



**The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's  
Sustainable Workforce Development Network  
Our Team: 2020**



**Marianne Larned  
Founding Director**

**Marianne** is the Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and the author of educational series, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. A thought leader and spokesperson, Ms. Larned uses the Stone Soup model to inspire people to work together to build a sustainable world. Marianne is a sustainability champion, workforce development strategist, Design Thinking pragmatist and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) pioneer. She has assisted Fortune 500 companies, Chambers of Commerce, education, government, civic and community leaders to develop public-private partnerships to improve economic development, education, and health care. She received her Masters in Organizational Development at Boston University. Her undergraduate studies were at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Rudolph Steiner Center in Aberdeen, Scotland. Marianne is honored to work along a talented multicultural team to build this economic development tool that will enable communities to plan for transition to the blue-green economy.



**Trevor Tanaka  
SustainWDN Project Director**

**Trevor** is the SustainWDN Project Coordinator where he interfaces with the tech team and sustainability leaders. In 2011 he served as a youth delegate from Hawaii to the Institute's Youth Leadership Summit. He is a founding member of the Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative. He then envisioned the Sustainable Education Resolution and championed it through passage. He was then the Project Coordinator for the Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit, a global model to connect youth, educators, business and community to build a sustainable world. In 2016 Trevor graduated from Chapman University. He now serves as an emerging leader and faculty for the Institute's annual Sustainability Summit, where he helps the youth to realize dreams and develop sustainability-in-action projects to help their communities. Trevor is featured in the new book: *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

## Our Facilitators



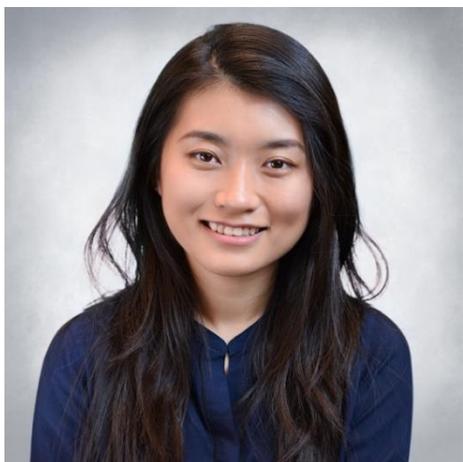
**Taynara Goncalves**  
Martha's Vineyard  
Summit Facilitator

**Taynara Goncalves** is a graduate of Gordon College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a pre-med concentration. She graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School on the National Honors Society, soccer team, and volunteered at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Taynara's dream is to become either a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. Born in Brazil, Taynara moved with her family to the Island when she was four. Taynara served on the first Brazilian delegation to MVYLI's 2013 Youth Leadership Summit; as a MVYLI Visioneer she co-created Summits 2014-2015; and Cronkite Awards. Taynara served as an Emerging Leader: 2015-2017 Summits and as the College Prep Program Facilitator working with the Brazilian youth. She is a Project Coordinator MVYLI's Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day Program: 2016-2019. Taynara speaks 3 languages: Portuguese, English, and Spanish. She created MVYLI's Multicultural Project to inspire younger students. Taynara was served as a Beyond Benign Fellow that "develops and disseminates green chemistry and sustainable science educational resources that empower educators, students, and the community at large to practice sustainability through chemistry." Taynara served as Facilitator for the Institute's Summit in 2018-2020.



**Lauren Matthias**  
Summit Facilitator

**Lauren** is an educator with an extensive background in multi-faceted education environments. For over a decade, she has been galvanized to amplify youth voices and encourage story-sharing as a means of resistance. At Emerson College, Lauren acquired a Bachelor's in performing arts and women's and gender studies, with a focus on Theater for Social Change. After graduating, she traveled to California to join *The Medea Project: Theatre for Incarcerated Women/HIV Circle* and worked as a reading specialist with English language learners. Lauren has run theater workshops internationally with groups of young people from Morocco, France, and the Republic of Georgia. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Education from URI and works as a Teaching Partner at a middle school in Providence, Rhode Island.



**Namgyal Gyaltsen**  
Project Coordinator & Facilitator

**Namgyal** is the Project Coordinator for the TouchStone Leaders Platform and works as a liaison between the tech team and the BETA users to ensure that the Institute's Learning Tools are user-friendly and up to date. While working with the Institute Namgyal has developed her design skills to assist with the website mockups, presentations and pitch decks. She assists with the research and development of the Institute's SustainWDN. Namgyal graduated from Brown University with a double degree in Economics and Environmental Studies and is interested in issues at the nexus of economic development and environmental conservation. While at Brown, she interned with Environment America to advocate for the strengthening of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and renewable energy in Rhode Island. In Bhutan, she served as an intern with the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Dept of Renewable Energy where she researched diversification of renewable energy sources. Under WWF Bhutan, she worked with local experts on bird conservation to launch the first Birdwatching Club of Bhutan to initiate dialogue among the youth about conservation.



