plaque is made out of reclaimed barn wood and recycled steel, which are both sourced locally, so no two plaques are exactly the same!

SLI WEBINAR: HOSTING A REPAIR CAFE

Our next webinar, Hosting a Repair Cafe, will be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 1 pm. Join us for an informational session with author and Repair Cafe expert, Gabrielle Griffiths along with a panel of SLCP Members who will share their experiences planning, organizing, and hosting Repair Cafes in their libraries. Learn from the experiences of Sara Fiorenzo from Lindenhurst Memorial Library, Nicole Lane from Gardiner Library, and Jen Ferriss from Saratoga Springs Public Library, who have all successfully run Repair Cafes through their libraries. Get the know-how and motivation you need to start this program in your community. Register here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ARSL Conference Presentation

"Sustainability in a Small Library: Big Impacts in Small Communities" Sat, September 17th, 10 AM EST

SLI Repair Café Webinar Weds, September 28th, 1 PM EST

October SLCP Online Member Meetup Thursday, October 6th, 11 AM EST



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Our newest Advisory Board members: (clockwise) Dr. Jen Cannell, Margaret Woodruff, Jen Ferris, and Claudia Depkin

MEET OUR NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative welcomes four new Advisory Board members. Claudia Depkin, Dr. Jen Cannell, Jen Ferris, and Margaret Woodruff. Claudia is the Director of Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library. Her involvement and enthusiasm as a co-creator of the SLI have had a role in shaping what this organization has become. Dr. Jen Cannell has been involved with the SLI for many years. She was instrumental in developing the School Librarian Certification Benchmarks and is a mentor for the School Librarian and Academic Library Programs. Jen Ferris is the Assistant Director of the Saratoga Springs Public Library. She was a co-creator of the SLCP and led Saratoga Springs to be one of the first Certified Sustainable Libraries. She has continued to be a vocal advocate for the SLI from her early work writing our newsletter to her role as a speaker and representative for the SLI at numerous conferences and webinars including our upcoming Hosting a Repair Cafe’ Webinar. Margaret Woodruff is the Director of the Charlotte Library in Charlotte, VT.

She has been a champion of sustainability in libraries for many years, notably with the formation of the Vermont Sustainable Libraries Working Group. She has coordinated a cohort of nine Vermont Libraries that are currently pursuing their certification. The dedication of time and energy by our new and current board members is instrumental to our continued success.

SLI REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE OUT AND ABOUT THIS FALL

Representatives from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will attend several in-person conferences this fall. Sustainability Coordinator, Annemarie Gordon, and Advisory Board Member, Margaret Woodruff will be presenting “Sustainability in a Small Library - Big Impacts in Small Communities” at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Chattanooga, TN on Saturday, September 17th. Annemarie will also be presenting “Every Job is a Climate Job - Library Edition” at WNLRC’s Intersect Unconference in Buffalo, NY on October 7th and presenting “Sustainability in Libraries at Every Scale” at the New England Library Association & New Hampshire Library Association’s Annual Conference in Manchester, NH on Monday, October 24th. On Friday, November 4th SLI Members will be presenting “Innovations in Sustainable Libraries” at the New York Library Association Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. This discussion will feature a panel of Sustainable Library Certification Program Members from New York public libraries and library systems. If you are planning to attend any of these conferences, please seek us out. We are happy to meet interested library professionals, answer questions, and chat about the work we are doing.



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