

***CORRESPONDENCE RECOGNIZING STAFF  
FOR MHLS BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2015***

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Lisa Prentiss, Staatsburg Library staff member, for leading the Battle of the Books session at her library and ensuring the success of the event.
- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, for coordinating the list of member libraries that participate in a "Reading to Dogs" program, for inclusion in "Living & Being" magazine.
- Thank you letter to Tom Sloan, Executive Director, from Senator Sue Serino, for his attendance at a meeting to discuss the Starr Library's Special District Legislation.
- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Bonny Corrado, Director of the Tivoli Free Library, for her attendance and participation at the library's community cultural event.
- Thank you email to Tom O'Connell, Nina Acosta, and Merribeth Advocate, from Karen Garafolo, Director Philmont Public Library, for conducting the data entry workshop "How brief is too brief", in Columbia County.
- Letter of thanks from Kerry Weller, President and Margot Peter, Treasurer of the Millbrook Library to MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, for her "support and guidance" during their recent 414 campaign.
- Letter of thanks from Stuart Auchincloss, Board President of the Woodstock Public Library District to MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, for her assistance and facilitation of a board retreat/orientation.
- Thank you note from Stephen Cook, director of the Starr Library in Rhinebeck to MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, for her "advice, counsel, listening and encouragement," related to their sustainable funding efforts which recently culminated in a successful 414 vote to increase their tax support by 44%.
- Thank you note from Kathy Overington, board president of the Germantown Library to MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, for her assistance during their 414 campaign this year.
- Editorial from Library Journal Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Miller, "Our Triple Bottom Line," inspired by her participation in the New York Library Association's Sustainability Initiative Retreat which was conceived of and co-organized by MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich.

- Article from the New York Library Association's (NYLA) eBulletin by Dana Willbanks, "Sustainable, Resilient, Regenerative," reporting on the NYLA Sustainability Initiative Retreat which was conceived of and co-organized by MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich.

## **Merribeth Advocate, MHLS**

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**From:** Lisa Prentiss <prentiss416@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** Merribeth Advocate  
**Subject:** thank you

Merribeth, I just wanted to tell you what a wonderful job you did at Battle of the Books. Your attention to the details really helped everyone feel comfortable and understand how the battles would be run resulting in a smooth day. I love how you talked with the parents and thanked them for their efforts, yet reinforced that they were now spectators. I appreciated how you acknowledged the difficulty of the room which helped everyone to be conscious of limiting noise distractions. Your calm and kind manner of talking to the participants, allowing them space to breath and using humor to calm nerves helped everyone relax a bit in the heat of battle.

Thank you for making the day that much easier,  
Lisa

## Merribeth Advocate, MHLS

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**From:** Elizabeth Potter <director@phoenicalibrary.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2015 8:59 AM  
**To:** Merribeth Advocate, MHLS  
**Subject:** Re: do you offer a program of reading to dogs

Thank you Merribeth for including us !

Liz

On Tue, Sep 22, 2015 at 8:53 AM, Merribeth Advocate, MHLS <[madvocate@midhudson.org](mailto:madvocate@midhudson.org)> wrote:

Thank you for sending me the information about this program at your library. I have attached a copy of the article that is in the September issue of Living & Being.

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Merribeth

**From:** Merribeth Advocate, MHLS [mailto:[madvocate@midhudson.org](mailto:madvocate@midhudson.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:19 AM  
**To:** '[ulsterdirectors@midhudson.org](mailto:ulsterdirectors@midhudson.org)' <[ulsterdirectors@midhudson.org](mailto:ulsterdirectors@midhudson.org)>; '[dutchessdirectors@midhudson.org](mailto:dutchessdirectors@midhudson.org)' <[dutchessdirectors@midhudson.org](mailto:dutchessdirectors@midhudson.org)>  
**Subject:** do you offer a program of reading to dogs  
**Importance:** High

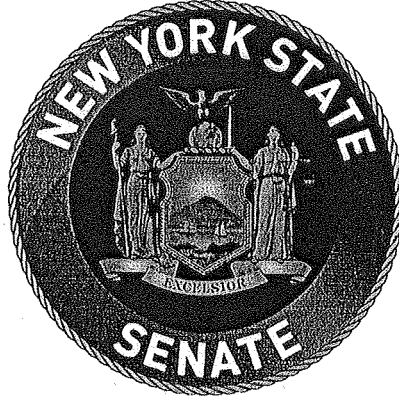
Dutchess & Ulster Library Directors:

MHLS was contacted today regarding an article being written for Living & Being magazine regarding library programs in Dutchess and Ulster County where patrons read to dogs. If this is a regularly scheduled program at your library, they would like to list your library and phone number and say 'call for more information'. Please let me know by July 29 to have you library included in the listing.

