

Annual Library Budget Vote and Trustee Election

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

338 Main Street, Huntington, NY

Candidate for Library Trustee for 2024 – 2025

Susan Corcoran Waters



How long have you been a resident of Huntington School District #3?

I was born and raised in South Huntington and have lived in Huntington School District #3 since 2003.

In what community groups are you (or have you been) an active participant?

I have been a member of various organizations in the community such as Girl Scouts (when my two girls were young), and the PTA. As part of my professional career in book publishing, I've been involved in literacy efforts and have worked with literacy programs and access to books in underserved communities in various New York City communities. I have also supported local students by participating in 'mock interviews' to help high schoolers prepare for interviews for jobs, and college admissions interviews. I have also been a lecturer at Hofstra University, discussing the importance of books, and reading and careers in book publishing.

Why do you want to be a library trustee?

Books, reading and providing access to ideas and learning are core to who I am. As my children are in their late teens and I have more time to offer community service, I want to share my passion, skills and deeply held belief in the importance of libraries in every way I can. The Huntington Public Library has been an anchor in my family's life. It is where we brought our children every weekend to take out books or participate in programs offered there. It is where my husband spends time doing quiet work among other patrons, feeling a sense of connection and camaraderie. We have donated well-loved books to the library during Book Donation Drives because a book is meant to be shared and passed along to others for their enjoyment. I would be so honored for the opportunity to give back to an organization and its mission that have been so instrumental in my family's life here in Huntington.

What is the most important contribution you could make to the library?

I feel my passionate commitment to literacy and the power of a community library to provide access to books, programs and a place for connection and gathering is my first contribution. It is of paramount importance to me that libraries and all they offer continue to be funded and be able to offer access to every member of the community, to provide opportunities and access to information to all its residents. I have also worked in book publishing, specifically in public relations and communications, for more than 30 years. I believe my deep knowledge in this area can offer a significant contribution to the efforts of the board across a wide range of programs and initiatives.

What do you find are the most valuable library services to you as a patron?

The value of the offerings at the Huntington Public Library are limitless. Of course, access to books, information, the caring and informed library staff are vital and the services my family has engaged with most. The numerous programs, the availability of space for community activities and meetings are also services we have enjoyed.

Additional comments / Personal statement.

I can close my eyes and remember with vivid clarity exactly where the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House books were shelved in the South Huntington Public Library. Each week after I returned my stack of books, I would race to that shelf to get the next book in the series. This remains one of the formative memories of my youth, one I can trace to today as the inspiration for my deep and abiding love of books and reading. The time I spent at that library growing up instilled in me not only my passion for reading but lead me to pursue a career in book publishing. The idea of bringing books into the world, for everyone to be able to share stories and knowledge, is my life's work. Today I am the SVP Director of Publicity and Strategic Communications at the Random House Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, the world's largest trade book publisher. I am as passionate about this career as I was when I first began it. Working alongside editors, writers, creators, booksellers, librarians and the media, my days are filled with the promise that books and the open exchange of ideas and stories are an essential component of a strong education, of a free society and a fundamental right of everyone.

“I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library,” said Jane Austen, my favorite writer (and also the name of my beloved dog!). I believe it is essential that everyone has access to the benefits of a good and free public library. Of course, access to books and the ideas and stories they offer. But it is also the kinship that a library fosters, the knowledgeable and caring librarians and staff that bring the *community* to a library. The educational programs, information, resources, guidance, safety, and support that a library offers its patrons remain a vital component to a thriving and developing community. It would be a distinct honor for me to be a part of the ongoing benefits that the Huntington Public Library brings to Huntington and its residents. I commit to working diligently and collaboratively to bring to fruition the goals and objectives of the Board. I am seeing the post of a Library Trustee for the opportunity to give back to an organization and its purpose that has given my life deep meaning and endless joy.