

Howland Public Library

2021 Board of Election Candidate Statements

SAM ANDERSON

I am originally from Oregon but have lived in Beacon since 2005. I'm a professional writer — a career that wouldn't have been possible without the thousands of happy hours I spent, for free, in libraries, starting in early childhood. I believe that a good library is one of a city's essential democratic institutions: a place where everyone, no matter what age or background, can find something that will make their life better. I am running for the Howland Library's Board of Trustees in hopes of giving back, to Beacon, some of the many gifts that libraries have given to me over the years. If elected, I will do my best to make sure our library is first-rate, welcoming, creative, and inspiring for the whole community.

JANICE DOLAN

As the 2020 year unfolded and our world changed with this historic pandemic our Director Kristen Salierno guided us through the process of adapting to the new reality. We learned to be flexible and follow her lead in keeping the staff, the board, and the public as safe as possible while still offering safe services to our library members and the community. The board never missed a monthly meeting as we adjusted to our new “norm” of meeting on-line. And as we became more adept, we held committee meetings, made decisions, and brought them to a vote. Planning for the future is continuing with lots of work in organizing and upgrading policies and programming.

ELAINE LEINUNG

In 2017 I retired from CUNY as an Assistant Professor of Nursing. I'm a semi retired Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. In January 2019 (just in time for the pandemic) I joined the Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corp. I'm currently volunteering at vaccination sites in Dutchess working to help get everyone immunized as quickly as possible.

Reading has always been a passion of mine. I got my first library card when I was Kindergartner in Brooklyn. In High School I volunteered at the Grand Army Plaza branch of Brooklyn Public Library. (shelving books). I joined the Beacon Library soon after my retirement. I was immediately impressed by all the wonderful programs the Library has to offer. An active library is a vital component for a healthy community. In fact the Library was instrumental in welcoming me into the Beacon Community. I was looking in the knitting section where I met Barbara who invited me to join the Knitting group. The group is where I subsequently met Kathy Furfey a current member of the Board.

All through the COVID 19 pandemic the knitting group has continued on Zoom. The wonderful ladies of this group continue to make me feel a part of Beacon's community.

I am no stranger to committee work. However most of the committee work I have done in the past 20 years centered on my professional life. I have over 20 years experience on the NYC Regional Board of

the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State. I held several positions on the Board including President. In 2008, I was elected Regional Representative to the NP State Board a position I held for two terms.

Over my 15 years as a faculty member at NYC College of Technology I served on many committees. Just before my retirement I was the Chair of the Departmental Curriculum Committee. I served for 5 years on the College wide Targets and Goals Committee.

My favorite role was Faculty Advisor to the Nursing Club. A club dedicated to promoting the Health of underserved Communities in Brooklyn.

I'm a team player, energetic as well as enthusiastic. And, most importantly, I have a wicked sense of humor.

SEAN TWOHIG

Sean Twohig is currently serving on the Howland Public Library board and is up for re-election. He grew up in the neighboring town of Fishkill and has lived in Beacon for over 12 years in total now. He attended John Jay HS and Dutchess Community College and then earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from Cornell University in 1999. He has exhibited his artwork in a number of gallery exhibits, and has worked in a variety of different fields including graphic design, product promotions, and general handy work. He has also volunteered for various organizations over the years, most recently with the Howland Cultural Center and Beacon Mutual Aid. Since he was a child, Sean has been a member of the Mid-Hudson Library system. Over the years, he has made use of the Howland Public Library and other libraries for internet access & printing, and has enjoyed attending artwork shows & monthly foreign film nights and borrowing from the great selection of movies, music, & books. Sean sees serving on the library board as a way to "give back" to the library and the community, and has done so as a trustee for about one year so far. In that time he has served on the Building and Finance committees, and looks forward to serving again if re-elected. He believes that libraries are an integral part of communities, helping those access the internet who might not otherwise be able to, and providing other great materials, resources, activities, and opportunities to all. He hopes to continue helping the Howland library to achieve and expand those goals in the near future.

PHOEBE ZINMAN

My name is Phoebe Zinman. I've lived in Beacon for eleven years and I'm running for one of the vacancies on the Howland Library Board of Trustees. I am a frequent user of the library, for myself and for my two kids who attend Beacon public schools. Libraries and books have always been a sanctuary for me: as a young child and voracious reader, as an undergraduate creative writing major, while getting my M.F.A in Poetry at the New School, and now in my adult life (still a voracious reader). At J.V. Forrestal Elementary School, I've worked on literacy events, as well as a "Women in Business" program there that celebrated our many exemplary women-owned businesses in Beacon. Over the years, I've taught for Dia:Beacon, Mill Street Loft (a girls empowerment group), and Common Ground Farm. I've painted signs for the Strawberry and Pumpkin Festivals. I threw some family-friendly dance parties to raise money to plant trees in Green Street Park and fund the Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center. I'm supporter of Black Lives Matter, and volunteer for Beacon Mutual Aid's Community Fridge behind Binnacle Books.

I've worked for more than a decade in Art and Social Justice as a teaching artist, consultant and program director. I've worked at such notable organizations as The University of the Arts, New York University, MoMA, Tribeca Film Festival, The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and even did a few art and poetry projects for New York Public Libraries. I had my own business for eight years providing editorial content for businesses and organizations (including the Brooklyn Public Library), but I'm now working for a Connecticut-based nonprofit development strategy consultant. I write an article called "Writerly Happenings" for A Little Beacon Blog that rounds up literary events in the Hudson Valley.

I think my experience in overseeing budgets, project management, curriculum development, community outreach and fundraising will serve me well as a Board member. Our amazing Beacon community is home to a wide array of stories and voices, and I'd like to see our collection appeal to, and represent, all of them. I think we have great programs, but I'd like to see even more diverse programming and robust community outreach marketing to advertise available resources. It would be a privilege to work to make our library a sanctuary for all Beacon residents.