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Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

November 2024



Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates
from the Sustainable Libraries
Initiative

Issue Contents:

- Congratulations Certified Members!
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Congratulations!



Syosset High School Librarians
Ms. Kristina Holzweiss, Ms. Trish
Sergi, and Dr. Sarah Wasser

Syosset, NY

on becoming **certified sustainable!** We commend you for
your commitment and achievement. Learn more with the
link below!

Syosset School Librarians Press Release

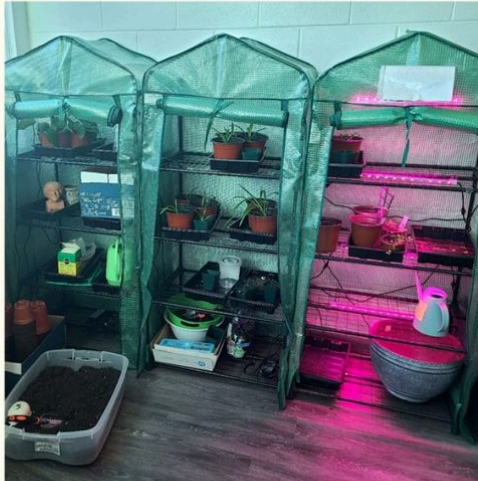
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Ashley Grillo

Institution: Spackenkill High School

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Membership: SLCP School Librarian



By installing three indoor greenhouses in her school, librarian Ashley Grillo garnered high levels of engagement from her students on the topic of sustainability. The greenhouses also gather attention of other departments within her school: art classes use the plants as inspiration for their creations and the science department has since expressed interest in composting -- educating future generations in areas such as the environment and climate change.

"There is nothing more rewarding than to hand my students the tools for becoming more sustainable and having them return saying, 'what's next?'"
- Ashley Grillo, School Librarian



Have a great idea you're proud of? Fill out the form linked below to submit your idea for future editions of the newsletter!

[Form for Submissions](#)

SLI UPDATES

Conference News



Iowa Library Association Annual Conference

SLI staff attended the Iowa Library Association Annual Conference that took place from October 9th to 11th in Des Moines.

Thank you to all the members who stopped by to say hello and all the new faces that we had the opportunity to meet! We appreciate you taking the time to stop by our table or attend our program.

The SLI community in Iowa continues to grow, and we are so excited to welcome you! We were impressed by your kindness, tight-knit community, and dedication to making the world a better place through sustainable practices.

If you are an ILA member and haven't yet taken advantage of your SLI member benefit, click the link below to participate or email SLI staff for more information at sliadmin@suffolknet.org.



New York Library Association Annual Conference

Up next, the SLI will be attending the New York Library Association Annual Conference in Syracuse from November 6th to 9th.

Come swing by booth number 4 for a visit, register for our newsletter, grab some sustainable swag, and learn more about your opportunities with the SLI provided by your state library association.

We also have a program slot! SLI Advisory Board members Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Matthew Bollerman, Jennifer Ferriss, and Lisa Kropp will be presenting *Empowered Libraries Tackle Climate Change Together!* -- a discussion about the *National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries* released this past summer by the SLI and the American Library Association. Catch the breakout session on Thursday, November 7th at 3:15 PM in Conference Room 1.

[NYLA Conference SLI Program Information Page](#)

Recent Features

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative and some of our members have been featured in the press this past month! Take a look at the summaries below or click the links under this page to access the original postings.

Library Journal

A column by SLI President and Co-Founder Rebekkah Smith Aldrich was featured in Library Journal in early October. The column discusses the *National Climate Action Strategy and Implementation Guide* co-produced by the SLI and ALA of which she was the principal author.

Fast Company



Fast Company, a business magazine, took quotes from SLI Vice President and Co-Founder Matthew Bollerman on the role of libraries in community resilience to disasters. The article written by Patrick Sisson, *How Public Libraries are Becoming Community Hubs in the Midst of Disasters*, also features SLCP members San Diego County Library (CA), Hendrick Hudson Free Library (NY), and Mid-Hudson Library System (NY) as examples for this important work.

The Post Star

One of our newest Sustainable Library Certification Program members Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, New York was featured in their local newspaper *The Post Star* to celebrate the beginning of their journey!



[Library Journal Column](#)

[Fast Company Article](#)

[The Post Star Article \(Membership Required\)](#)

Help Us Build Our Community!



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is putting out a call for idea sharing from our members!

If you have any great **sustainable program ideas, sustainable vendors, policy examples, grant resources, or sustainable book recommendations**, please consider submitting your ideas to share with the SLI community.

As a community of practice, the SLI thrives on the diversity and dedication of our members to uplift and support each other down the same path. By sharing your ideas, you're helping out your peers and positioning yourself as an engaged member of the community.

Submissions are most needed by libraries/librarians located **outside of New York State, or in the school or academic setting**, but we welcome any and all suggestions.

The SLI also welcomes advocates interested in speaking at future SLCP meetups! Every month, the SLI hosts a meeting to discuss one broad aspect of sustainability. Although the meetups follow the pattern of the Sustainable Library Certification Program, all are welcome to join! To be eligible to speak, your library must be partaking in or have completed the SLCP. We are simply looking for volunteers to talk about their experience with the respective section and answer questions. Most presenters speak for 10-15 minutes and some like to provide a visual such as slides or pictures, but there are no strict guidelines: feel free to make it your own!