**Berta Paleaz**  
Project Coordinator

**Berta Paleaz** is a Youth Leaders Facilitator and serves as an inspirational role model for our Latin youth, especially young women. She immigrated to the U.S. with her mother from her homeland in Guatemala when she was 13 years old. Berta graduated from Central High School in Providence, RI. Her intention was to continue her education, however due to her immigration status, she was not accepted to college. Berta was persistent and never gave up her dream of learning. When Berta turned 31 she became a legal resident of USA. She immediately signed up for college. During the interim period, she joined many groups at her church and became a CCD teacher and a youth group leader. Berta married and is the mother of two wonderful children. In 2018 she graduated from Community College of Rhode Island. In addition to serving as a Youth Facilitator, Berta joyfully oversees the Institute's Logistics Team for the Summit and coordinates the annual Community Service Project.



**Andonaq Grozdani**  
SustainWDM Facilitator

**Andi Grozdani** is a graduate of University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth with a Bachelor's in Computer Science. He participates in hackathons: design sprint-like events with computer programmers, software development, graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, to collaborate intensively on software projects. Andi helped create applications to help in natural disasters, the blind, and social issues. In 2018, Andi and his team won first place at Perkins School for the Blind Hackathon by creating EZForm. The application enables the visually impaired to easily and confidentially fill out a medical form. Andi always wants to help people make their lives easier. He believes the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network is a wonderful opportunity to implement his technical skills to make a difference for companies and for young people committed to sustainability. He is pleased to help lead the tech team and is excited to developing his skills while making an impact in the world.



**Patricia Pires Diaz**  
SustainWDM Facilitator

**Patricia** is a UMass Dartmouth senior, majoring in Computer Information Science. A descendant of Cape Verdean parents, she immigrated to the United States from Portugal when she was 7 years old. She built an inventory and sales-tracking application for her high school's store, and won first place in the 2014 Congressional App Challenge. For her college senior project, she is leading a team of developers in building a dispatch website and mobile app for the Mattapoissett Council on Aging in coordinating rides for elderly and disabled residents. She is a remote Software Developer for Augur Enterprises, using Java to build application features. Patricia aspires to work for a digital agency, working with diverse clients in building applications that solve problems. She believes the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network is great opportunity to work with people of different backgrounds in developing a solution for the future.

## Our Tech Team



**Radouane Khiri**  
SustainWDN Tech Director

**Radouane** is a creative and passionate full-stack web developer and a former lawyer. He studied at Cégep de Saint-Félicien and Microverse coding school where he applied his technical skills to extracurricular projects and taught himself JavaScript, Ruby and responsive web design fundamentals. After graduating, he kept expanding his knowledge and started freelancing where he developed enterprise-level front-end platforms for local consulting and marketing agencies using modern web technologies. He is a maker at heart and he like to acquire as many new skills as he can, whether it is learning a new programming language, learning musical instruments, cooking or any other skill he can get the tools for. Both at work and in his personal life, he is constantly chasing the satisfaction of a tangible finished product. When he is not working or crafting, he spends time giving back to the community, especially supporting new developers and contributing to apps that promote



**Jack McCoy** is an incoming freshman at Occidental College, double major in Computer Science and Media Arts and Culture, concentrating in Film Production. He served as the Cape Cod youth delegate to the Institute's 15<sup>th</sup> Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. He served on the Summit's Tech Team and co-designed on the Institute's new site: Sustainability is Fun: [www.sustainabilityisfun.com](http://www.sustainabilityisfun.com) and [www.SustainWDN.com](http://www.SustainWDN.com) (Sustainable Workforce Development Network). At the Institute's Summit, Jack was inspired to begin the Sunrise Movement's Cape Cod Hub. He led the Cape and Islands Youth Climate Action Summit. Jack was the Director of Branding and Design at MetroHacks, the largest high school hackathon on the east coast. As an intern with the Cape Cod STEM Network, he used his programming, graphic design and writing skills. Through this internship, he worked directly with NASA, NOAA, and WHOI scientists to produce a short film titled, *Searching for Alien Life in Our Own Backyard*.



