

## SVLS Administrative Council Meeting

### Agenda

**October 31, 2023**

**Palo Alto City Library – Downtown Branch  
270 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301**

**2:00 p.m.**

### SVLS Administrative Council

Jennifer Weeks, Santa Clara County Library District (Chair)  
Gayathri Kanth, Palo Alto City Library (Vice-Chair)  
Jill Bourne, San Jose Public Library  
Michelle Perera, Sunnyvale Public Library

Patty Wong, Santa Clara City Library  
Ryan Baker, Los Gatos Public Library  
Tracy Gray, Mountain View Public Library

#### I. Call to Order and Introductions

#### II. Approval of Consent Items (Action Item)

- |  |       |                     |
|--|-------|---------------------|
| A. Adoption of Agenda                    | Weeks |                     |
| B. Approval of the July 26, 2023 Minutes | Weeks | Attachment 1, pg. 2 |

#### III. Old Business

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| A. SVLS Technical Services Group Update | Baker |
|---|-------|

#### IV. New Business

- |  |            |                     |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| A. Oasis Legal Services Presentation   | Breinbauer | Attachment 2, pg. 4 |
| B. Consideration of 2024 Contribution to<br>Silicon Valley Reads (Action Item) | Weeks      | Attachment 3, pg. 7 |
| C. Discussion of Library Procurement Processes                                 | Weeks      |                     |

#### V. Reports

- |                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| A. Silicon Valley Reads            | Weeks       |
| B. PLP Executive Committee Update  | Gray/Perera |
| C. Report of System Administration | Frost       |

#### VI. Announcements and Updates from Libraries

#### VII. Agenda Building and Location for Next Meeting on January 24, 2024

#### VIII. Public Comment (Individuals are allowed three minutes, groups in attendance five minutes. It is a system policy to refer matters raised in this forum to staff for further investigation or action if appropriate. The Brown Act prohibits the Administrative Council from discussing or acting on any matter not agendaized pursuant to state law.)

#### IX. Adjournment

**SVLS Administrative Council Meeting****MINUTES****July 26, 2023****Los Gatos Public Library – 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030****2:30 p.m.****Council:**

Jennifer Weeks, Chair, Santa Clara County Library District  
 Ryan Baker, Los Gatos Public Library  
 Tracy Gray, Mountain View Public Library  
 Gayathri Kanth, Palo Alto City Library  
 Michelle Ornat, San Jose Public Library  
 Michelle Perera, Sunnyvale Public Library

**System Staff:**

Carol Frost, PLP  
 Justin Wasterlain, PLP

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by Chair Weeks.

**II. Approval of Consent Items****A. Adoption of Agenda****B. Approval of the April 26, 2023 Minutes**

A motion was made, and passed unanimously, to approve the Consent Items. (M/S Baker/Kanth)

**III. Old Business****A. Operational Updates**

Baker noted a rise in informal book challenges occurring in Los Gatos. Gray provided information on the transition to Mountain View Public Library's new website and catalog. She stated the library would receive its electric bookmobile in September. Gray reported statistic numbers for Mountain View are at an all-time high. Perera reported Sunnyvale's Superintendent of Libraries, Steve Sloan, retired. The Library is looking for a consultant to do a feasibility study for either a new or remodeled main library. Ornat recognized San Jose Public Library's marketing team for receiving a John Cotton Dana award for the "Sundays on Sunday" campaign. Kanth reported on staffing levels and the reclassification of some positions. She announced the Mitchell Park Branch opened on Sundays. Weeks discussed current job openings and the reinstatement of an internship program.

**B. SVLS Technical Services Group Update**

Baker discussed topics from a recent meeting with SVLS Technical Services Work Group lead, Sharon Fung. He noted the goals of the group would require additional participation from other libraries to build capacity, possibly at a statewide level. He suggested the SVLS Technical Services Work Group may want to transition the

shared cataloging project to a standalone project of all PLP members and return the focus of the SVLS Technical Services Work Group to more local activities.

**C. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Discussion**

Ornat discussed her conversation with the Deputy State Librarian, Rebecca Wendt, about details of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Initiative. She noted that libraries are not required to do the work of this project. Libraries are encouraged to look for partnership activities and help advertise the service. Ornat explained a 501c3 non-profit partner is the organization responsible for providing the cost match and mailing rate. Ornat added that non-profit partners do not need to be library focused organizations.

**IV. Reports**

**A. Silicon Valley Reads**

Weeks reported the theme for Silicon Valley Reads this year will be on environmental and sustainability issues. She noted the group was currently reviewing potential book choices and looking for a moderator for this year's kickoff event.

**B. PLP Executive Committee Update**

Gray provided a report of PLP Executive Committee decisions and activities.

**C. Report of System Administration**

Frost discussed a call with Oasis Legal Services, an organization that helps asylum seekers to connect to resources. She asked for them to speak at the next SVLS meeting.

