

Ballston Community Public Library

Trustee Candidate Biography

This form is available as a fillable PDF at bcpl.sals.edu/Library-Vote

NAME: Melia Gordon

ADDRESS: 405 Goode St
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

BACKGROUND: (Your connection to Ballston and the Library)

We moved to Ballston 12 years ago. After we had a contract on our house, our first stop was at the district to register kids for school. Our second stop was the library to get library cards. We utilized story time, summer programs, book club, and adult programs, and have checked out countless books. As my kids have gotten older, I have volunteered at their schools, in the school libraries and in a variety of leadership positions. These days, Hoopla and Libby see more of me than the library staff, but I am grateful that the library provides these resources. For the past two years, I have served as co-president of the library's friends group, helping to raise additional funds for supplemental programs beyond the reach of the library's budget.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Jobs/Schooling/Interests)

I hold a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and a master of engineering in computer engineering both from RPI. I worked for IBM for 4 years as a designer and product engineer. Product engineering required me to interface between multiple companies and entities within the same company with disparate goals - lots of listening and reframing to arrive at an objective. These skills have served me well in my roles in the community as president of the Charlton Heights and O'Rourke PTAs, Girl Scout Leader for Troop 2694 and Scouts BSA committee member for Troops 3056 B & G. I have listed a love of reading at the top of my hobbies for my entire life.

INTENTIONS: (Why are you seeking the Trustee position/your interest in libraries?)

Libraries are crucial pieces of communities. Our library holds a special place as community gathering space and resource. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I am hoping to learn from our community what they love about our library and what they would like the library to offer in the future so we can expand our reach in the community and engage more people.

Please return this form to the Library with your petition by 5 pm on October 13, 2023.

2 Lawmar Lane
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Phone: 518-399-8174
Fax: 518-399-1687

bcpl.sals.edu

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NAME: Aidan Thomas McKenna

ADDRESS: 33 Forest Road, Burnt Hills, NY, 12027

BACKGROUND: (Your connection to Ballston and the Library)

I have lived nearly my whole life in Ballston. I have gone through the school system and worked within the town limits, frequented local businesses and made deep rooted connections. I have been going to the library as long as I can remember. When I was very young, my mother would take my brother and I to get museum passes to Mass MoCA, which is a museum I still visit to this day. The library has been a major pillar of my life, and represents to me not only a major institution of learning and community, but a home away from home; I feel safe in the Ballston library.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Jobs/Schooling/Interests)

I graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School with a regents degree, I have a degree in Theatre Arts and English with a focus in Creative Writing from Le Moyne College. Within the Visual and Performing Arts department at Le Moyne I held the positions of Graphic Designer, as well as the Student Managing Director, working as a liaison between students and faculty in regards to major goings-on in the Theatre Program, running and creating agendas for weekly meetings, and assisting students in need with guidance concerning how to navigate the Theatre major as a whole.

INTENTIONS: (Why are you seeking the Trustee position/your interest in libraries?)

I seek to bring a youthful perspective to the planning and coordinating of the library, and create a space where young adults feel welcome to use the library as the space libraries were ultimately intended to be-- an area of knowledge and empowerment which can be used to connect with the ever-changing world around us, and with each other.

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NAME: Katherine Schofield

ADDRESS: 14 Townley Drive Burnt Hills, NY 12027

BACKGROUND: (Your connection to Ballston and the Library)

My family and I have lived in Burnt Hills for ten years and utilize the library frequently. We have enjoyed everything from toddler storytimes to adult programming. We have even checked out baking pans. As our family changes and grows, we have always found a place at the library.

Also, for a little over a year I have had the privilege to be on the Board of Trustees for the library. In this year I have learned much of the behind the scenes work that goes into having such a wonderful resource for our community. I have worked on updating policy and reviewing the budget, along with many other tasks. I have enjoyed being able to have input in the decision making process and look forward to continuing this role.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Jobs/Schooling/Interests)

Please see resume

INTENTIONS: (Why are you seeking the Trustee position/your interest in libraries?)

I am seeking the Trustee position because I truly believe that the library is the heart of the town. It is a space of knowledge, community support, to gather and celebrate. I am committed to making sure our library continues to be able to provide the diverse services and materials it currently offers to enrich the entire community. I am also mindful that the library is mainly funded through taxpayer dollars and it is important to be fiscally sound in all choices. I love the library and feel that this is a way to give back to my community. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board.

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Received: 10/13/23 4:47 PM Eunice Krizet

KATHERINE SCHOFIELD, MSW

14 Townley Drive

Burnt Hills, New York 12027

Education Columbia University School of Social Work New York, NY
Master of Science in Social Work May 2002
Concentration in Youth and Family Services
Concentration in Advanced Generalist, Practice, and Programming
State University of New York at Buffalo Buffalo, NY
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, Cum Laude May 2000
St. Lawrence University Kenya
Kenya Semester Abroad Program Fall 1999

Professional Experience

June 2022-present Ballston Community Public Library Burnt Hills, NY
Trustee

Member of the personnel and the policy committee

Establish policies to insure library meets the public's needs

Insure library remain fiscally stable

March 2021-March 2022 Northeast Parent & Child Society Schenectady, NY
Consultant, recruitment

Reviewed prospective foster parents files

Wrote home study to certify foster parents

June 2009-October 2019 Northeast Parent & Child Society Schenectady, NY
Director, therapeutic foster family, overnight respite, and adoption navigation

Directed, coordinated and monitored program coordinators

Identified issues, recommended solutions that met best practice standards

Developed, implemented and evaluated new programs to improve services

Acted as a liaison, verbally and in writing, with commissioners and staff of counties that utilize programs, including contracting and program evaluation

Co-authored and was successfully awarded a \$300,000 a year for five years grant for adoption navigation services.

Developed adoption navigation services and administer the program, including a \$300,000 yearly budget

Participated on the steering committee which formulated the mission and vision statement for a new non-profit parent company, Northern Rivers Family of Services

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Trustee Candidate Biography

NAME: Susan Tomlinson

ADDRESS: 429 Devils Lane, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

BACKGROUND: (Your connection to Ballston and the Library)

We moved to the Town of Ballston in 2006. At that time, I was the librarian at Charlton Heights Elementary School. I served in that capacity for 20 years, and am currently a long-term substitute librarian in the BH-BL High School. I have had many opportunities to work with Community Library staff to share knowledge and resources to provide better service to students and community members.

In 2013, I was appointed to serve on the Library's Board of Trustees, and I completed two 5-year terms as Trustee in June, 2023. Under the library's updated charter, I am eligible to run for a new term. I would like to continue to be of service to the library and my community as a Library Trustee.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Jobs/Schooling/Interests)

B.S. in Mathematics/Education, St. Lawrence University
Masters in Library Science, University at Albany

Current Occupation: retired/substitute school librarian
Prior job experience: COBOL computer programmer

INTENTIONS: (Why are you seeking the Trustee position/your interest in libraries?)

I have always been a library user, and began volunteering in my hometown library when I was 13 years old. That was in the "olden days", and I helped to sort date-due cards, check in and re-shelve books, and assist patrons using the Card Catalog - no online catalogs in libraries in the 1960s!

I believe in lifelong learning and lifelong service. A continuing desire to learn new things, read new books, and be of service to others helps me to feel young and useful.