Thank you,

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Merribeth



**SENATOR SUE SERINO**  
**41ST SENATE DISTRICT**

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September 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Sloan:

I am writing today in order to thank you for attending the meeting at my office. I am glad that we could bring all interested parties together in search of a resolution. I appreciate your openness regarding the problems surrounding this situation.

Going forward, I hope that this issue is resolved favorably and in a timely manner. Again, thank you for attending the meeting.

Sincerely,

*Sue Serino*

Senator Serino

## **Merribeth Advocate, MHLS**

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**From:** Bonny Corrado <tivolidirector@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2015 1:10 PM  
**To:** Merribeth Advocate  
**Subject:** Tivoli cultural event

Hi Merribeth,

I just wanted to send you a heartfelt "Thank You" for attending the event this past Saturday & for *chipping in*! I apologize that I did not get to speak with you more but we were a little short staffed so I chipped in by "being the hostess" at the food table for the duration of the event. I think it really was a wonderful community event & Polly did a great job as "MC". I am sure that Veronica was very pleased with the turnout & with the help from all the groups that were involved.

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**Bonny Corrado**  
**Director**  
**Tivoli Free Library**  
**845-757-3771**

## **Merribeth Advocate, MHLS**

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**From:** library@philmont.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 2:37 PM  
**To:** Tom Sloan; Meribeth Advocate; nacosta@midhudson.org  
**Cc:** columbiadirectors@midhudson.org  
**Subject:** Today's Workshop

Tom, Meribeth and Nina

Thank you all for making it possible to have one of the "brief" workshops in Columbia County. Nearly every library from the county was represented. We do so appreciate when the workshops are able to come north.

Karen Garafalo  
Philmont Public Library



## The Millbrook Library

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November 4, 2015

Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability  
Mid-Hudson Library System  
103 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12545

Dear Rebekkah:

On behalf of the Millbrook Library Board of Trustees and Staff, thank you for the support and guidance you provided us during the 414 campaign. Having no one with prior experience in the 414 process, we relied heavily on the advice you provided in workshops for our Board and in numerous phone calls and emails. Your insight and expertise was invaluable as we navigated this process.

We are so pleased by the outcome, particularly, that we received almost 71% of the vote! The Library Board and Staff look forward to continuing our mission of providing our community with a vibrant, life-long learning center for patrons of all ages and look forward to continued partnership with you and the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Sincerely,

Margot Peter, Treasurer  
Board of Trustees

Kerry Weller, President  
Board of Trustees



## Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

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**From:** Stuart Auchincloss <sauchincloss@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:05 AM  
**To:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich  
**Subject:** Re: Woodstock Public Library District Board Retreat - follow up

Hi Rebekkah,

Thank you so much for your time and careful preparation for our orientation last night. I wish I had had such an orientation years ago. I learned a number of things that I did not know. I can say that in 2013 and 2014 we had much less energy for these things as our well-laid expansion plans were turned against us, but before then we could have gotten on top of them.

I think this was an excellent way to tee up the change of board culture. I will try to follow up with putting the plan in place to address what needs to be addressed in the new year. My first priority is to look for one more board member to begin the new year with a full board.

Thank you again for all you have done for the Woodstock Library. You are a very gifted leader.

Stuart

Stuart Auchincloss  
Woodstock, NY 12498  
(845) 679-7002

On Nov 17, 2015, at 8:26 AM, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your time and attention last evening, I hope you found the orientation a good use of your time.