**V. Agenda Building and Location for Next Meeting on October 25, 2023**

The next meeting will be held at Palo Alto City Library. Agenda items will include:

- Presentation from Oasis Legal Services
- Procurement discussion
- Allocation of funds for Silicon Valley Reads

**VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Announcements and Reports from Libraries**

Baker provided information about Tomorrow's Department Head Forum. Kanth shared information from a recent article on how to respond to public criticism.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. by Chair Weeks.



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## LEGAL SERVICES

### ABOUT OASIS

Oasis Legal Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Oasis provides legal representation to LGBTQ immigrants who are fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.



#### OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Affirmative asylum
- VAWA
- Residency
- Citizenship
- Screening for immigration relief

**700** LGBTQ IMMIGRANTS  
SERVED EACH YEAR

**850** NUMBER OF ASYLUM  
CASES WON

**99** PERCENTAGE OF THE  
CASES OASIS WINS

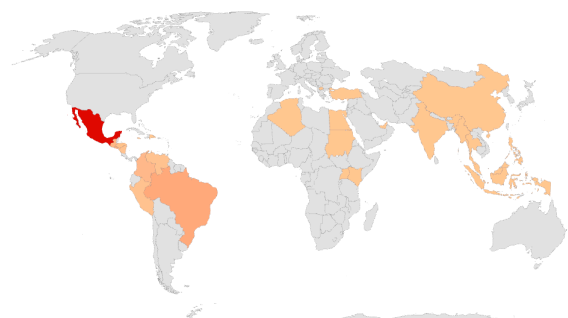
### ABOUT OUR CLIENTS

#### BENEFITS OF ASYLUM:

- LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK AND REMAIN IN THE U.S.
- PROTECTION FROM DEPORTATION
- ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES
- INCREASED SAFETY TO COME OUT OF THE CLOSET

*"In Dubai, it is illegal to be gay. When I was four years old, I saw an execution broadcast on television. In the Philippines, I went through conversion therapy and I felt hated.*

*"Oasis made me feel welcome and safe. Asylum gave me a second chance at life. In the United States, I can be myself 100%."*  
– JESSE



Our clients come from all over the world, with the majority of asylum seekers coming from Mexico and Central and South America.

**26** NUMBER OF  
COUNTRIES  
OASIS'  
CLIENTS  
HAVE FLED

### FIND OUT MORE AT [OASISLEGALSERVICES.ORG](https://oasislegalservices.org)

Berkeley Office: (510) 666-6687 | 1900 Addison St., Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94704  
Fresno Office: (559) 777-6786 | 1252 Fulton St, Fresno, CA 93721



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LEGAL SERVICES

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*We are here for you*

We provide quality legal services to help LGBTQIA+ immigrants get legal status in the United States.

If you have questions about your immigration status or if you are afraid to return to your home country because you are gay, lesbian, or transgender please contact us at 510-666-6687. We can help you with Asylum, Residency, Citizenship, and Family Petitions.

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We do not turn anyone away for not being able to pay.



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**To: Silicon Valley Library System Administrative Council**  
**From: Carol Frost**  
**Subject: Consideration of 2024 SVLS Contribution to Silicon Valley Reads**  
**Date: October 31, 2023**

### **Background**

Silicon Valley Reads has been offering the One Book, One Community program since 2003. The Silicon Valley Library System Administrative Council has financially supported this event by annually allocating \$5,000. It was approved several years ago that ongoing annual support of \$5,000 would be automatically continued, and so no annual action had been taken by the Council for approval for several years.

At the October 2022 meeting, the Council approved allocating \$5,000 to Silicon Valley Reads.

The 2024 Silicon Valley Reads theme is “A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today,” featuring the novels:

- All We Can Save edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson
- One Green Thing by Heather White
- The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton

### **Recommendation**

SVLS has used the SVLS Fund Balance to contribute towards Silicon Valley Reads. The current Fund Balance is approximately \$120,000.

It is recommended that the SVLS Administrative Council consider and approve funds for Silicon Valley Reads, using SVLS Fund Balance.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Reid Myers, Director of Silicon Valley Reads

[siliconvalleyreads@gmail.com](mailto:siliconvalleyreads@gmail.com)

# **Silicon Valley Reads Announces 2024 Program: "A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today"**

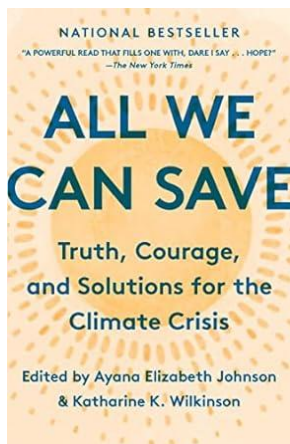
Silicon Valley, CA – October 18, 2023 – Silicon Valley Reads, a community engagement program that celebrates the power of books to bring people together, has announced the theme for 2024 will be, **"A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today."** The program will focus on environmental sustainability, with a selection of books and events that explore the challenges and opportunities of creating a more sustainable future, not only in Santa Clara County but worldwide.

