

Trustee Candidate Biographical Statements

Brittany LaValle has been a lifelong South Country resident. She previously worked at the Brookhaven Free Library for thirteen years. Her years at the Library involved various positions including librarian. During this time she worked with all age groups, from babies to adults. Brittany also has a background in education and has worked as a teacher in the South Country Central School District. She currently works as an elementary library media specialist, in an eastern Long Island school district. These combined experiences give her a strong understanding of behind the scenes duties of the library, serving the community, and supporting the school district and curriculum. Having always been her home, the South Country community has a special place in her heart, and it would be a pleasure for her to give back in this way.

Jackie Dennis Subhash was born in Bellport and raised in East Patchogue, and relocated permanently to Brookhaven hamlet in February 2020, together with her husband Dev and their young children, Lucia and Raffi.

Jackie and her family were attracted to unique, bucolic Brookhaven hamlet due the extraordinary confluence of the local library, organic farm and nature preserves as the true centers of our community. As a child, Jackie spent countless hours at Brookhaven Free Library with her family and friends, time which she credits for her lifelong love of learning. Jackie's children now continue that zeal and enthusiasm for their local library, where everyone knows their names and welcomes them like honored community members.

Jackie received her BA in Comparative Religion and Asian Art History from the University of Vermont, and her MA in Inda-Tibetan Studies and Tibetan/Sanskrit Translation from Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. Specializing in Himalayan antiquities, Jackie spent more than ten years working in the auction industry, most recently as the Head of Department of Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art at Christie's New York. In addition to her role as specialist and appraiser, Jackie managed a team of specialists as well as departmental budgets for auction catalogues, travel and marketing.

Jackie is currently the Director of Children's Programming at the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, curating free and inclusive monthly programs for our youngest community members.

Peter Toumbekis – I have been a resident of Brookhaven Hamlet since 2017. I live here in the Hamlet with my partner, Chris Benz, whom I have been with for more than 20 years.

I have lived in Manhattan and Brooklyn, but I am originally from Long Island. I received my college degree from Boston University and my law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

In the 1990s, while I lived in Manhattan, I served as a member of Community Board No. 2 Manhattan, which serves the West Village and Soho. I participated in Public Hearings and Community Presentations, conducted reviews, led discussions on proposals, drafted guidelines for submissions and reviewed financial plans and budgets.

I am a seasoned Criminal Defense litigator and have successfully represented clients in Federal and State Courts in New York, as well as in California, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. I am a member in good standing with the New York State Bar, as well as the Southern District and Eastern District Federal Courts of New York and the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Prior to becoming an attorney I worked as a Television Producer, Teacher and Film Producer which I still enjoy and engage in.

In my service on the Community Board and my career in the law, I worked on many simple and complex matters, so I bring strong analytical skills and a broad understanding of different topics and issues to our Library. In addition, I have served as a private Trustee and an Escrow Agent and will be an honorable Trustee to the Library and our Community. I would like to see the continued growth of our Library whilst maintaining its character in the Hamlet.

I have a strong appreciation for our neighborhood and all the merits that make it special like the Library. I would like to contribute to our neighborhood and be an active member of our Library.