

## **Trustee Candidate Biographical Statements**

### **Andrew Budris:**

I am honored to seek the opportunity to serve on the Brookhaven Library Board. The nature of how we seek credible information has drastically changed over the last two decades. At the same time, we've seen a larger segment of the population become more socially isolated. Because of these two trends, I feel that libraries are more important now than they have been in decades.

I've spent the last twenty-eight years as a social studies teacher, with the last twenty-six years of my career at Bellport High School. I've been in a supervisory role of the social studies department for fourteen years. In that time, I've helped implement problem-based learning in our department, as well as civics instruction that focuses on creating opportunities for real-life engagement for our students. I was recognized as the National Council for the Social Studies Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award for 2023-24. I was also recognized for that same award on the New York State level and for Long Island in 2023 and 2020, respectively.

The field of education has brought me so much personal happiness. When I heard of the opportunity to serve learners outside of the school building, in the library setting, it felt like a great fit. I hope to have the opportunity to work with the current Brookhaven Library Board to continue their innovative work.

### **Megan Reitzel:**

My name is Megan Reitzel and I have served as a Trustee for the Brookhaven Free Library for the last ten years. I am honored to submit my name as a candidate for reelection.

My husband Chris, our daughter Mairéad and I moved to Bellport from Manhattan almost seventeen years ago. A friend recommended the library as a way to meet people. My husband and I are both avid readers so this sounded like just the place for us. Little did we know then, how important the library would become to our family, which soon grew to include our son Matthew.

I have always found the Brookhaven Free Library to be warm, welcoming and friendly. The staff has a true love of reading and books; each person there has helped develop Mairéad and Matthew's passion for reading over the years. For that, Chris and I are forever invested.

Prior to becoming a full-time mother, I worked for 12 years as a professional fundraiser and marketing executive for a number of national not-for-profits. I began my career at the Museum of the City of New York before working for eight years at HELP USA, the nation's largest provider of housing and services for the homeless. Following that, I served as the Director of Special Events for The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Since 2015, I have been actively involved in the Bellport Bay Sailing Foundation, currently serving as Vice President and Registrar, as well as Trustee for the Bellport Bay Yacht Club.

Our children have truly grown up at BFL. Mairéad is a now senior at The Stony Brook School and has committed to continue her academic and sailing career at Bowdoin College. Matthew is a Year 11 (a US sophomore) at St. George's, The British International School in Cologne, Germany, and plays soccer for SC Fortuna Koln.

Brookhaven Free Library will forever hold a special place in my heart and I hope that by serving as a Trustee I can play an important role in the preservation and growth of an institution my family and I truly love.