**Chris Aring-Sharkovitz**  
TouchStone Leaders  
Design Team Leader

Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership  
Initiative

**Chris Aring-Sharkovitz** graduated Olin College of Engineering where he received a full scholarship. Chris served as a youth delegate to the Institute's Youth Leadership Summit in 2015. There he was inspired by Gandhi's grandson to ground his ideals in serving humanity. For his Senior Project, Chris helped created a Hack-a-Thon for the Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform. We brought together college students from Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mt. Holyoke College and University of Massachusetts Lowell. With the team, they created a presentation/pitch deck and video. An active member in the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative, Chris worked on Institute's Platform's Leadership Course BETA to use the stories and curriculum from *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* to teach the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. For his online Sustainability-In-Action Project, Chris designed an online system to match youth with volunteer opportunities with local non-profit organizations. He co-designed [www.virtualfieldstation.com](http://www.virtualfieldstation.com) to connect youth with research, internships in the blue economy. Chris co-led the Institute's Design-A-Thon to envision the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: [www.SustainWDN.com](http://www.SustainWDN.com)



**Ilya Besancon**  
TouchStone Leaders Design Team

**Ilya Besancon** graduated from Olin College of Engineering majoring in Product Design. In 2019 Ilya served on the Institute's Summit Tech Team. He co-led the Institute's Design-A-Thon to envision the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: [www.SustainWDN.com](http://www.SustainWDN.com) Ilya always wants to make an impact on people, and finds it deeply fulfilling to participate in educating the next generation of workers, citizens and advocates for sustainability. One of the most meaningful design process meaningful projects he's worked on was partnering with service animal trainers to develop solutions for their communities. It was deeply humbling for him to learn from these incredible people and to work with a team to tackle challenging issues. Ilya aspires to live in a world that thrives in peace, where people are exceedingly kind to each other and young people pursue their dreams without fear or limitations.

### *Our Writing Team*



**Janet Hulstrand** is a writer, editor, writing coach, and teacher of literature. She was born and raised in Minnesota; has lived in New York City and Washington D.C.; and now divides her time between France and the United States. She is coauthor of *Moving On: A Practical Guide to Downsizing the Family Home*, and author of *Demystifying the French: How to Love Them, and Make Them Love You*. She has a wide range of editorial clients, from individual authors to associations, government agencies, and corporations. Her clients have included the District of Columbia Public Library, the National Audubon Society, the Paul Robeson Foundation, NAFSA, and the World Bank, as well as Caroline Kennedy and Andrew Young. One of her all-time favorite editorial projects was working with Marianne Larned on *Stone Soup for the World*. She is both honored and delighted to be working with Marianne again, on *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World*.



**Kayla Hellal** is the Institute's Research and Marketing Coordinator. She is a communications and marketing consultant with a passion for enacting societal change through nonprofit work. Upon completing her bachelor's in global communications in 2011, she moved to Tunisia where she served as the founding coordinator of an English language library and cultural center. She taught English on Reunion Island (France) and in Tunisia before returning to the USA. For several years she managed communications for two global engineering education organizations and completed her master's in nonprofit organization and management in 2019. She is also a founding board member and Treasurer of the Youth Against Slavery Movement. When she's not working, you'll find her wandering the forest with her dog.



**Phineas Rueckert** is a freelance journalist and graduate student in journalism and international affairs at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po). Previously, he led the education, finance and innovation beats at Global Citizen, a nonprofit aimed at eliminating global poverty, where he wrote stories on topics ranging from environmental leadership in Africa to arts education in refugee camps in Bangladesh. His freelance writing has taken him from the snowy plains of northern Norway to the vineyards of southern France. As an undergraduate student at Macalester College, he double majored in international affairs and political science, and spent a semester abroad in Cuba studying at the University of Havana and the Center for Demographic Studies (CEDEM). Passionate about travel, languages and cultural exchange, he hopes to use his voice as a journalist to spark positive change around the world.

**Jim O'Neill** is an entrepreneur and editorial consultant, working as a content producer for various multimedia projects. In his spare time, Jim is an organic farming hobbyist, and pro-bono editor for movie scripts and stage plays. He has acted in a few bit parts, but hasn't made final cut, on account of being too handsome. Within the next two years, he plans to launch a digital platform and mobile application in the security space. He welcomes those who are just getting a start in business or writing, to reach out for any guidance they might need.



**Sophie Stuber** is a journalist and a graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in Journalism and a Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po, Paris. She received a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stanford University. For senior honors thesis, she studied forced displacement due to climate change, which inspired her to continue to write and report on climate change across the world. Born and raised in Colorado, she works as a contributing writer for the Telluride Daily Planet. She believes that protecting the environment, open spaces and wild land is vital. In Paris, her journalism projects have focused on women's rights/gender issues, the asylum process in France, and cultural subjects including trail running and sustainable fashion.



