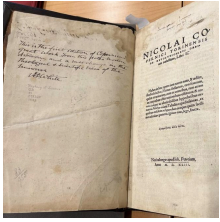


**NJHN BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**  
**FOR 2024-2026 ELECTION TERM**  
**(in alphabetical order)**



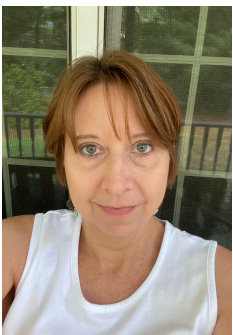
***Laura Bonapace***

I was raised Roman Catholic but when I began learning about god, Christianity, the Bible, and realized other religions existed, I started questioning the god concept altogether. I lived in Asia for many years, returned to the USA in 2021 then joined the NJHN soon after. Since becoming a member I've volunteered to help with the Seth Andrews event as well as help man our booth at the 2024 American Atheists conference in Philadelphia. Career wise, currently I'm a Realtor with Liberty Realty in Hoboken but my background is in design and marketing. I hope my diverse background and skill sets will be of use to the NJNH. I look forward to helping the NJHN continue its journey to grow and thrive.



***Tamar Kieval Brill***

I originally hail from Albany, NY. I have a B.A. in psychology and education from Barnard College, Columbia University, and an M.A. in counseling from NYU. Apart from a five-year stint in corporate America, I spent my working life in higher education, first at NYU and then for 32 years at Rutgers University, where I was an assistant dean until my retirement in 2019. I am married to Gary Brill. While I was raised in a very observant Jewish household, I realized in college that I did not believe in God and about 30 years ago began to seek out Humanist organizations, including the I. L. Peretz Secular Jewish Community. I've been a member of NJHN for about 17 years (while attending many events for much longer than that). I have served on the Board of Directors for 15 years and was also involved in the Humanist Community at Rutgers University. I began working with the Membership Committee more than ten years ago and have served as its Chair for two years, working closely with the president on the new member management platform. I've also been a member of the Program Committee for 3 years, and am involved in the Book Club and Exploring Humanism course. I look forward to developing some additional initiatives for new members, together with my committee.



***Ronda Cluff***

I have been a member of the New Jersey Humanist Network and the NJHN marketing committee for about two years. I'm a member of the South Jersey Humanists and a former long-time member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore. I was a writer and editor in public relations and communications for nonprofits for 25 years before turning to volunteer work, primarily in animal rescue. A (nearly) lifelong secular humanist, I'm deeply committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. I'm active in racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and animal rights/welfare. I also have a special interest in mental health, neurodiversity, and disability rights. As a member of NJHN, I've enjoyed participating in Pride in Asbury Park, and tabling at the American Atheist convention. With my tenure on the Board, I look forward to expanding my involvement in community outreach. It's vital to engage and amplify marginalized voices, offer fellowship and a path to activism for humanists, and model the ways that nontheists can make the world a better place.



### ***Brenda LaDuke***

I'm originally from Erie, PA, and moved to NJ about 25+ years ago. I work in Information Security, married with 3 nearly adult children, and in my free time I'm an avid quilter. I have been an active member of NJHN for many years, and a board member for the past 8 years, dedicating most of my energies to the Program Committee and Finance.



### ***Sue Landry***

I grew up in Denville, NJ, but lived in several states (New York, Utah, Washington, Florida, and Pennsylvania) before moving back to NJ in 2007. I have been a member of the New Jersey Humanist Network since 2010 and have served one term on the board. I am currently president of the Marketing Committee. I was raised Catholic by my dad but my mom was from a Methodist background and when I started to seriously question Catholicism and religion as a teen, she and my brother joined in vigorous discussions around the dinner table with my dad about Catholicism's strange tenets. I rejected organized religion and its idea of god quickly, but was out of college before I completely rejected the notion of some force greater than ourselves. I have a bachelor's in Sociology and Psychology from St. Lawrence University. I have had a varied career, working as a newspaper journalist for 17 years before working at a couple of consumer health websites, including Everyday Health, and then moving into medical editing. I currently head a team of medical editors at Nucleus Global, a large medical communications agency. I would like to continue to help spread the word about NJHN and improve the group's relationships with media outlets. I envision NJHN as a haven for like-minded people to share ideas, make new friends, and have fun. I am married to Tom Savonick, who is also a member of NJHN. We live in Milford, NJ, with our cat CC and our dog Nyxie.



### ***Rhonda Marker***

I'm finishing my first two-year term as a member of the NJHN Board of Directors. Currently, I am on the Finance Committee and the Marketing Committee. I lead many of the monthly NJHN Book Club discussions. There is a sense of community in NJHN that I have felt more deeply since I joined the NJHN Board. We try to be responsive to what members tell us about what they want and need – which seems to be a bit of everything. I hope we continue to try new things, welcome new members, and remain open to new perspectives. I've identified as an atheist since I was in college and would now add humanist and secular. I often wonder if I would have come to the same place if my family had not been fundamentalist evangelicals. I've worked as a librarian my entire adult life. After living in Mercer County for decades, I moved to Newark in 2022 to be closer to work. I don't miss the long commute, but I have to confess that I have listened to far fewer audiobooks as a result.



***Lisa Ridge***

I've been a member of NJHN since 2002. I'm currently the President and have also served as Vice President. I've been responsible for directing the planning of NJHN programs, community outreach, and social activities, our Secular Student Scholarship and other fundraising efforts, as well as promoting our organization in our communities and on our social media accounts. With the help of members of our various Committees, we're working to make NJHN an active and welcoming community that our members will value.

My responsibilities also include working with our treasurer to maintain our nonprofit tax-exempt status with federal and state agencies. I'm committed to a positive, productive Humanist community in New Jersey and working with other organizations to achieve that goal, especially now with the challenges we face in a diverse but divided society. I attend conferences, webinars and meetings to keep our community informed about issues, news, and events, and also connect with other secular leaders and activists. Increasing NJHN's visibility and outreach to existing and new members are always my most important goals. I live with my partner Tim and our five cats in Ewing in Mercer County.