

2022 LIBRARY TRUSTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

PRESENTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (BY LAST NAME)

Statement from CARL SANDLER BERKOWITZ:

"CARL SANDLER BERKOWITZ has lived in Orange County for more than forty-two years, with his wife, Linda Emanuel. They have two sons, Drew and Jeremy. Drew has a Masters of Library and Information Science degree and served his internship at Thrall Library. He is now the Outreach Librarian for the Paterson (N.J.) public library. Jeremy is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Prairie View A & M University in Texas.

Carl, who has recently retired, sold used and out-of-print scholarly books to university libraries and professors around the world. He earned a BA in Classics from Tufts University and an MA in Classics from Johns Hopkins University.

Carl is a charter member of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library and has served as its President. Deeply involved in the campaign to build a new library building, he often served as the "voice" of the Friends at Middletown School Board meetings. He was the original organizer and manager of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library Book Store.

One of the leaders in the long struggle to bring library service to the twelve thousand residents of the Town of Wallkill who were outside the old Thrall Public Library district, Carl was elected as one of the original Trustees of the newly enlarged Thrall special district library in 2001. Reelected five times, he has served four terms as President of the Board of Trustees."

Statement from SHELLEY MILBURN:

"I am Shelley Milburn, and I began my career at Thrall Library on Orchard Street on April 9, 1973. My position has been the secretary to the Director. February 13, 1995, marked the opening of the new Middletown Thrall Library. I retired from Middletown Thrall Library in June 2022, after 49 years of public service. I look forward to applying my extensive experience and insights to the library and the community. Thank you."

Statement from EVELYN ORTEGA

"My name is Evelyn Ortega. I have lived in Middletown for over 30 years. I have always been an active member in the community. I have worked in the Children's department at Thrall Library organizing reading programs; I have always valued improving programs much needed for our families in the community at the Thrall library. I also work with the Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County in various communities in Orange County. Thank You."

Statement from SUSAN WYMAN

"Let me introduce myself. I'm Susan Hommel Wyman and I have lived in Middletown my entire life. In fact, I am a fourth generation Middletowner. I've been married to Gary for forty-three years, and I have two children and four grandsons. For thirty-three years, I owned and operated Susie's Daycare in Middletown. When I retired, I took on the position of the Building Administrator for the United Presbyterian Church in Middletown and held that position for seven years before becoming the church's thrift shop manager.

My volunteer work has included serving as secretary of the Middletown Citywide Neighborhood Watch Association for four years, an elder of my church for nine years, and I now sit on the Board of Directors for the Hillside Cemetery Corporation in Middletown.

I come from a family of book people: my mother, Alberta Hommel, was a librarian at Thrall in the 60's and then became the head librarian of all the elementary schools in Middletown. My sister also has a library degree, and my uncle wrote well-received children's books.

The library and reading has been an important part of my life. Books are not just entertainment; they have the power to educate, inspire and transform."