Here are the items from the "parking lot":

- Audit/Review Schedule
  - For  
example: <http://elwoodlibrary.org/policies/Elwood%20Financial%20Policies.pdf>
- Account for an Organize Committee Structure

## Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

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**From:** Stephen Cook <starrdirector@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 11:02 PM  
**To:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich  
**Subject:** Thanks

That we got over the finish line in one piece is a testament to your advice, counsel, listening and encouragement. Could not have done it without you.

I guess I'm buyin' at Grand Cru.

SC

Stephen Cook  
starrdirector@icloud.com

STARR LIBRARY RHINEBECK

## Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

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**From:** Overington <mkkd@gtel.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 10:11 PM  
**To:** Germantown Library; Smith, Faythe; Colwell, Vera; Jason, Carol Ann; DelPozzo, Dottie; Martens, Mary; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; Overington, Devin ; 'Atwell, Ginny'; Bangiola, Robert ; Brehse, Claudia; 'Buser, Joan'; 'Cawley, Betsy '; Della Cioppa, Margaret; 'DiPalma, Jean'; 'MacDonald, Al & Pam'; 'Olsson, Les'; Randazzo, Susan; 'Westmore, Donald'  
**Subject:** WIN for the GERMANTOWN LIBRARY!

For those who haven't heard yet... the library proposition PASSED by a comfortable margin tonight!

Some of you heard this news earlier – at that time I knew we had won but only had the numbers from District 1.

Here are the official numbers:

District 1  
Yes 154  
No 117

District 2  
Yes 171  
No 110

Total  
Yes 325  
No 227

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this proposal and THANK YOU to all of you who have made the Germantown Library a valuable asset to this community – it was clear from this vote that the community appreciates what we are doing.

Best Regards,  
Kathy

# Editorial



## It's time to redefine sustainability Our Triple Bottom Line

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, SOCIALLY EQUITABLE. Economically feasible. Each of these concepts alone encompasses a worthy goal and each contains a universe of complexity. Considered in tandem, they may just change the face of library sustainability planning. I, for one, am captivated by the potential that they could do just that.

The work has begun. In September, a small group of “co-creators” of the New York Library Association (NYLA) Sustainability Initiative convened an intensive think tank. There, participants dreamt about how to spur efforts around sustainable libraries in light of NYLA’s 2014 adoption of the Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries. (A modified version was adopted by the American Library Association this summer; see “A Win for Sustainability,” [ow.ly/SUig3](http://ow.ly/SUig3).) It was engaging and inspiring to be among like-minded peers, and it is clear that the road ahead is not yet mapped and likely to be challenging.

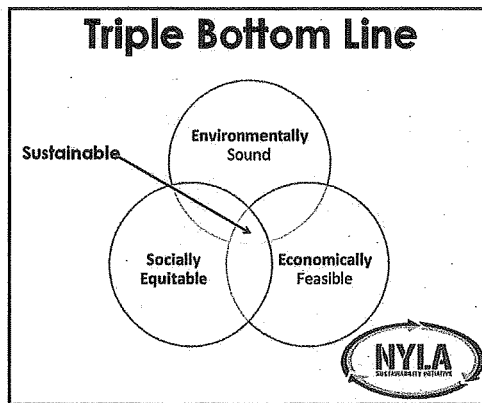
Maybe owing to the uncertainty of the uncharted territory mixed with the urgency of the era we live in, I came away feeling energized and more certain than ever that now is the time for librarians to step forward and forge a new understanding and application of sustainable thinking. How do we move a profession to think actively about sustainability in the broadest sense and, more important, take action that creates greater sustainability for our libraries and our communities? Working groups such as this one have the potential to propel us from language to the brass tacks of implementation—and kudos to the people who are putting shoulder to plow.

Such a complex problem as “capital S” sustainability requires a comprehensive response. Setting really valuable context was a Venn diagram (pictured) presented by lead conveners Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, coordinator for library sustainability for the Mid-Hudson Library System, and Matthew Bollerman, director of the Hauppauge Public Library and past NYLA president. Smith Aldrich adapted the concept of the “triple bottom line”—coined by John Elkington in 1994 to help articulate a whole picture of the costs of doing business for the private sector—to represent

outcomes that align with library purposes. Hence, one circle embodies the goal of social equity, one focuses on economic feasibility, and one stands for environmental sensitivity.

