

# Annual Meeting & Trustee Election

**Wednesday, January 13.**

**10:00 AM-9:00 PM**

The Library Trustees have announced that three Trustee seats on the Library Board are due to expire, and will be filled by an election during the Annual Meeting to be held on January 13, 2021. Two five-year terms are expiring along with an unexpired one-year term.

*To be eligible to vote in the election you must be a member of the Port Jefferson Free Library Association; that you must be a resident of Union Free School District #6, and have a library card in good standing. In addition, you must be at least 18 years of age.*

## Running for Trustee in 2021 are:

Carl Siegel-Incumbent	Nicole Connelly-incumbent	Karyn Jensen- incumbent	Jennifer Schaefer
			
<p>As trustee of the Port Jefferson Library from 1994 to 1999, and again in 2016-2021, (currently serving as Secretary) I was involved in multiple projects and initiatives including the creation of the Children's Library and the Adult Reading Room respectively. This experience gave me a strong understanding of the building development, its fiscal requirements and challenges, and in the process helped me gain a solid understanding of the village population's need and priorities.</p> <p>I'm confident my past experience would be aptly applied in the current trustee position. Professionally, I was an English teacher at Port Jefferson High School for 23 years, and retired in 1992. Before then, I was an English teacher in the New York City school system for seven years.</p> <p>Since retirement, I have played an active role in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (formerly the Round Table) at Stony Brook University, teaching dozens of literature courses over the past several years, &amp; serving as its President in 1997.</p> <p>I would welcome the opportunity to continue to support the Port Jefferson Library's current goals and initiatives, and more specifically help meet the challenges of incoming proposals. Once again, it would be an honor to work with the library's administration and its outstanding staff.</p>	<p>As a kid, I spent a lot of time at the Chicago Public Library checking out books and attending various programs. It was always a favorite place. After graduating college with a business degree and a technical degree in computer programming, I worked for four years at Time Warner. Feeling a need for a change, I spent evenings obtaining my Masters in Library &amp; Information Sciences and received my degree from Queens College. Since then, I've been working as a school librarian at both the elementary and junior high school level. It is the most fulfilling profession as I get to work with the entire school community to advance information literacy skills. As a Port Jefferson Library board member, I have had the opportunity to share ideas from experience and work collaboratively to further library goals for our community. If elected to the board, I will do my best to ensure that our patrons continue to receive the best services and materials possible.</p>	<p>To continue serving as a Trustee for the Port Jefferson Library would be an honor. To remain as a representative of the library as well as the community's interest would be time well spent, an investment in our beloved village, and an opportunity to give back where I can.</p> <p>As a resident of Port Jefferson for over 25 years, I have chosen to buy a home, marry, and raise my family in this village. I have a deep appreciation for its rich history, an admiration of its idyllic sea-side charm, and genuinely appreciate all the comforting familiarities of our small town. One place that both defines and highlights these ideals is, of course, the Port Jefferson Free Library.</p> <p>Our library is our community's hub. It tells us stories, protects our past, and offers resources for our present. It serves as our quiet place, a gathering spot, a study center, and an access point of so much for so many. For over 100 years, the Port Jefferson Library has opened its doors and offered its resources to our community; it gives and gives. As a teacher, a mom, and as a life-long learner, the Port Jefferson Library has always met my variety of needs. Today, with the current opening for a Trustee seat, I now have an incredible opportunity to give back to the library that has already given so much to me.</p> <p>Since early 2020, I have humbly been serving as a Port Jefferson Library Trustee by having filled an empty seat on the library board for the remainder of an open term. In January 2021, if elected with the community's support, I would intend to continue serving as an advocate to the library, and to dutifully represent its policies and interests. As an elected Port Jefferson Library Trustee, I would look to invest in its future needs, work to preserve its productive past, and continually strive to best meet the needs of the library and community members today.</p>	<p>My name is Jennifer Schaefer and I believe I would be an excellent addition to the Port Jefferson Free Library Board of Trustees. Personally, I bring a life-long love of books, literature and writing as well as a passion for the advocacy of literacy and the fundamental belief that books should be available to all through public resources such as the library. As an attorney, I would also bring my twenty plus years of professional experience with a specialty in contracts and negotiation which would be of great assistance to our library in its future contracting endeavors as it continues to grow and serve our community. Finally, I would bring a dedication to the Port Jefferson community, which I previously expressed through being an active member of the "Scraggy" Elementary family. I have been room parent numerous times and went on to participate in the PTA, serving on many of the planning committees and eventually taking on the role, first of PTA Treasurer and later Vice-President. With my children out of elementary school, I have similarly taken on roles in the Middle Schools and High School assisting with the book fairs and many grade specific events. I have also participated in community building events outside of the school environment including participating as Girl Scout Troop Leader for two years, sharing my time with a religion class for three years and running various fundraising events with my children's extracurricular organizations. I see the role of Port Jefferson Free Library Trustee as a perfect next step in broadening my role in my community as well as a perfect melding of my talents, professional experience and personal passions.</p>