



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

June 2024



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Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates
from the Sustainable Libraries
Initiative

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CONGRATULATIONS!



**SAN DIEGO
County Library**

San Diego, California



ASHLEY GRILLO

Spackenkill High School Library
Poughkeepsie, New York

on becoming **certified sustainable!** We commend you for your
commitment and achievement. If you're interested in learning
more, click the links below!!

MEMBER NEWS

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

Sustainable Library Certification Program Members:



Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, New York

IRVINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Irvington Public Library
Irvington, New York

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Personal Members:

- Andrea Fiorillo
Reading, Massachusetts
- Christina Chronister
New York
- Conan Helein
Clifton Park, New York
- Desiree Zicko
Reading, Massachusetts
- Fred Engbarth
Rohnert Park, California
- Jaclyn Powers
Wakefield, Massachusetts
- Kim Tolson
Millis, Massachusetts

Public Libraries:

- Brentwood Public Library
Brentwood, Missouri
- Chelmsford Public Library
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
- Dyer Library
Saco, Maine
- Farmington Libraries
Farmington, Connecticut
- Gloversville Public Library
Gloversville, New York
- Goodnow Library
Sudbury, Massachusetts
- Harcourt Public Library
Harcourt, Iowa
- Jefferson Township Public Library
Oak Ridge, New Jersey
- Skowhegan Free Public Library
Skowhegan, Maine

SLI UPDATES

Two Sustainable Libraries Initiative Advisory Board Members Designated as 2024 *Library Journal* Movers and Shakers

The two newest SLI advisory board members, Nardia Cumberbatch and Hazel Onsrud, were recognized by Library Journal for their trailblazing efforts in sustainability.

Awarded under the *Change Agents* category, Nardia was nominated for her leadership at Valencia College Library in Florida: the second academic library to be certified through the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP). Along with all her ongoing successes, Nardia excels at ensuring social equity is held as an important value in her library. Some of her efforts include advocating for fair wages on behalf of library staff, and making resources on food insecurity, homelessness, and financial support accessible to her students. Her work further enhances the college's strong support of marginalized communities in Central Florida: helping to shape lives, gift opportunities, and build better futures for individuals of all backgrounds.



Hazel, a librarian from Curtis Memorial Library in Maine, was awarded under the *Educator* category for her innovative sustainability programs and comprehensive "Library of Things": a resource of over 500 items intended to help reduce the impact of consumerism, promote connectivity within her community, and provide accessibility to a variety of tools and objects. Also a participant in the SLCP, Hazel has worked tirelessly to align her library with environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable practices. Hazel prospers at generating excitement for sustainability and her work serves as a first-rate and replicable example for public libraries across the nation.

Learn more about their accomplishments with the links below.

[Learn More About Nardia!](#)

[Learn More About Hazel!](#)

Sign-Up for Our ALA eCourse Led by SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich!



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative has partnered with the American Library Association to offer Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices: an asynchronous eCourse intended to help librarians develop their sustainable thinking and become leaders in climate-smart practices. The course begins on July 8th and runs for 4 weeks.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MLS, LEED AP) is the president and co-founder of the SLI, as well as executive director of the Mid-Hudson Library System in New York. Her work with ALA extends to the upcoming National Climate Action Strategy set to be released this summer. In her third installation of this course, Rebekkah's eloquence and passion for her work translate into an enjoyable well-rounded learning experience.

The course is priced at \$188.10 for ALA members, and \$209.00 for non-members. Register with the link below!

[Register Now!](#)

Syosset High School, Home of Three SLI School Librarians, Recognized as ALA's 2024 National School Library of the Year

Ms. Kristina Holzweiss, Ms. Trish Sergi, and Dr. Sarah Wasser [pictured] from Syosset High School on Long Island, New York were recently honored with designation as ALA's National School Library of the Year.



The librarians' innovative educational strategies, enrichment of curriculum material, construction of relationships, and promotion of connectivity between library and classroom were highlighted as major reasons for their success.

Syosset's librarians are currently making progress on the SLI's Sustainable Library Certification Program designed to introduce sustainable philosophies to school librarians and deepen their understanding of environmentally conscious, socially equitable, and financially responsible practices. Upon completion, participants have been prepared in a way that would allow them to take those lessons back into their own schools and pass them on to their students.

Currently, 14 school librarians are active participants of the Sustainable Library Certification Program with an additional 9 school librarians having already achieved certification status.

The pathway to certification for school librarians was piloted in New York State and is expected to expand nationwide as a redesigned and improved program in the coming months. Keep an eye out for an announcement in future newsletters and on SLI social media accounts!

Read ALA's full article at the link below:

Syosset High School named National School Library of the Year

Recent Conference Recap:

Since the release of the last newsletter, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative has had the unique opportunity to speak with about 400 current or prospective members at four different conferences: the Connecticut Library Association (CLA), Massachusetts Library Association (MLA), New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), and Long Island Library Conferences. A big thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth at the conferences! We were thrilled to meet so many new faces and connect with our current members.

At the conferences, SLI staff and advisory board members answered questions, handed out “sustainable swag,” and discussed our database of resources and Sustainable Library Certification Program with visitors.

Throughout the month, President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich delivered three presentations: a keynote speech at the Maryland x Delaware Association Annual Conference, *Our Grandest Challenge [with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative]* at the MLA Annual Conference, and *Climate Action: Small Steps, Big Impact* at the Vermont Library Association Annual Conference alongside SLI advisory board member Margaret Woodruff, Director Kyrra Howard of Pettee Memorial Library, and Librarian Kate Hunter from Orwell Free Library. At the New Jersey Pre-Conference, advisory board members Lisa Kropp and Jennifer Ferriss presented “Climate Action in Libraries”

Although not exhibiting or presenting, the SLI also had presence at NYLA's Section of School Librarians Conference through NYLA president and SLI advisory board member Lisa Kropp. SLI school librarians certified in 2023 were recognized for their achievement at the evening award ceremony.

Missed us? Come find us at the following annual conferences: ALA (June 27 - July 2), Iowa Library Association (Oct. 9-11), or New York Library Association (November 6-9).



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

June 6

SLCP Meetup: Indoor Spaces

1:00 pm EST

Join us for a meeting with guest speakers as we discuss how to think sustainably when considering your indoor spaces! Time is included to ask any topic-specific or general questions about the SLCP. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



June 27 - July 2

**ALA Annual Conference
San Diego, California**

The SLI will be making an appearance at the 2024 American Library Association Annual Conference in San Diego, California! Come find us at booth #862!

June

Environmental Awareness Holidays

5 - World Environment Day

8 - World Oceans Day

22 - World Rainforest Day

July 11

**SLCP Meetup:
Transportation**

1:00 pm EST

Join us for a meeting with guest speakers as we discuss the sustainability of a library's transportation methods! Time is included to ask any topic-specific or general questions about the SLCP. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



June SLCP Meetup - Indoor Spaces

July SLCP Meetup - Outdoor Spaces

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 16.0M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 1.91K trees!
Keep up the good work!



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