The sweet spot in the center, the “universal set,” is where the three overlap. We are pretty good at thinking about each in its silo, but the challenge inherent in this image is in transcending those silos. Sustainability, for example, has often been thought

of simply as a synonym for green design—and misunderstanding of the long-term economic feasibility of green design has often led to friction where there could have been consensus. By thinking of these things together instead of separately, we can home in on the solutions that address all three goals rather than create three solutions that could work for one but hamper one or both of the others. Asking, *does it create more social equity, is it environmentally sound, and is it economically feasible* fosters a sort of harmony in strategic planning that guides leaders toward a sustainable choice.



If we let these goals together drive our development, we could very well have more robust solutions that address our ongoing societal need for a mechanism to increase equity, our internal institutional need for sustained viability, and the global need to address climate change through systemic commitments. Applied together, across our libraries, this conceptualization could foster a sea change for our society.

I know *sustainability* can be considered a buzzword or, worse, a pipe dream. It's neither. I'm willing to believe it's a real possibility—that the universal set is achievable. It's our only choice, and the time is here to galvanize our best thinking toward helping our libraries and our communities get there.

Rebecca T. Miller, Editor-in-Chief  
[rmiller@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:rmiller@mediasourceinc.com)

# Sustainable, Resilient, Regenerative

Submitted by Dana Willbanks, NYLA Communications and Marketing Manager

At the beginning of 2014, the NYLA Council passed a [Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries](#) to help New York libraries respond to economic challenges and environmental calamities. The number and severity of these issues are on the rise, as are the resulting service disruptions, making the mission of providing equitable access to services increasingly difficult for libraries to fully realize. The Resolution was an excellent step in helping libraries address these issues, but more action was needed.

The NYLA Sustainability Initiative, under the guidance of Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Matthew Bollerma, is the tangible incarnation of this Resolution. It is a space where library leaders can come together to discuss effective responses to these crises. Co-creators for the Initiative were sought from the entire New York Library community, and each applicant was asked to answer questions about their personal passion for their work, to provide concrete examples of their commitment to sustainability, and to lay out their vision for the role libraries play in their communities. After reviewing the excellent submissions, 23 individuals were selected.



These newly minted Initiative co-creators, along with Rebekkah, Matthew, and NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen, kicked things off at a Sustainability Retreat at the [Carey Institute for Global Good](#). I had the pleasure of tagging along, ostensibly in my professional capacity as NYLA Communications Manager but secretly to indulge my interest in the topic of sustainability. As I am still relatively new to NYLA and continue to learn more and more of the seemingly endless scope of what libraries do, I was not sure what to expect. I anticipated an interesting if idealistic marathon brain-storming session; what actually took place was so much more.

The first order of business was to define in concrete terms why exactly we were all hanging out in the woods in the middle of the work week. The assembled co-creators discussed and agreed on the purpose of the retreat and its core values, the goal of the Initiative as a whole, and definitions of certain critical terms and concepts. Recommendations aimed at "bring sustainable thinking to life" were made, including the creation of a NYLA Sustainable Thinking Committee to advise NYLA as well as the entire New York library community on thinking, and in turn *acting*, sustainably.

Part of the discussion centered on the role of the library in the community. I have been a huge fan of libraries for as long as I can remember, borrowing massive stacks of books from the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown, NY before I could even see over the circulation desk. I knew libraries also offered DVDs, Internet access, and the occasional blood drive, but until I started working at NYLA my library knowledge was woefully limited. In the not-quite-five-months that I've been here that limited definition has expanded to include 3D printing of everything from bookmarks to prosthetic hands, bicycle services stations, immigration services, food programs... the list goes on for much longer than I'm allowed in this column.

At the retreat, that definition was expanded even further to include a recognition of libraries as true leaders in the community, leaders that work hand-in-hand with their patrons and neighbors to address climate change, economic insecurity, and how we can collectively address these seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The Resolution, the selection of co-creators, and the recent retreat are the first steps of an ongoing conversation about libraries and their role as leaders in sustainable thinking. From that '24-hour marathon brain-storming session' has emerged a concrete plan of action for bringing this topic to NYLA, the New York library community, and the community beyond. Stay tuned for much more on this topic!

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their commitment to sustainability:

