

# Evanston Repair Café



Email at [evanstonrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:evanstonrepaircafe@gmail.com)

Register at [epl.org/repair](http://epl.org/repair)



Co-leaders Kathy Kaberon & Anne Opila

# History

- Started in April 2018 as volunteer activity with **Climate Action Evanston**, and gradually expanded to multiple locations
- Expanded with **Evanston Public Library** sponsorship in June 2021, with regular Saturday events, led by library employee
- By 2023, established monthly events on Tuesdays and Saturdays
- Original founder moved back to Europe in Summer 2024, and leadership was passed to co-leader volunteers, Kathy & Anne

# Evanston Repair Café – Attendance 2025

## Saturdays (10 am – 1 pm)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday/month
- 35-50 participants/event
- 45 min slots
- 15-20 volunteers

## Tuesdays (10 am – 12 pm)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday /month
- 15-20 participants/event
- 60 min slots
- 10 volunteers

Use Preregistration tool (SignUp Genius) and also accept walk-ins

# Repair Event Logistics

- Space and Registration link provided by EPL
- Publicity and Funding provided by CAE and EPL
- Patron tips fund miscellaneous expenses
- Volunteers seek us out – no issues with recruitment or retention!
- We host volunteer party 2x/year – social interactions are valued
- Basic skill categories are General Repair, Electronics, Sewing & Darning, Jewelry
- Added categories on some days are Paper Conservation, Knife Sharpening, Bike Repair, Music Consultation, Eyeglass Repair

# Patrons & Community

- Advertised via flyers, EPL & CAE websites, Evanston newsletters, also media interviews, word of mouth
- Majority of patrons are Evanston residents, but others are welcome
- Generally, 50% of patrons at each event are new to Repair Café
- Benefits: reduce waste, no cost, teach new skills, create a new mindset – always a joyful experience!
- Critical elements for a new Repair Café:
  - Supportive sponsor(s)
  - Committed leaders/organizers – logistics are foundation
  - Skilled & dedicated “fixer” volunteers