

BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION

Tuesday, April 14 • 10:00am-8:00pm

Candidates for the Board of Trustees

Barbara Ripel

I am a Long Island native, born in Nassau County and I grew up in Stony Brook. I moved to Cutchogue in 1971 and I have been a resident of Calverton for four years. I have always been a book lover as my parents taught me to read before I entered public school. Books have always lined my walls.

I went to Stony Brook Elementary School, graduated from Port Jefferson High School and then Stony Brook University. I earned a Master's Degree in History and Political Science from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Following this I returned to SBU and earned a Ph.D. in history. I have written and spoken about local history. I was the Assistant Editor for 2 volumes of the Papers of James Madison at the University of Virginia. I have taught at Dowling College as well as SBU and Suffolk County Community College from which I retired as a Full Professor am now a Professor Emerita.

I was a Trustee for the Cutchogue Free Library and served on other local boards. I am a member of the Greater Calverton Civic Association and I am on the Town of Riverhead America 250 committee. I am seeking a second term on the Riverhead Free Library Board of Trustees. It has been a pleasure to serve on the board and I look forward to continually serving the community.

Theresa Cioffi

Theresa Cioffi recently retired from a career spanning software engineering, process management, and leadership of a customer service team. She holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Electrical Engineering. During her career, she was involved in strategic planning, budgets, development of policies and procedures, contract negotiations, systems implementations, and personnel development. Theresa's specialty is process improvement, and she is looking to bring her leadership and collaborative approach to the library as a trustee.

Theresa and her husband Jim raised their 2 children in New Hyde Park. She was a busy volunteer at church, scouts and school. She worked with children, mentored Eagle Scout candidates, sat on the elementary school hiring committee, and managed the yearly book fair.

Theresa, Jim, and their dachshund Charlie moved to Riverhead 4 years ago and are very happy living in this great community. She is looking forward to contributing her experiences to the Riverhead Free Library, so it continues to be a place where children and adults feel welcome and comfortable.

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Anne Walsh-Feeks

My name is Anne Walsh-Feeks, and I am so honored to be a candidate for Trustee of the Riverhead Free Library. After spending summers in South Jamesport for over 30 years, my family, including our two dogs, and I moved to Baiting Hollow in 2018, and we really enjoy living here full time. My healthcare career started in the Pathology laboratory and over time I gravitated to ambulatory practice operations. I am currently part of Stony Brook Medicine where I am responsible for providing oversight and support to our ambulatory practices. My focus has been to improve access as well as our patient's experiences. I am experienced in ambulatory operations, personnel management, budgeting, and finance as well as grant management. I also have extensive board experience in the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine arena. I have been a volunteer with the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) for many years and have held the office of treasurer as well as Chair of the ASCP Foundation.

My husband, daughter and I volunteer weekly at the Bread and More Soup Kitchen in Riverhead. We enjoy collaborating with a team of volunteers providing a balanced, healthy meal to members of our community. We also adopted a local beach and weekly spend time collecting trash. Recently, I started volunteering at the Kent Animal Shelter which has been incredibly rewarding.

My particular interest in libraries began at an early age. I grew up in Flushing and my five siblings, and I spent countless hours in our local library. Our parents, who had immigrated from Ireland, instilled in us the passion for learning and the library became a second home. I recognize the role of libraries in our communities to not only provide books but also provide a hub for community activities and the Riverhead Free Library excels in this regard.

If I am chosen to serve as a trustee, I will support the library's mission and work to ensure the continued growth of the programs and services which provide a solid backbone to our community. I feel that my experiences, both career and volunteering, will allow me to serve in this role and give me a valuable opportunity to give back to my community.