**Felix Hoffmann** is a freelance multimedia journalist based in Paris and Berlin. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Journalism and International Affairs at Sciences Po, Paris. He specializes in human rights and humanitarian action, with a regional focus on the Middle East. He has studied at Freie Universität Berlin and The American University in Cairo. He moderates and produces a podcast and has produced an interactive webdocumentary about structural violence in Berlin. He wrote for *The Policy Corner* as well as *The Globe Post* and worked on research projects for the *Global Public Policy Institute*, a think tank in Berlin. He loves photography and documenting the everyday lives and realities of people around him. Felix is passionate about the future of our planet and believes that participation of citizens, no matter their age or background, is fundamental to making this world a better place.

**Felix Hoffmann** , Videographer

## *Sustainability Research Team*



**Emily Garland** is a researcher for the Institute's Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit and Sustainability is Fun sites. A dedicated environmentalist, Emily is passionate about living simply and sustainably and helping others do the same. She is from Edmonds, Washington, and graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and creative writing. Emily lives in Hilo, Hawai'i, where she is earning her master's degree in elementary education. For the 2019-20 school year, Emily was a fourth grade student teacher at Connections Public Charter School. Emily lived in Cambodia for four years, where she worked as a teacher trainer for the Peace Corps and as a grant writer for Cambodian Children's Fund. After Cambodia, Emily worked as an education specialist, grant writer and communications manager for an assortment of environmental and youth education nonprofits in California and Hawai'i.



**Jo Hoffman** is a social and ecological systems educator in Oakland. The core of her current work is as a Kindergarten-5th Grade Science Teacher. As a curriculum developer and facilitator, she loves engaging people in processes of discovery that connect them more deeply to themselves, one another, and the earth. Jo is thrilled to support Sustainability is Fun by conducting research elementary and middle school students and educators to access science and sustainability content, programs and tools that will help them deepen their connection and responsibility to social and Earth justice.

**Jo Hoffman**  
Sustainability Researcher



Since 2011 Robin has been the Institute's webmaster overseeing six sites to showcase the progress and success of young people in these communities. A University of Maryland, College Park graduate she's lived on Martha's Vineyard since 1997. She began her career working for an internet bookstore in Vineyard Haven, then SEO/web marketing firm in 2007. She lives in Edgartown with her husband and two daughters. *"Over these nine years, I have been privileged to witness both the Institute's growth and positive impact on young people's lives. From helping them prepare to enter college and the workforce to encouraging them to recognize their potential as leaders in making positive change -- for the environment, their local communities and beyond - SSLI is an organization that has shown great success in helping the voices of our youth be heard and make a difference. I am continually blown away how they guide these kids into taking charge in their local community and beyond to effect positive change."*

**Robin Harper**  
Webmaster  
Martha's Vineyard



**Carli Lynch**  
Videographer

**Carli Lynch** is a graduate of Salve Regina University. She served as the Institute's videographer for the 2019 Summit and produced a series of videos on blue economy speakers and the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: [www.SustainWDN.com](http://www.SustainWDN.com). Carli directed and edited a short film, which won for Best Narrative Short at the Aquidneck Island Student Film Festival. In addition to the Institute, Carli's clients include New England Inns & Resorts Association and Sebasco Harbor Resort. She is the video producer for Salve, filming university events, dance and theater shows, and editing the content for their YouTube and homepage. For three years she served as the president of Salve's Film Production Club. For her gap year Carli worked on an organic farm in Kula, Hawaii and learned about a sustainable lifestyle and farming. She travelled to Sevilla, Spain, where she lived with a host family and learned to adapt to a new culture and language. Carli hopes that one day she will create films that will inspire people and contribute to changing the world.

### *Tech Team Advisory*



**Chris Brown**  
TouchStone Leaders Advisor

**Chris** is an experienced designer and product professional that creates compelling user experiences for consumers and business audiences. Specializing in early stage software initiatives of any kind, he brings a thoughtful and collaborative approach to problem solving. The mission of The Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform instantly resonated with him - Why not bring awareness, opportunity and a sense of purpose about climate change to the very generation that will be confronting it head on their lifetimes. Chris has led design teams at multiple startups focusing on consumer lending. At BillFloat, he created online and retail experiences that provide lending alternatives to the 60 million Americans without access to affordable credit. At Pillow Homes, Chris led the creation of a tech-driven marketplace which allowed renters, land lords and property owners to manage short-term rentals with transparency. Chris built online classrooms & educational media for university professors and K-12 educators in Illinois. He believes user empathy is at the core of every successful product. Chris has helped every company engage & understand their users by contributing to or leading Design Thinking and research initiatives. With degrees in Instructional Technology and a Master in Fine Arts, Chris can acknowledge technology trends while incorporating creativity and human factors into product development teams.

- **Legal:** Simon E. Carlo Valentin, JD
- **Financial Services:** Diane Looney, Downey Burke
- **Financial Accountant:** Jayme Gallenson, Gallenson/McDaneld