After commemorating 20 years of community programs in 2023, Silicon Valley Reads is back with a renewed commitment to foster collaboration and create awareness around the importance of environmental stewardship.

"The environment is top-of-mind for many young people and I'm looking forward to the information exchange between generations as we address these important topics that affect us all," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and co-chair of Silicon Valley Reads. "Our youth are called to act to promote sustainability at school, at home and in the community."

## **Featured Books for 2024**

Silicon Valley Reads has carefully selected three books that encapsulate the spirit of our theme and encourage meaningful conversations.



### ***"All We Can Save"* (Non-fiction)**

Edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson

"*All We Can Save*" showcases the wisdom and experiences of dozens of women actively contributing to environmental initiatives in the United States. These women are scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, activists, and innovators, who all come from different backgrounds. Their diverse perspectives offer a range of ideas and insights on how we can swiftly and significantly reshape society for a sustainable future.

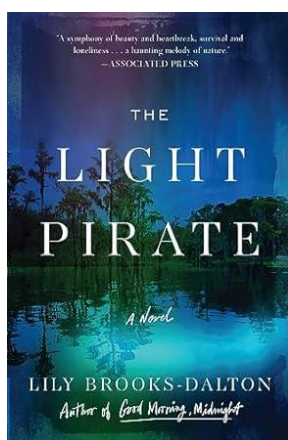




## ***"One Green Thing"* (Non-Fiction)**

Heather White

Environmentalist Heather White offers an accessible guide to taking action for a more sustainable world. Through heart-warming and humorous anecdotes from her upbringing in East Tennessee to her experiences parenting in Montana, White demonstrates how people can contribute to the environmental movement. She encourages self-discovery, helping readers align their personalities, interests, and strengths with meaningful actions.



## ***"The Light Pirate"* (Fiction)**

Lily Brooks-Dalton

Set in a world where Florida faces the relentless onslaught of extreme weather and rising sea levels, *"The Light Pirate"* is the story of a small coastal town preparing for a powerful hurricane. Divided into four parts—power, water, light, and time—this novel mirrors the rhythms of the elements and the gradual transformation of the world as we know it. It serves as a contemplation of changes that challenge our comfort zones and a reminder of the untamed beauty and strength of nature.

The selected books emphasize the community's resilience in the face of environmental change.

"California residents, like people in so many other areas, are impacted by extremes: temperature, drought, floods, and air quality issues," said Michelle Ornat, San José Public Library Deputy Director of Public Services and co-chair of Silicon Valley Reads. "The variances in these conditions affect us all, our ecology, with particularly profound impacts on disadvantaged communities, which may not always have access to available and adaptable resources. We eagerly anticipate the enriching conversations and programs that Silicon Valley Reads will offer."

In addition to these engaging books, Silicon Valley Reads is pleased to provide a curated list of recommended reading, encompassing both fiction and non-fiction titles that explore various facets of the complex topic of sustainability. The recommended titles

include "***Under a White Sky***" by Elizabeth Kolbert, "***Working to Restore***" by Esha Chhabra, "***Burnt***" by Clare Frank, and "***Damnation Spring***" by Ash Davidson.

Silicon Valley Reads is also announcing the selection of four companion books for children and teens: "***To Change a Planet***" by Christina Soontornvat for Pre K–K, "***The Forest Man***" by Anne Matheson for Grades 1–4, "***Two Degrees***" by Alan Gratz for Grades 4–8, and "***Don't Call Me a Hurricane***" by Ellen Hagan for teens and young adults.

Silicon Valley Reads 2024 will kick off with an in-person and live-streamed event planned for mid-winter. Featured authors will share their expertise and insights, inviting the community to join the conversation. Throughout February and March 2024, Silicon Valley Reads will offer a diverse range of free virtual and in-person public programs suitable for all ages. These programs include author talks, panel discussions, educational events, demonstrations, outdoor events, activities for students, storytimes, an art exhibit, and more. The complete schedule of events will be published on the [Siliconvalleyreads.org](https://siliconvalleyreads.org) website in early 2024.

Recognizing the growing concerns related to environmental challenges, Jennifer Weeks, County Librarian at the Santa Clara County Library District and co-chair of Silicon Valley Reads stated, "Silicon Valley Reads aims to inspire positive action and engagement within the community towards a more sustainable future. It takes a community shift to enact needed change, and we hope that Silicon Valley Reads can help ignite important conversations and inspire actions that will ultimately provide more resources for future generations."

Silicon Valley Reads is presented annually by the Santa Clara County Library District, Santa Clara County Office of Education, and San José Public Library, in collaboration with public libraries, community colleges, universities, and community organizations.

For more information about Silicon Valley Reads and plans for 2024, please visit [Siliconvalleyreads.org](https://siliconvalleyreads.org).