

NJHN BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
FOR 2023-2025 ELECTION TERM
(in alphabetical order)



Gary Brill

I have been an active member of the New Jersey Humanist Network since the mid-1990s and have served two separate terms as President of the NJHN. I am currently the NJHN Secretary and am willing to continue in that role going forward. In the past I co-founded both HumanLight in 2001 and the Humanist Community at Rutgers University in 2009. I received a Ph.D. in Personality and Social Psychology from New York University, worked in industry for 20 years, and taught psychology at Rutgers University for 16 years.



Adriana Cordal

I am currently a retired psychiatrist after practicing mostly in NJ for over 30 years. Most of my career has been as an academic psychiatrist with clinical, administrative, research, and teaching experience.

I was born and raised in Uruguay by non-believer parents, in a country which has a large percentage of atheists and deep roots in skepticism. Coming to the U.S. after medical school, I had to adapt to a mostly religious culture and for years kept my lack of religious belief as a private matter. By the early 2000s, I felt it was time to reach out to people who had similar ideas about religion, skepticism, and our duty to contribute to society from a secular perspective. I joined the Red Bank Humanists in 2007 and have been participating in meetings and activities on and off since then. In recent years, after moving to Mercer County, I joined NJHN.

In 2021, I was elected to the Board of Directors. Later, in 2022, I was elected to the role of Vice President of NJHN. I participate in the Finance Committee, Membership Committee, and Program Committee. Jointly with NJHN President Lisa Ridge, I have been developing a formal description of all the NJHN committees. That work is still in progress.

As part of the Membership Committee, I have been developing NJHN's Care Community, which is tasked to reach out to members both in difficult times and celebratory times. This is part of a larger initiative to continue to build a Humanists' Community. I actively participated in

conducting a member survey last year to identify what activities NJHN's members are interested in.

Lastly, I have a special interest in reaching out to younger people. I feel that we are at a special time in our country, when truth is being misunderstood and challenged, and that we need to provide a framework for younger people to find their home and the ground to understand how to go about finding truth and rejecting false claims. I look forward to working on those goals as well.



Jasmine Farahat

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and was exposed to different cultures and beliefs at an early age, so I learned to view life from more than one perspective. While my mother raised me as Roman Catholic, and I even attended Catholic school, my father came from a Jewish family with a different set of beliefs. That dynamic caused me to doubt whether any of these particular beliefs were true. I also saw how hypocritical some churchgoers were, so I came to believe that religion is not necessary to be a good person.

I earned a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Physical Anthropology from Rutgers University New Brunswick Campus. While there, I joined the student-run group Atheist Student Alliance to meet like-minded individuals. The group offered a community for non-theists that I wanted to continue to be a part of after I graduated. I was fortunate to have attended a presentation on secular humanism by Gary Brill of the Humanist Community at Rutgers, who is also active in NJHN, so I naturally transitioned into attending NJHN events. I joined the NJHN Board of Directors in 2017, and I have served as the NJHN Secretary in the past.

I live in Ewing with my eleven cats. I greatly enjoy acrylic painting, and I've donated painting for NJHN's silent auction, which is held during HumanLight, the winter holiday party, each year.



Robert Lovatt

I have been a member of NJHN for six years. I was raised as a Roman Catholic and attended a Catholic high school. I got a BA in Religion and an MA in Philosophy. Studying religion is the quickest way to become an atheist. Armed with a humanities background, I of course work in IT. I joined an atheist group in my late twenties. I only attend church for weddings and funerals.

As a board member, I would like to increase the membership. I would also like to see if there is enough media content and interest to develop a humanist television/film viewing series.



Joe Vincenzino

I have been an almost lifelong (since 8 years old) secular person, and it has always been important to me that the secular view of life be heard in the world. I've called myself a humanist, for want of a better word, for years, because I didn't know such a thing existed until my 40s, when I first met one.

I feel that NJHN provides a wonderful place for secular people to meet and feel comfortable. It was one of the first groups I joined after moving to New Jersey. I found it the place to be to find friends, and a place to fit in. I have been involved in the secular movement since 2011, as a member, organizer, and officer of a number of groups, and I have been a member of NJHN for over seven years.

I believe I have strong skills in communicating, in general, but especially an understanding what it means to be secular and a humanist. I spent most of my career as a software trainer, teaching both technical and non-technical people, having to make each understand from their point of view. I would like to help NJHN in its mission to provide a welcoming and comfortable place, and to make a better and safer life, for secular people.

I'm a real gadget geek, and technically skilled. I've been happy to and will continue to help with technical setup of live or virtual meetings, NJHN's social media, or whatever future technical needs arise. I'm semi-retired and expect to have the time to dedicate to being a Board member.