Thank you for your consideration!



Forms for submissions linked below (**you must be logged in to view them**) or email us at sliadmin@suffolknet.org to make your suggestion.

[Program Idea Suggestion Form](#)

[Sustainable Vendor Suggestion Form](#)

[Grant Resource Suggestion Form](#)

SLCP Meetup Speaker Volunteer Form

All Other Suggestions: Email sliadmin@suffolknet.org

Upcoming Webinar: Flood Preparation and Repair

Moving into 2025, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative has made a plan to conduct quarterly webinars on diverse topics in sustainability. Join us for the first one on Wednesday, November 20th at 11:00 am Eastern Time!

In this webinar, the SLI will be joined by presenters Eileen Caulfield from The Smithtown Library and Kellogg-Hubbard Library administrators Dan Groberg and Carolyn Picazio. Both libraries have recently been severely affected by flooding events and will be sharing their stories and cultivating a discussion on flood preparation and recovery.

Learn more about how libraries are leaders in community resilience and click the link below to register!



Pictured: A July 2023 flood filled the basement of Kellogg-Hubbard Library with more than 7.5 feet of water, destroying nearly all building systems and causing approximately \$2 million in damage.



Pictured: In August 2024, a flash flood brought about \$10 million in damages to The Smithtown Library including the destruction of several revolutionary-era historical artifacts.

Flood Preparation and Repair Webinar Registration

Upcoming WebJunction Webinars on Climate Resilient Communities

As part of the *Building Resilient Communities Project*, WebJunction has partnered with the Space Science Institute, the University of North Carolina Greensboro and Interactive Learning Dynamics to bring a series of webinars designed to train library staff on the importance of their role in their community when it comes to sustainability and public health and safety.

As an advisor to this project, SLI Vice President Matthew Bollerman is participating in the third webinar in the series alongside SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Research Director Rose Hendricks from the Association for Science and Technology Centers (ASTC).

Sustaining Ecosystems for Climate Learning and Action

Past event -- recording available

"Learn how public libraries can play a role in climate education and action, collaborating with other sectors and organizations."

Building Community in a Changing Climate

Thursday, November 21st, at 3:00 PM EST

"Explore how public libraries and their partners are empowering communities to address climate change collaboratively."

Climate Change Communication: How and Why to do it in Libraries



Thursday, December 5th, at 3:00 PM EST

Presented by SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Vice President Matthew Bollerman, and Research Director of the Association for Science and Technology Centers Rose Hendricks

"Explore effective climate change communication strategies to engage communities and inspire action."

[Building Resilient Communities WebJunction Information Page](#)

[#1: Sustaining Ecosystems for Climate Learning and Action](#)

[#2: Building Community in a Changing Climate](#)

MEMBER NEWS

We welcome our new members to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative! Thank you for your joining our community of practice, and demonstrating your commitment to making the world a better place. We're happy to have you!

Sustainable Library Certification Program Members:



Central Michigan University Libraries
Mount Pleasant, Michigan



Lithgow Public Library
Augusta, Maine



Maud Public Library
Maud, Texas



Media-Upper Providence Free Library
Media, Pennsylvania



Missoula Public Library
Missoula, Montana



Susan Cooper, School Librarian
Georgetown, Texas



The University of Maine Libraries
Orono, Maine

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Personal Members:

- Anne-Marie Fournier Valleyfield, Quebec, Canada
- B. Maggie Foster Syracuse, New York
- Kaitlin Patenaude Lake Placid, New York
- Larissa Brookes Fort Lee, New Jersey
- Louisa Verma La Canada Flintridge, California
- Sarena Deglin Dover, Delaware

Public Libraries:

- Cedar Falls Public Library Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Hawkins Memorial Library La Porte City, Iowa
- Sun Prairie Public Library Sun Prairie, Wisconsin



Stay up to date with our member map! Explore this interactive tool with the link below!

Member Map

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November 6-9

**New York Library Association
Annual Conference**

Visit our Booth (#4) or attend our breakout session on November 7th at 3:15 pm in Conference Room 1. Read page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

November 14

**SLCP Meetup: Collective
Impact**

1:00 pm EST

This month's meetup topic discusses how to incorporate the principles of social equity and find solutions to complex social issues within your library! Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



November 20

**Flood Preparation and
Repair Webinar**

11:00 am EST

Join the SLI for our first quarterly webinar! We will discuss flood preparation and recovery in libraries. Presented by Dan Groberg & Carolyn Picazio of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and Eileen Caulfield of The Smithtown Library.

REGISTER NOW



December 5

**SLCP Meetup: Social
Cohesion**

1:00 pm EST

Whether it's making a stronger commitment to support DEI, learning and adapting to the needs of your community, or becoming a source of education on cultural competency - building social cohesion in your library is important. Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



November SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact

Flood Preparation and Repair Webinar Registration

December SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

PrintReleaf empowers SLCP members to offset the paper and fiber-based materials consumption of your library, in order to sustain and grow our global forestry system. SLCP members can [submit your paper purchases](#) here.



Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have collectively offset the equivalent of 19.72M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.37K trees! Keep up the good work!



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